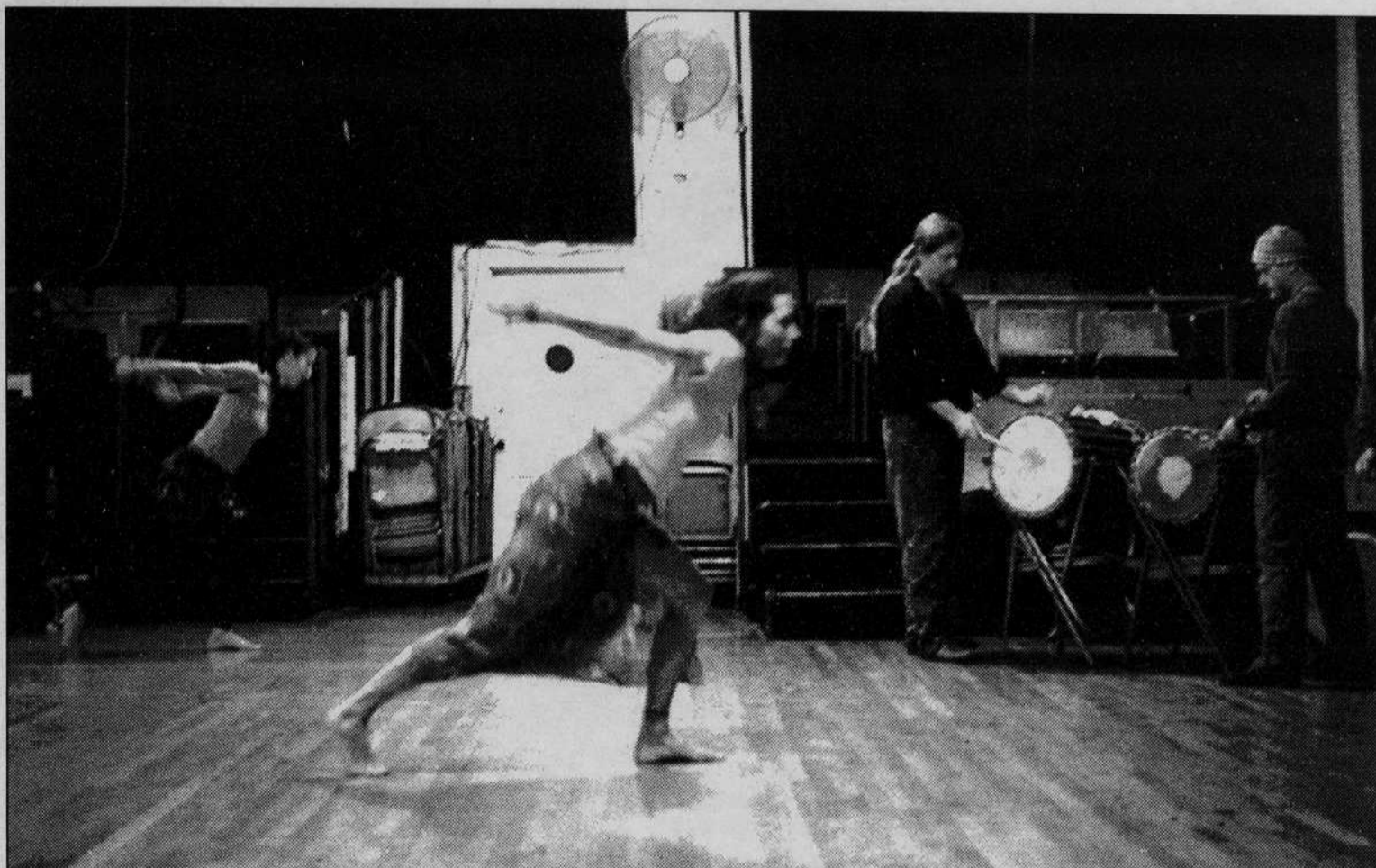


Features Editor:  
Lisa Toth  
lisatoth@dailyemerald.com

Off to the Oscar races  
Read the Academy Award nominees on  
Page 11 and vote in our online poll at  
www.dailyemerald.com

Thursday, February 14, 2002



Teri Page 'feels' the beat of the drums as she practices a pelvic twist. She says that the West African dance classes are different because of the live music.

