

# Return to Avalon

'Return to Avalon,' a multimedia show, combines dance, music, video, visual art and spoken word

By **Nikki Okimoto**  
Entertainment Reporter

"It's about art for the sake of art." This is how Nicholas Hall, producer of *Return to Avalon*, describes the motivation behind the creation of the new multimedia show.

For the dancers, musicians, storytellers, videographer and others involved with putting the show together, the work has really been a labor of love.

*Return to Avalon* is a three-part show composed of 28 different but connected vignettes. Elements of contemporary dance, music, video, visual art, performance and spoken word combine in the two-hour live multimedia performance.

The name *Return to Avalon* is a reference to the Arthurian legend of Avalon, the mythical island where King Arthur was taken after being mortally wounded in his final battle. Hall, who has visited the site in England where Avalon is thought to have been located, sees the show as a way of picking up where the legend left off.

"It's kind of about the search for Avalon in everyday life," Hall said of the artistic work in the show. "It's just a

metaphor, basically, for that perfect world.

"We can still start new things — that's an Avalon," Hall added.

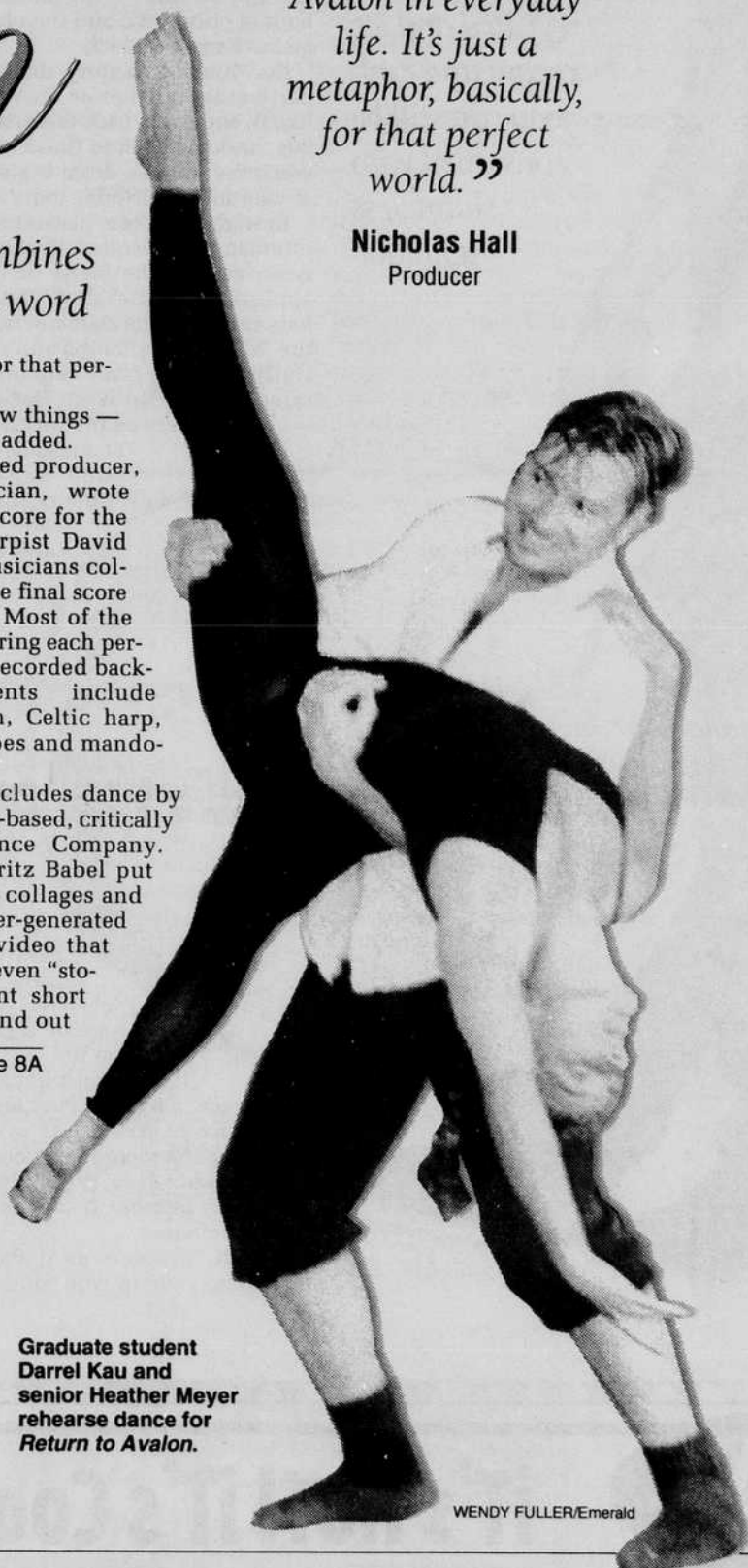
Hall, a Florence-based producer, composer and musician, wrote much of the original score for the production. Celtic harpist David Helfland and other musicians collaborated to produce the final score for *Return to Avalon*. Most of the music is played live during each performance, with some recorded back-up. Live instruments include keyboards, percussion, Celtic harp, acoustic guitar, bagpipes and mandocello.

