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FRIGHTENING FOWL

Audience to sink teeth into Dracula

The horror classic will be performed by the Eugene Ballet at the Hult Center

By Amy Boytz

Dracula will once again bare his fangs just in time for Halloween. The Eugene Ballet Company will perform "Dracula," the "ballet with a bite," during Halloween weekend at the Hult Center.

The performance is an intricate blend of ballet and theatrical ef-

fects, causing the ballet to take on a cinematic feeling. "It's not so much a ballet as it is a drama, a dance theater," said Charles Bennett, the choreographer of the production. "It's like a silent film.

Each of the ballet's 32 scenes flows into another, giving a fluid film to the production.

'One scene. . . dissolves into the next," Bennett said. "There are very few moments of absolute blackness.

Bennett's version of "Dracula," which is in its 10th season this year, remains close to the original Bram Stoker novel

"It's principally based on the Bram Stoker version, with some liberties taken," Bennett said.

The time period was pushed forward from the late 19th century to the World War I era. Bennett said he moved it forward because this was 'a period with a lot of mysticism."

Bennett spent a great deal of time researching and creating the ballet.

"He focused on every single production detail, right down to how real the fangs on the brides look," said Riley Grannan, managing director of the Eugene Ballet Company.

Also essential to the ballet was the music. In order to create the musical score for the ballet, Bennett researched the popular musical styles of the time period. What resulted is a score featuring a vari-

Turn to DRACULA, Page 7B



The costumes of some 'Dracula' performers in The Eugene Ballet Company's production of 'Dracula' reflect the show's time era of the World War I.



The Eugene Ballet Company's production of 'Dracula' utilizes not only ballet moves but also drama and dance theater effects to give the production a cinematic feel



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