



Tim Bobosky Photographer

Lane Community College performers take to the stage for National Dance Week's "The Works," which honors literature.

Dance and literary texts unite at LCC's National Dance Week

'The Works' kicks off the events of National Dance Week at LCC tonight

By **Natasha Chilingierian**
Pulse Reporter

Students at Lane Community College who have been inspired by literature are performing a showcase of student-choreographed routines in "The Works" tonight.

In the performance, which kicks off a series of events at LCC in honor of National Dance Week, dancers use the art of movement to convey themes drawn from the nonfiction book "Privilege, Power, and Difference" by Allan Johnson.

The book, which dancers read as part of Lane Community College's Reading Together Project, examines societal separations based on gender, economic status and race.

LCC dance student Emily Joyce will dance alone and express her reactions to the world.

"My piece is about moving through the world with these realities that abuse us every day, such as racism, class separation and sexism," she said. "And we get to a breaking point where

we can't take it all anymore."

Joyce will dress in street wear — everyday pants and a tank top — and perform modern moves to a spoken word soundtrack drawn from a student-produced documentary titled "The Arts and Culture Politics." The documentary features interviews with Eugene and Portland-based artists.

"It is relevant to the world and how it relates to creativity," she said. "Creativity is how we deal with pain and find hope, joy and beauty."

Another student dancer, Richard Myers, explores human advantages instead of burdens. Myers will recite passages from "Privilege, Power, and Difference" throughout his dance struggle.

"I think it will make people kind of uncomfortable to see it," he said. "They will look at their own lives and their own privileges, but they need to feel that and realize how many privileges they do have."

Following three nightly performances of "The Works," LCC will host five days of beginning and intermediate dance classes in tango, ballet, salsa, modern and West African idioms. Also featured will be a discussion forum, an open rehearsal, a lecture demonstration and video showing, all of which

will promote dance as an art form.

Lane Dance Company will perform in the open rehearsal. The group is currently practicing a piece based on a second book, "Montana 1948" by Larry Watson, which was studied in the Reading Together Project. This novel details a prestigious family that deals with reputation-ruining events such as murder and sexual molestation.

"Both books chosen for the project involve diversity, discrimination and power in societies and families," Simoa said. "They highlight the core value that Lane Community College holds, which is to celebrate and explore diversity."

"The Works" will be performed tonight, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Performance Hall at Lane Community College, located at 4000 E. 30th Ave. Tickets are available at \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors at the door, or through the Lane Ticket Office at (541) 463-5202. All other events run from April 26 to April 29 and take place in the Performance Hall and the Dance Studio. For a complete listing of events and times, call the Lane Ticket Office.

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looking for or at when I'm doing this ugly American ritual. I have filed my taxes for five or six years now, and every single year it is a weekend journey into the true heart of bedlam.

The first couple of years I filed, I got them done for me, but it turned out Uncle Sam owed me money, so I didn't even need to worry. But every year thereafter, I have done them myself. Every year thereafter, I received a letter back from my government bitching at me for every minute mistake I made on all my forms. And last year, somehow, despite the fact that I followed an Internet tax program to the tee, I still got a letter back from the government. This time I owed them. Which was strange because I made about as much money as a street corner bum with a sign. But confusion was not why I didn't file my taxes this year.

In all honesty, I didn't file my taxes because I was busy. I had things to do. It simply slipped my mind. No harm,

no foul. Now that I've gotten this all on paper — this torrid confession — I've probably opened myself up to public scrutiny. But I've decided to hold off on the whole tax thing until I am at least a functional member of society (i.e. I'm out of college and I have a paying job). At that time, anything I owe my government will be paid in full.

But the question still remains: Am I criminal? I have asked several people over the course of a week this question and every person seems to have a different answer to my conundrum.

Some people say yes I am a criminal, some say I'm not, some pray for my damned soul and some tell me I should flee this evil empire while I still have the chance. I don't know who to believe anymore. So I turn to the only man I can look to for true guidance and support in my dark hour.

Willie Nelson.

As you may or may not know, Willie Nelson, one of our last living American outlaws, was droppicked by our government in 1990 for not filing his taxes for six years. His golf course, recording studio, ranch and pretty

much everything Nelson owned — everything except his legendary Martin guitar, which he still plays to this day — was seized by the Internal Revenue Service. Nelson owed nearly \$17 million in back taxes.

To get out of his financial quagmire, he recorded and released an album called "Who'll Buy My Memories?: The IRS Tapes" and made some Taco Bell commercials. By 1993, Nelson was freed from his tax chains.

Of course, I'm not quite on the scale of Willie Nelson, but my predicament is similar. And as far as I know, Willie Nelson never went to jail for this, so in my mind, he was not a criminal. In my simple monkey logic, what separates criminals from the rest of us are bars. And if Willie Nelson wasn't behind them, he wasn't a criminal, therefore, neither am I.

If I am wrong, the IRS knows where I live.

Contact the Pulse columnist at carlsundberg@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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