

ENCORE!

The Oregon Daily Emerald's Entertainment Guide

Troupe bringing back hit musicals

By Layne Lakefish
Encore Reporter

The last 20 years of award-winning musicals will come to life tonight as the University Song and Dance Troupe presents its first Beall Concert Hall performance of the year.

The show, titled "Two Decades of Tony Tunes," will begin at 8 p.m., and is expected to run for close to two hours.

"Two Decades of Tony Tunes" will feature 30 songs from four Tony award-winning musicals of the 1970s and 1980s: *Sweeney Todd*, by Stephen Sondheim; *Little Shop of Horrors*, by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman; *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, by Carol Hall; and *Les Miserables*, by Claude-Michel Schonberg, Herbert Kretzmer and Alain Boublil.

The Song and Dance Troupe usually does not pick a show theme, but rather picks a central composer or a central music style. The Troupe decided to pick a theme this time around to pull the whole show together.

"We decided to pick four shows and tell each story through dance, song, dialog and a synopsis in the program," said Wade Willis, the Troupe's co-student director. "Having a theme like this makes the show more congruent."

The performance will be split up into two acts, with a short intermission between them to allow the Troupe to adjust the set and modify their costumes.

The Troupe will present each of the Tony plays in turn, "with song unfolding from the dialog," explained Willis. "We picked certain lines from the plays and we will act them out. The songs will follow the dialog."

Four men and four women comprise the student ensemble, with two others assisting in the way of instrumentation — keyboard and bass. "The mix of four men and four women works very well for dance," Willis said.

Willis said there is no other performing group like this one on campus, and he hopes people will realize that.

"There's nothing else like this on campus anywhere — nothing like it — and I hope people who come to see this show get a surprise about our performing group," he said.

"We perform song, act song, sing song and move — all together," he said, which makes the Troupe a cam-



Courtesy photo

The University Dance Troupe has been rehearsing for two months to get ready for their performance, "Two Decades of Toney Tunes." The show features 30 songs from 4 Toney award-winning musicals.

pus one-of-a-kind.

Because the group is so diverse, the education and help all members get is also unusually high.

"The exciting thing about having a group like this is that everyone has their specialty, and when people have questions they can take those questions to someone who is very well trained," Willis explained.

"Everyone in the group contributes and that's the

really exciting part," he added.

"Two Decades of Tony Tunes" is the result of two months of practice, and Willis said the show has come together well. "We started from base one, we got the music and the ideas together, and now we have a finished show," he said.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$3 for general admission and \$1 for students and seniors.

EMU Gallery unites art mediums

By Julie Decker
Encore Contributor

A mixture of mediums and subject matters by various artists mingle together to form an interesting exhibit currently on display at the EMU Gallery.

Exhibiting through March 16 are Margaret Zeglin Brand, Debbe Cornitius, Barbara Hazard and Janet

Ivie. Oil, silkscreen, watercolor, conte and bronze are the many mediums united in this display of beauty and exploration.

Brand, a teacher of philosophy at the University, specializes in feminist aesthetics. Before completing her Ph.D in Philosophy from the University of Illinois, Brand earned an M.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. in

Graphic Arts from the University of Illinois.

Her oil paintings of characters such as "Betsey," "Abe" and "Alice Paul" are from an early series of portraits of older people.

The characters are intriguing and invite the viewer to study the curving lines of colored oil that create

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