

Rhythm & Reviews

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1997



'Simpsons' Special

The Halloween special traditionally parodies famous films and stories

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'Romeo and Juliet'

The Eugene Ballet's production will emphasize action through choreographed fight sequences

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Emerald



■ **Roberto Rodriguez** will read from his book, "Justice: A Question of Race" tonight at 7 p.m. at Hungry Head Books. The book tells of his struggle to come to terms with the traumatic experience of being beaten by police officers while trying to photograph their conduct. Hungry Head Books is located at 1212 Willamette St. For more information, call 485-0888.

■ More than 100 nationally recognized photographers are donating prints for the **Photography at Oregon Committee's 22nd Annual Auction Exhibition**, which opened Oct. 22. The photographs, ranging from figure studies to assemblages to landscapes, will be on display through Nov. 23 at the University Museum of Art.

■ Bring a pillow to the **WOW Hall** on Saturday, as **Gypsy Caravan and Troupe Americanistan** come for a night of Middle Eastern music and belly dancing. From Portland, Gypsy Caravan is a troupe of dancers and musicians whose "American Tribal" style of belly dancing is derived from ancient and traditional dances. Bring a pillow for front row seating. Admission is \$5 at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m., and show-time is 8:30.

Oh! The horror!

'Rocky Horror,' an interactive theatrical experience that has achieved 'cult classic' status, will visit the Actors Cabaret this weekend

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

Even virgins should try it at least once — "Rocky Horror Show" virgins, that is.

"The first time they come to ['The Rocky Horror Show'] that's what everybody is," said Jim Roberts, producing artistic director for this cult theatrical phenomenon.

The Actors Cabaret of Eugene will produce the original stage version of this script.

"The Rocky Horror Show" can best be described as a science fiction parody, Roberts said. The plot goes like this: Brad and Janet, a sexually repressed couple, are brought out of their shells by a host of zany, transsexual characters.

"It's a cult phenomenon, probably because the music is really fun and well written," Roberts said. "The dialogue — especially with the audience participation — makes the show run."

Audience members frequently make "callbacks," shouting out their own lines for the script, Roberts said.

"[Callbacks] are different all around the country," he said. "You can tell where somebody's from by the type of lines they use."

Audience members can also bring items to the theater to "play along" with the actors. For example, squirt guns can be used to simulate a rainstorm — part of the setting for one of the scenes.

"For seasoned viewers we only allow certain items [in the theater]."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Drum and dance masters to teach for two days only

Workshop participants will learn different dances, each with cultural meaning behind them

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

They have taught dance and music all over the world. Now, a master dancer and a master drummer from West Africa will return to Eugene next week to teach again.

Starting Oct. 27, University students and the Eugene-Springfield community can attend West African dance and drum workshops taught respectively by Youssouf Koumbassa and Karamba Dambakate.

The two performers will only be here for two days, Monday and Tuesday. The workshops cost \$10 each.

Workshop participants will learn a variety of dances, all of which have a cultural meaning behind them. Dances will include the Sofa, a harvest dance, and the Dounbounba, the dance of strength.

Koumbassa and Dambakate are both

from Guinea, West Africa. They have been performing and teaching all over the world for more than 25 years, said Andrea DiPalma, a resident potter at the EMU Craft Center who is coordinating Koumbassa and Dambakate's visit to Eugene.

"I've been studying African dance for about two years, and I first attended a workshop up in Seattle that Youssouf was teaching," DiPalma said. "I was basically blown away by the way he moved. He was very graceful and strong; he moved really fast."

DiPalma said beginners should not be afraid of learning how to perform these dances.

"A friend of mine last year didn't have any experience with African dancing at all," she said. "But the way Youssouf moved and taught — his spirit was so enticing that it was easy for my friend to jump in and feel free and good. He's a very giving teacher."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Workshop teachers Youssouf Koumbassa and Karamba Dambakate are from Guinea, West Africa.

Workshops

■ **WHAT:** West African Drum Workshop
■ **WHEN:** Monday, 5:30-7 p.m.; Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m.
■ **WHERE:** WOW Hall
■ **COST:** \$10

■ **WHAT:** West African Dance Workshop
■ **WHEN:** Monday, 7:30-9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-noon and 7:30-9 p.m.
■ **WHERE:** WOW Hall
■ **COST:** \$10