

# Brazilian dance band to samba through Eugene

Joel Nascimento performs Friday

By Layne Lakfish  
Emerald Entertainment Editor

Welcome to Rio. Put on your dancing shoes and kick up your heels to the native sounds: the samba, the tango and the bossa nova, to name a few.

But this is Eugene. Instead of sun showers, Eugene gets rain showers. And instead of sand and sea, Eugene has turf and timber.

Fortunately, Eugene also has the Hult Center, where Joel Nascimento and the Brazilian Sextet will play in the Soreng Theatre Friday night at 7:30.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 687-5000; \$4 student discount tickets are available for a limited time.

"This is the first show in our World Music Series," said Pat Cusick, Hult Center assistant marketing director. "We had a multicultural purpose behind this year's programming. We wanted to celebrate different cultural forms around the world.

"Looking at Joel Nascimento and the Brazilian Sextet, we said, 'Here's a band that's real-

ly stellar.' They are taking the indigenous folk music of Brazil and revolutionizing it."

With that in mind, Nascimento and the Sextet were invited to Eugene. And, as it turns out, they are kicking off their new tour right here. That means Eugene gets Nascimento straight from Rio.

"This music is so expressive," Cusick said. "It has a very primitive, primal beat. It's very playful and light.

"Brazilian jazz has that irresistible rhythm that makes people want to dance. I think people will find the show delightful."

Cusick is not the only one who thinks so. The Albuquerque Journal called Joel Nascimento and the Brazilian Sextet's music "a subtly devastating super-music."

The group brings their native music to life with three guitars, percussion, clarinet, Brazilian ukelele and saxophone. Nascimento trained under one of Brazil's foremost composers, Radames Gnattali, and is considered the master of the bandolim (a relative of the mandolin).



Joel Nascimento and the Brazilian Sextet will perform traditional Brazilian dance music at the Hult Center Friday night.

This combination of Brazilian tradition and native sound makes Nascimento and the Sextet a logical opening to the Hult Center's World Music

series. In addition to the Friday night performance, the group will hold a free concert and demonstration in the Hult Cen-

ter lobby at noon Thursday. They will give a short performance, followed by an explanation of samba music, a Brazilian musical form.

# Native American dance troupe to perform at Hult tonight

By Ming Rodrigues  
Emerald Reporter

The Washington Post praised their performance as "a dance of elemental beauty and power that transcends the stage."

Another critic called their show "a spectacular powwow" in which dancers "whirled and spun like butterflies possessed."

American Dance Theatre, a 22-member company of Native American Indian dancers, singers and musicians, will bring its artistry to Eugene for the first time tonight in a show at the Hult Center.

"This dance troupe is the first of its kind," said Pat Cusick, assistant director of marketing for the Hult Center. "Their incredible performance is a tribute and dedication to all Native Ameri-

can Indians."

The show, part of the Hult Center's four-part World Dance Series, is intended to fuel the community's awareness of performing arts in different cultures.

"We want people to discover what other cultures have to offer," Cusick said. "American Indian dance on a Western stage will be quite a learning experience for those interested in its elaborate history."

The company, formed in 1986, represents 16 tribes from nine states and two Canadian provinces. Skilled Native American dancers and musicians were recruited to create an intertribal troupe that would perform a range of authentic Indian traditions on the stage.

A year was spent auditioning members for the troupe, who range in age from 20 to 61. The company gave its first public performance in 1987 and

since then has toured nationally and internationally.

Dancers wear hand-made costumes, from simple buckskin dresses and leggings to intricate ceremonial costumes made from layers of beads and feathers, as they move to music played on traditional instruments. Other costumes are made from hollowed logs, clay pots, leather hides, gourds, deer hooves and pieces of wood and bone.

The troupe performs dances and music from only 18 of the 430 tribes recognized by American Indians in the nation today. Most of the dances have a religious theme celebrating or affirming man's relationship with his creator and nature.

Fifteen dances will be performed tonight, with one intermission.

Each dance type is tied to a particular legend. The Amazing Grass Dance, for instance, in which three men simulate the rippling of grass through intricate footwork and twisting torsos, may have its roots in the movements of young men clearing a space for tribal ceremony.

The Hoop Dance, an awesome feat of coordination, concentration and creativity, features a solo by Cherokee Eddie Swimmer — the program's tour de force. Keeping as many as 42 hoops whirling simultaneously, Swimmer forms them into shapes representing eagle wings, turtle shells, eggs and flowers.

Tickets are \$10, \$12, \$15 and \$50 at the Hult Center, the EMU Main desk or by calling 687-5000. Student discount tickets are sold out.

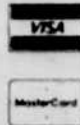
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