

Caliente heats up Eugene dance scene

The 11-piece local band plays WOW Hall Saturday; there will be salsa dance lessons before the show

By **Natasha Chilingierian**
Pulse Reporter

Latin music fans can kick up their heels to the rhythms of local salsa band Caliente at WOW Hall Saturday.

The group's name, which means "hot" in Spanish, is the perfect adjective to describe the sounds they create.

"It's the rhythm of salsa that attracts people to it," keyboardist Jeroll Johnston said. "It's a complex style, but accessible enough that people all over the world are enjoying it."

The 11-piece group has gone through many phases since its formation in 1987 by band leader and lead singer Fernell Lopez and former Lane Community College music students Enrique Rios, Alejandro Gonzalez and David Bender. They began as a Latin-jazz combination band, but around 1993, pianist Julio Jauregui turned Caliente's music into real salsa.

"He became very involved in learning salsa and teaching it to us," Lopez said. "He was the one who made Caliente a salsa band."

Caliente has since performed along the West Coast and in Mexico; in 1997 it released an album, "Volces Morenas" ("Brown Voices"). The group has endured several member turnovers, and today's lineup includes two former members of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies — trumpet players Dana Heitman and Sean Flannery.

Regardless of the members, Caliente has stayed true to attracting an audience of dancers. Lopez said their audiences have grown from just moving around to demonstrating true salsa moves at their shows.

"When we started out, the audience would move, but not with the right steps," he said. "Now people with experience come to our shows, and we like to think that we contributed to their interest in learning to salsa."

When it comes to the music, Caliente stays true to traditional forms. Lopez said "salsa" is a term used to define all Latin American musical styles. This includes the slow, sensual "cumbia" style from Colombia; the upbeat "merengue" from the Dominican Republic and the syncopated "son" from Cuba. Johnston said they also like to throw in a few cha-chas. All salsa tunes are based on a rhythm called "clave," which is also the name of a percussion instrument — two wooden sticks that are knocked together.

"We do an authentic job and use traditional instruments," Johnston said. "We're not avant-garde. When we hear other Latin music, we say, 'We like that song, let's play it!'"



Courtesy

The local 17-year-old salsa band Caliente will ignite an audience of dancers at WOW Hall Saturday. Its current lineup includes two former members of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies.

Caliente's current configuration uses seven different instruments: keyboard, bass, timbale, congas, bongos, trumpet and trombone. Singers Lopez, Freddy Vilchez and Allison Rickenbaugh complete the ensemble by harmonizing lyrics in Spanish.

"The singers are dynamic people, but they're not flashy," Johnston said.

For audience members who are aching to dance on Saturday but don't know how to move, Johnston will teach a half-hour pre-concert salsa class.

"It will give people an opportunity to have a dance to do during the show," she said.

WOW Hall publicist Bob Fenessey said the venue's floating dance floor will give attendees an opportunity to

dance the night away to appealing music without the morning-after aches and pains. The floating floor is actually planted firmly on the ground, but has a dance-friendly give to it.

"Caliente puts on a show for the whole family," he said. "It's great music to dance to and also great music to listen to."

WOW Hall is located at 291 W. Eighth Ave. and tickets are \$8 at the door. Johnston's workshop will take place at WOW Hall from 8:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and is free with ticket purchase. The show will directly follow the workshop.

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'Faust/Faustus' film explores old myth

Leon Johnson will discuss his film, 'Faust/Faustus in Deptford' at 8 p.m. today

By **Ryan Nyburg**
Senior Pulse Reporter

The annual Colin Raugh Thomas O'Fallon Memorial Lecture in Art and American Culture will deal with issues of damnation, psychic crisis and spiritual bankruptcy.

The lecture, which is sponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center and takes place today at 8 p.m., will feature Associate Professor of Art Leon Johnson discussing his film "Faust/Faustus in Deptford."

The 15-minute film, based on a series of performance pieces enacted by Johnson and theater arts Assistant Professor John Schmor, draws from the two central sources of the Faust myth. It depicts an encounter between 16th-century author Christopher Marlowe's Dr. Faustus and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's Faust on their way to damnation.

"It's a beautiful meditation on the Faust myth," said Schmor. "Our performances were mostly guided by instinct and guess."

The piece was performed across the

country and eventually in England. While there, Johnson and Schmor had the performances documented on film. The result, according to Johnson, is part travelogue and part literary reinterpretation.

"We shot it in various contexts on various locations," Johnson said. "We performed it at a number of beautiful sites in England. We would arrive at a site and reinterpret the performance based on what the site suggested."

The sense of improvisation was fueled by the different personalities of the two characters, Johnson said. He added that while both are in essence meant to be the same person, Marlowe and Goethe took different approaches to the character. This meant that the performance had the dynamic of two different people dealing with the same experiences.

"John, who played Faust, had his performance rooted in a European style, very upper class and well read. His character has resigned himself to his fate," Johnson said. "Faustus is more of an emotionally driven character, someone who is not willing to take his damnation sitting down."

After the film was completed, it was screened at a number of international

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