

# Rhythm *Reviews*

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Deborah Miller (left), Lynn Johnson-Wiltshire and Janet Descutner are members of the Northwest Tap Consort and will perform Sunday.

By Dawn Paugh

COURTESY PHOTO

## Toe Tappin'

Northwest Tap Consort and guests will perform eclectic array of dance numbers

Back in the tap-dancing days of Fred Astaire and James Cagney, you could only hear jazz tap dancing in musicals and night clubs. Nowadays, Oregon is the home of five Northwest Tap Consort companies.

University dance professor Janet Descutner is an artistic director for one of the NTC companies made up of five women who live along the northern half of Interstate 5.

Created in 1990, this particular tap consort is made up of a group of professional dancers and teachers who gather to perform for the public.

The consort's upcoming program on Sunday Feb. 12 will include a wide variety of music and dance. One performance will be "Suite Bru" by Dave Brubeck. Descutner said this set is unique because of the metric modulation and the instrumentation of other cultures such as Africa and Europe. "Suite Bru," choreographed by Descutner, comprises four unique, off-beat dances with unexpected rhythms that are typical of Brubeck's jazz style and technique.

Descutner will be performing "Excursions," a solo by the internationally known tap master and choreographer Fred Strickler, who danced as a guest with the

NTC in its 1993 performance at the Hult Center. This piece will be set to the tune of Samuel Barber's Americana piano suite of the same title. Both NTC directors will dance "Fungo," a blues piece by composer Andre Previn, which features improvisations of motifs created by Descutner.

"It's very challenging and very different," Descutner said. "The first part is fast and complicated. The second part sounds like the blues and is very expressive. The third part is kind of like a hoedown with a dense sequence."

Descutner said she is particularly looking forward to dancing on the hardwood

floors at the WOW Hall.

"It may be a little slippery for the performers, but for the swipes and strokes of the metal toe on the wooden floor, it will have a wonderful resonance," Descutner said.

The current members of the NTC include artistic directors Descutner and Deborah Miller, whom Descutner has been dancing with since 1987, Lynn Wiltshire-Johnson, Teresa Zimmerdahl and Deborah Blank. Also performing Sunday are former NTC members Kim Christensen and Allison Rickenbaugh. Not

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## Watch whatever you want, just leave me 'Ellen'

I only get two channels on my television at home. So my choices for TV viewing are quite limited. But that's OK because I'm not a big TV fan anyway.

Last year, when I had a roommate who wanted cable, I watched all sorts of things. Now I don't get Channel 5 (Fox) on TV. But I used to watch *Beverly Hills 90210* and *Melrose Place* every week.

I also used to be hooked on QVC, one of the home shopping channels. My roommate always watched MTV when she did her homework; for me, it was always QVC. Once I even bought a Batman watch for my boyfriend.

It was difficult at first, to only have two channels. I do wish, however, that I could get KEVU, the station broadcasting the new *Star Trek: Voyager* series. But now I very seldom watch TV, which is a good thing. I am lucky to get ABC, so I can watch my soap opera, *All My Children*. But



TRISTA NOEL

besides *All My Children*, I haven't had a favorite TV show, or a favorite sitcom, for a long time.

*The Simpsons* and *Roseanne* have always been so popular, but I just never got into them. And I like *Home Improvement*, but I'm not fanatic about it either.

Recently though, I began treating myself to a night of TV every Wednesday. I try to be home in time to see *Roseanne*. I have finally decided that I like *Roseanne*, sort of. Before, I just couldn't stand how mean everyone was to each other. Now, it seems, I can look past all that negativity and see the humor everyone else has seen for so many years.

Actually, it is the show that follows *Roseanne* that I really like. It's *Ellen*,

another first-name only, female comedy-based sitcom.

Ellen is just so funny. She's quirky and exaggerated and cool. I like her. I like watching what happens to her. There hasn't been a show I liked this much since the old days of *Remington Steele* and *Magnum P.I.*

It's nice to have a favorite show again, and it's nice to finally be entertained by a TV show again. As popular as some of these TV shows are, I usually don't get the entertainment value out of them that most people do.

Personal preferences I suppose. I like what I like, and I try to let other people like what they like. Even if I can't understand how in the world they could like a TV show like *Me and the Boys* or *Cops*.

To each her own. Just leave me *Ellen*.

Trista Noel is the entertainment editor of the Emerald.



### Out of the Blue play favorites

Out of the Blue is an upbeat dance band offering a unique blend of Motown favorites, current and classic soul and R&B favorites, along with other original material.

The band features the uniquely soulful and powerfully sensitive vocals of Linda Trotta. Linda Trotta and Out of the Blue will perform at Taylor's, on the corner of 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street, tonight and Saturday night at 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.