

The weekend in ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, Dec. 2

Elixir Magazine Promotion Party (various DJs) — Wild Duck, 169 West 6th; 10 p.m. \$5.

'80s Dance Night (DJs) — John Henry's, 136 E. 11th; 10 p.m. \$2.

Babes With Axes (rock) — WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth; 8 p.m. \$8.

UO Ensemble Concert (jazz saxophonist Dan Gailey) — Beall Hall; 8 p.m. \$5 general, \$3 students.

Govt. Grown (groove rock) — Good Times, 375 E. Seventh; 9 p.m. \$3.

Matt Stamm (folk) — The Buzz, EMU; 9:30 p.m. Free.

UO Vocal Ensemble (jazz) — Cafe Paradiso, 119 W. Broadway; 8:30 p.m. Free.

Friday, Dec. 3

Merl Saunders & His Funky Friends — EMU Ballroom; 8 p.m. \$12 students, \$14 general public.

Beard, Uzbeck Dog (rock) — John Henry's; 10 p.m. \$3.

Oregon Ballroom Dance (dance) — Rm. 220 Gerlinger Hall; 7:30 p.m. \$4 general, \$3 students.

Ann Liebeck (artist recital) — Beall Hall; 5:30 p.m. Free.

Floater, Mel (heavy rock) — WOW Hall; 8:30 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 at the door.

Lazoo (funk, acid jazz) — Good Times; 9 p.m. \$5.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" (theater) — Hult Center, One Eugene Center; 8 p.m. \$16.50-\$25.

Tom Varley (Down Island music) — Cafe Paradiso; 8:30 p.m. \$2-\$4.

"The Searchers" (UO Film Series) — 180 PLC; \$2 students, \$3 general public.

Saturday, Dec. 4

Big Time Rosie (uptempo funk) — Taylor's Bar and Grille; 10 p.m. \$4.

Ten Pin, The Secludes, Compact 56 (rock) — John Henry's; 10 p.m. \$3.

Chanukah Festival (traditional Jewish music) — WOW Hall; 7:30 p.m. \$5.

Paul deLay Band (blues) — Good Times; 9 p.m. \$8.

Mike Denny Trio (jazz) — Downtown Athletic Center, 999 Willamette St.; 8 p.m. Free.

Jay Webb, Ray Lawrence (stand-up comedy) — Kowloon's, 2222 Centennial Blvd.; 9 p.m. \$6.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" (theater) — Hult Center, One



Looking ahead to next Tuesday, Runaway Truck Ramp plays groove rock at Good Times. The show gets started at 9:45 p.m. and tickets are \$3 at the door.

Eugene Center; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$14-\$25.

Justin King (acoustic) — Cafe Paradiso; 8:30 p.m. \$3-\$5.

thirteen 40s (acoustic) — The Buzz; 9:30 p.m. Free.

Sunday, Dec. 5

Focus, Narboza (rock) — John Henry's; 10 p.m. \$1.

"The Messiah" (Eugene Concert Choir) — Hult Center; 2:30 p.m. \$12-\$24.

Pimble

Continued from Page 6

troupe has performed regionally, nationally and even internationally with tours in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Taiwan, among other places. In 1996, the EBC was the first dance company in Oregon to be recognized with a Governor's Arts Award.

Individually, Pimble has been honored for her creativity with fellowship awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and two Oregon Arts Commission gifts.

Although Pimble is now acclaimed for the spontaneity and improvisational style she brings to original and remade works alike, Grannan recalled Pimble's earlier days as a choreographer.

"Everything would be written on these huge legal sheets, dance by dance, step by step," Grannan said, with a chuckle. "There was not as much creativity happening in the studio, one-on-one with the dancers. Now, what comes out is something you couldn't have planned for."

Most of what's staged for a Hult Center performance is actually planned in Boise, Idaho, where the Eugene company rehearses. An alliance between the EBC, which employs 19 full-time professional dancers, and Ballet Idaho was created in 1994. Five studios are available, rent-free, for Pimble and her crew, thanks to the largesse of a wealthy Ida-

hoan, 90-year-old Jack "J.R." Simplot.

"His wife Esther is very cultured, but he's not," Pimble said, referring to the former pig farmer, now a vegetable supplier for McDonald's. "He's come into the studio a couple of times, and he'll say something like, 'Well, you little girls, y'all look fine.' He's really cute."

And timely, as well. Without Simplot, Pimble admitted, the EBC might not be around.

"At the time we decided to go for it, we were looking at losing at least \$100,000 a year in support for our company," she said. "That meant the quality of the product was going to go down.

Then it becomes a death spiral because the product quality goes down, the audience diminishes, your ticket sales go down and you go down the toilet."

To help stave off such a drastic decline in appreciation for ballet, Pimble and Grannan have developed an outreach program, which reaches into approximately 40-60 elementary and middle schools around the Northwest each year. Performances come complete with study guides and discussions led by Pimble.

"I think the Eugene community can take great pride in the creative energy happening with Toni and the dancers," Grannan said.

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