*Return to Avalon* includes dance by members of the Eugene-based, critically acclaimed Briggs Dance Company. Visual arts director Fritz Babel put together the visual art collages and compositions, computer-generated video and enhanced video that appears in the show. Seven "storytellers," who present short verses and poetry, round out

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**Nicholas Hall**  
Producer



Graduate student **Darrel Kau** and senior **Heather Meyer** rehearse dance for *Return to Avalon*.

WENDY FULLER/Emerald

## 'RETURN TO AVALON' UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

<p>■ <b>JUNE 6-7:</b> Newport Performing Arts Center, Newport; 7:30 p.m., \$11 tickets Call the F.E.C. Box Office at 265-9231</p>	<p>■ <b>JUNE 13-14:</b> Hult Center, Soren Theatre; 7:30 p.m., \$12 tickets Call the Hult Center Box Office at 682-5000</p>	<p>■ <b>JUNE 21:</b> Historic Elsinore Theater, Salem; 7:30 p.m., \$12 tickets Call the Mid Valley Arts Council at (503)370-7469</p>
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'Return to Avalon' information line: (541)997-5781



### Santana

Tickets are on sale today for the September 7 Santana performance at the Cuthbert Amphitheater.

Rusted Root will open the show, which will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50 and are available at all Fred Meyer FASTIXX locations, the Hult Center, Music Millennium or by phone at (800)221-0288.

### Phoenix Dance Company

Eugene's Phoenix Dance Company will perform June 12 at WOW Hall at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Doors will open at 8 p.m.



### Ron Osborne

Comedian Ron Osborne will perform stand-up comedy at Scandal's June 7 at 9 p.m. Cover is \$6.

Osborne has been performing stand-up for more than nine years in both the United States and Canada and has opened for such artists as Sam Kinison and rock musician Joan Jett.

"Be There" is a weekly column highlighting the week's top local entertainment events.

## Rock 'n' Rodeo to rock with laughter on weekends

By **Nikki Okimoto**  
Entertainment Reporter

You can still wear your cowboy boots and Wranglers if you want to.

Instead of line dancing and country music on the weekends, Rock 'n' Rodeo now offers live comedy shows every Friday and Saturday night at the downtown restaurant and nightclub.

Charley's on Willamette, the club's new comedy format, features a different stand-up comedian every weekend. Each comedian appears on both Friday and Saturday night at 9.

The club, which began its new format in April, is located on the corner of 7th Avenue and Willamette Street in downtown Eugene.

There is a \$5 charge for the comedy show if you don't eat dinner at the restaurant beforehand. If you come early and eat dinner before the show, the admission price is only \$3 per person, in addition to the price of the meal.

Dinners range from steak, chicken and fish entrees to half-pound burgers made to order.

Dinner prices are \$7.95 to \$18.95 per meal. Most of the dinners

include salad and a baked potato or fries.

According to Heidi Andersen, the club's assistant manager, reservations are recommended. Reservations can be made for dinner before the show, but not for the show alone.

Each comedy show lasts for approximately an hour and a half. After the comedy show ends, the club stays open until 2 a.m. with rock and roll music and dancing.

The comedians are booked through Seattle's Crocker Productions, and many of the acts are Northwest-based comedians.

On June 6 and 7, Portland comedian Auggie Smith is scheduled to perform at Charley's.

The wild music and comedy of Kenny C will be featured at the club, along with Lisa Todhunter on June 13 and 14.

Seattle Laff-Off finalist David Goldman will appear, along with Mike Capp on June 20 and 21. Art Krug, who has appeared on Showtime, MTV and Comedy Central, is also scheduled to perform at Charley's.

Dinner reservations for Charley's on Willamette can be made by calling 683-5236.