Photos by Adam Jones Emerald

## DRUMS drive the DANCE

■ Eugeneans can learn about the 'energetic' rhythms of West African dance and the 'richness' of the culture

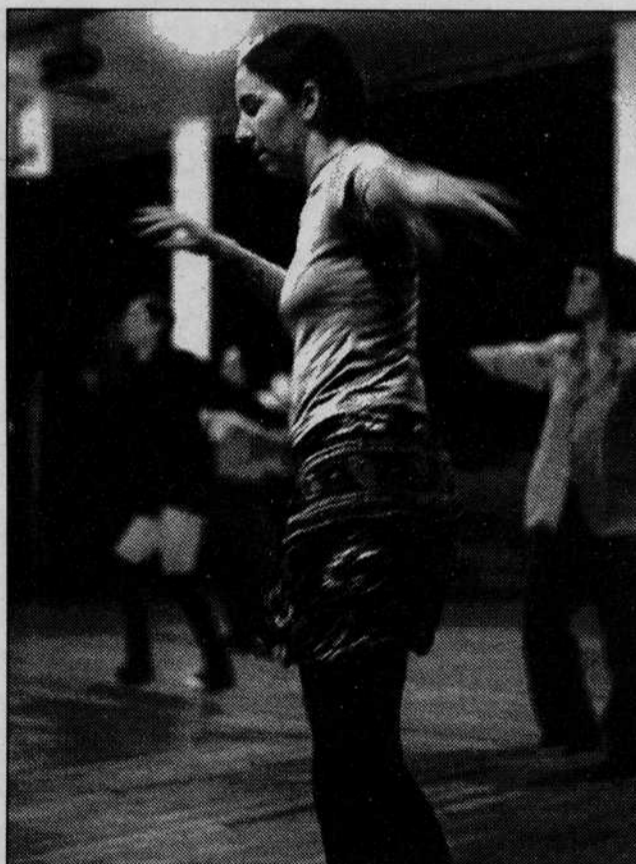
By Jen West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

**B**are feet silently pound the wooden floor, and racing hearts thump in time with the pulse of drums. Eight percussionists beat on their instruments while dancers twist and stretch their bodies, interpreting the rhythms into West African stories.

Every Monday, Debraé Firehawk conducts classes in West African dance at WOW Hall. The beginning classes start at 5:30 p.m., and the intermediate classes begin at 7:30 p.m. Intermediate to advanced dance classes are held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Drum classes are also offered at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. The cost for the classes is based on a sliding scale from \$7 to \$13.

Firehawk said she and her troupe of percussionists are part of a group called the Eugene West African Dance and Drum

Turn to **Dance**, page 12



Instructor Debraé Firehawk (center) dances to the beat of the drums Monday at the WOW Hall. Classes are taught Monday and Thursday, and the beginners level starts at 5:30 p.m.

## Promoters bring underground L.A. hip-hop to Eugene

■ A host of Los Angeles artists perform at Agate Hall on Friday

By Jen West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Underground hip-hop is not just limited to the City of Angels. The next few months will see hip-hop artists from Los Angeles popping up in venues in Eugene and Portland.

DCF Entertainment, Afterlife Records, Project Blowed Family and the University's Black Student Union present "Welcome to

the West," a night of underground hip-hop, Feb. 15 at Agate Hall. The show starts at 8 p.m. and is open to all ages. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

The show features Los Angeles underground hip-hop artists, including Chillin' Villain Empire, Rhymin' Riddlore?, Tray-Loc, Wreccless, Hip Hop Kclan, LA Khule Terra Dacto, Chu Chu, Xololanxinxo, Bus Driver and DJ Shobanon.

Though he has gained experience with other promoters, this show marks Daniel Firtel's first

solo attempt at concert promoting through his new company, DCF Entertainment.

Firtel said he began his company during in fall 2001. At the moment, he is the company's only employee, but he said volunteers sometimes assist him by passing out fliers.

"I want to bring quality entertainment (to audiences) and have fun," he said. Even though this is his first solo gig, Firtel said he was not nervous about whether the performance would receive a large turnout.

"I'm super confident in the skill level (of the artists)," he said. "You listen to them and you're just like — 'Wow!'"

Mohammed Jalloh, program coordinator at the Black Student Union, said he was looking forward to the performance.

"(The music) is underground stuff that doesn't get heard much," he said.

Artist-producer Riddlore said it's hard to classify the type of hip-hop he and his fellow artists perform.

Turn to **Rap**, page 12

### 'Welcome to the West'

What: Underground hip-hop concert

Who: Chillin' Villain Empire, Rhymin' Riddlore?, Tray-Loc, Wreccless, Hip Hop Kclan, LA Khule Terra Dacto, Chu Chu, Xololanxinxo, Bus Driver, DJ Shobanon

Who: Sponsored by DCF Entertainment, Afterlife Records, Project Blowed Family and the Black Student Union

Where: Agate Hall

When: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15