

Fly away with art

■ The Eugene Airport show features Asian costumes and set designs from past University productions

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

Airports are our meeting places of cultures, portals between one land and another. Despite its small size, the Eugene Airport is no exception.

That's why the latest exhibit at the Gallery at The Airport, which features an artistic form called Asian Fusion Theater, is appropriate. The blend of Asian art with American ideals and interpretations certainly relates to travel and is on display until Dec. 31.

"All the World's A Stage: The Visual Art of Theater" is a collaboration with the University and the airport is the borrowing of different Asian symbols fused with Western Narrative, theater arts professor Alexandra Bonds said.

The show features costumes and set designs from three different productions put on by the University theater department in

the past seven years. Each play used a different Asian theater method.

Costumes, hand-painted screens, props and special lighting, gilded bamboo curtains, hand-painted Chinese landscapes, flying dragon kites and rain made of crystal jewels create a magical world of visual drama.

This is the first exhibit of its kind at the airport gallery, curator Dena Brown said. Brown has been the gallery's curator for the last 4 1/2 years and she said the space is dedicated to featuring creative artists of our region. The Lane Arts Council sponsors the non-profit program.

Theater arts professor Jerry Williams is the gallery's guest curator and has taught set design since 1973. He collaborated with Bonds on each of the three plays that are represented in the gallery.

During different years, each professor was also part of the same Fulbright Lecture/Research Award at the National Institute for the Arts in Taipei Taiwan. This experience "certainly had an influence" on their interest in

Chinese and Taiwanese art forms, said Bonds, who has taught costume design since 1979.

The set and costumes of the 1990 production "Kabuki/Bacchae," similar to a Japanese theater/dance, will be shown and feature depictions of warriors and soldiers, Bonds explained.

The 1993 Indonesian Gamelon dance/theater production of "Chimera" contributes elaborate costumes laden with gold jewelry of characters like Hanuman, the monkey king.

"They're based on Balinese style but modified for our own purposes," Bonds said. "It's the blend of two cultures to create something unique."

A Chinese opera called "Ever the Dragon," performed in 1997, is the third recreation highlighted at the gallery. The theme is a coming-of-age story about a woman warrior, Mei Lee, who meets a ghost and falls in love with him.

The exhibit can be found at the top of the escalator in the airport. Viewing hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Some of the artwork will be available for purchase.



courtesy of The Gallery at The Airport

Costume for the play "Chimera," designed by Alexandra Bonds



courtesy of the Oregon Dance Project

Donella Ingham, Elise Moore and Beth Westfall perform a dance called "Recalling a Serenade," part of the Oregon Dance Project show scheduled for Friday night.

Dance project explodes onto Hult Center's stage

■ A collaboration of local dance talent is joined by the Phoenix Dance Company for an eclectic show

By Sara Jarrett
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Eugene's talented dance community intersects on stage for what should be an eclectic show, ranging from Bruce Springsteen-inspired pieces to a hip-hop, swing and salsa combo.

The second annual "Oregon Dance Project" will be presented

Friday night on the Hult Center for the Performing Arts Soreng Theatre stage in a collaborative effort between local dance artists.

The ODP's concept is "the explosion of physical beauty from the inner-self. It's a belief that the art of motion matters. Dance is alive. Dance is devotion, [and] is beautiful when shared with another human being," a release statement said.

Performers include ODP choreographers Elise Moore and Kim Huber. The two will offer three new pieces including "Recalling a Serenade," a female trio choreo-

graphed with Flamenco influences. "An Angel's Save" deals with an individual who struggles to make time pass after suffering a loss. "The Maddest Kind of Love," in contrast, is a sexy, flirtatious piece reminiscent of a Broadway style showcase.

The Phoenix Dance Company will perform two signature pieces titled "Trinity" and "Green Piece."

The Dance Theatre of Oregon will show "Cycloid Fancy," which was originally created in 1987 by Pamela Lehan-Siegel in New York City.

Bonnie Simoa will perform in her "la, tout n'est qu' orde" — "here, everything is in order" — with Felicia Sanders. Zapp Dance Company will show "Liberation," accompanied by the music of OutKast & Rosa Parks.

Concluding the evening will be the Van Ummersen Dance Company's "Plumblines," which is an excerpt from a full evening production called "BODY."

Tickets for the show are \$14 and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Call the Hult Center at 682-5000 for more information.

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