

Thursday
June 24, 1999

Oregon Emerald

PULSE

Dance workouts just a couple of steps away

Summer dance classes offer the chance to learn a move or two while staying in perfect shape

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

Does the blazing summer sun make you want to dance? Don't settle for shaking your booty at the closet-sized Perry's, where you have to battle the sea of locked lips and tangled bodies to finally find that square inch of danceable space.

There is a dance environment in Eugene where you don't have to battle the wrath of some chick's long hair that inevitably gets wrapped around one of your sweaty limbs. You just have to look for it.

Eugene doesn't have the greatest dance club scene, but it does have a thriving community of dedicated dancers and dance enthusiasts. They are people who seek dance as a religion of sorts, a communication beyond words or simply to get toned and in tune with their bodies.

Inexperience is no excuse for not taking a dance class. Professionals and beginners alike will find a plethora of classes offered this summer, including modern dance, African dance, Lindy Hop, contact improvisation and yoga. You can't find these in any phone book, so keep this list handy.

Lane Community College is hosting an exciting series of modern dance workshops that run through the first week of September. Classes meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and instructors change periodically.

Jacky McCormack, who is also a contact improv instructor, is teaching from June 21 to July 2. The week beginning July 5 will be taught by University alum Kim Christensen. A member of the Van Ummerson Dance Co. since 1995, Christensen will also be wel-

comed to the University adjunct dance faculty in the fall.

Another University alum, Jean Nelson, will take over the session from July 19 to July 23. Garth Magnuson, who studied at the University of California at Santa Cruz, is the featured instructor Aug. 2-13. The last session will feature two educators who have worked extensively with dance companies in New York.

Pamela Geber, visiting associate dance professor at the University, will teach from Aug. 16 to Aug. 20, and Eric Handman is scheduled from Sept. 6 to Sept. 10.

If modern dance isn't your style, maybe African is. The Community Center for the Performing Arts WOW Hall, located on the corner of 8th and Lincoln, holds African dance on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, you can continue with a West African dance class from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Also offered Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the class costs \$6-\$10 on a sliding scale. Taught by members of the West African Dance and Drum Collective, the goal is to "spread community through the rhythm of drumming and dance," according to Andrea DiPalma, dance instructor and member of the performing troupe. All classes feature trained live drummers and two to three different teachers to offer an eclectic and energetic rhythm exploration.

For a more relaxing movement pursuit, experience the "gentle and deep yoga" style of the Desikachar Yoga Method with Ellen Weaver on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11 o'clock also at the WOW Hall. The cost is \$4-\$6 on a sliding scale.

The Desikachar Method uses breath, movement and modified postures to ensure an approachable yoga suitable for everyone.

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Catharine Kendall/Emerald

M. Campbell is illuminated by a late afternoon sun as she dances Wednesday at Skinner's Butte. Campbell and other dancers meet Monday and Wednesday nights to perform routines with an African dance group.

'Austin Powers' gets the laughs while we get the ads

Commercialism takes its bite out of otherwise funny spy spoof flick from Myers

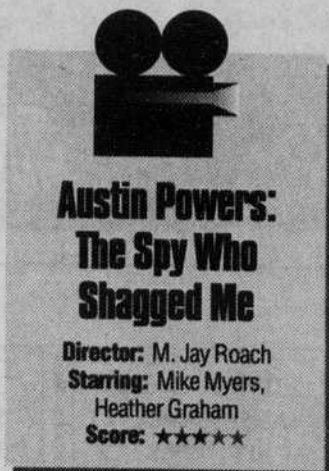
By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

There's nothing quite like a good spoof flick for yuks. In fact, everything from airline disasters to the mafia has taken hits on the big screen, with varying success.

Although the genre's king, "Airplane," may never be knocked from the hilltop, there's a dorky spy with an overactive libido who is planning a coup. Forget about any mojo being used in the effort though, because this fight is backed strictly by dollars, baby.

Austin Powers, international man of mystery, is the creation sprung from the minds of Jay Roach and Mike Myers. Our hero should be called "Austin Powers, Brought to you by International Coffees," however. The new Austin offering, "The Spy Who Shagged Me," is virtually non-stop in its shameless use of product placements.

Thankfully, the movie is also funny enough — with a few glaring misfires — to keep the constant commercialism at bay.



When the first movie came out in 1997, Roach and Myers, who plays Powers in addition to his on-going adversary Dr. Evil, didn't anticipate much of a stir and certainly couldn't have dreamed up the film's success.

Fans took to Austin and his hip, shagadelic lingo though, the way an infant takes to pablum.

This time around, backed by \$40 million in advertising and promotional costs, the sequel has higher expectations. In addition, that little George Lucas production "Star Wars" is Austin Powers' main competition in the the-

aters, and an army of fembots might be necessary to win this showdown.

So far, so good for the man in crushed velvet suits. "The Spy Who Shagged Me" opened June 11 with a \$54.7 million weekend take at the box office, which is the highest-grossing comedy opening ever.

As a bonus, "The Phantom Menace" was no match against Powers and had to settle for second place in ticket sales.

So, is "The Spy Who Shagged Me" worth all the hubbub? Yeah, there are several solid belly guffaws throughout, but definitely a few eye-rollers, as well. Plus, the barrage of corporate logos might remind viewers too much of Myers' other spoof-like film, "Wayne's World."

What's good about this movie is, as before, Myers' portrayals of the horny, mod character and his too-evil-for-his-own-good enemy. What's bad — really bad — is Myers' depiction of a new lunatic, Fat Bastard. Yes, he's fat. Yes, he's repulsive. Yes, he's offensive, and yes, he's an ill-advised choice for a foe.

A more pleasant role goes to Heather Graham, who is Austin's love interest, Felicity Shagwell.

Graham, who had a few shagging scenes as Roller Girl in "Boogie Nights," gets plenty of mileage from her screen name. Although at times she has this deer-in-headlights look to her, Graham is quite capable as Austin's female counterpart.

The best part is saved for the smallest actor. Verne Troyer suits up à la Dr. Evil, a clone one-eighth his original size, hence the moniker Mini-Me.

Maybe it's completely un-PC to laugh at a little man getting tossed about.

But when he eggs on Dr. Evil's son Scott — played by Seth Green — during certain scenes, they're damn funny.

Supporting actors Rob Lowe, as Dr. Evil's henchman, and Mindy Serling, as Frau Farbissina, Dr. Evil's short-lived love interest, are fine but do little for the plot development.

Hah! Just kidding. Certainly no one is attending "The Spy Who Shagged Me" for its plot or in-depth character portrayals. This is, after all, a spoof movie that spoofs "The Jerry Springer Show."

Simply put, product promotions aside, Myers has another winner.



Shag baby, yeah! Austin Powers, played by Mike Myers, gets the laughs, and he also gets the babe.

Courtesy photo