

Experience Yoga WestCoast Health & Fitness

2640 NE Alberta 503.288.4500
7522 N Lombard 503.283.5404
2310 N Lombard 503.289.1429

No Salespeople
Up Front Pricing
Relaxed Atmosphere
All Classes Included
Locally Owned & Operated
Class Cards Available

westcoasthealthandfitness.com



dance

Spring Arrives Early

Stephen Petronio
Company brings
bright new
dances
to Portland
by Rebecca Ragain

"Bud Suite" is set to the music
of Canadian-born composer
Rufus Wainwright.

Stephen Petronio has been busy lately. A year ago, the queer New York-based choreographer told *The Boston Globe*, "This is the first time in my life that I have more than enough to do."

Since he started Stephen Petronio Company in 1984, his work has become increasingly well-respected. He is the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, an American Choreographer award and an award from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts.

Dance companies around the world, such as Scottish Ballet and Maggio Danza in Florence, commission new creations from Petronio. Still others, such as London Contemporary Dance Theatre and Skolen for Moderne Dans in Denmark, request that dances from his repertoire be adapted to their companies.

Lucky for us, Petronio is fond of Portland. So between a trip to Italy in February and performances at New York City's Joyce Theater in April, Stephen Petronio Company performs here March 5.

Petronio's work is familiar to many Portlanders. White Bird first brought him here 10 years ago as

part of its first season, for a performance benefiting Cascade AIDS Project. Years before that, he participated in Portland State University's Contemporary Dance Series.

This performance marks the fourth time in a decade that Stephen Petronio Company has performed in Portland.

"Portland has seen almost everything I've done in the last 10 years," says Petronio, noting that Stumptown has a "real love of dance" that is matched by few other U.S. cities. "It has to do with the Portland cultural scene, and with White Bird—for the size of the population, yours is a rockin' dance audience."

Dance fans might have seen Petronio's work last spring: He created "Underland," a dark piece set to the music of Nick Cave, for Sydney Dance Company, which performed it here during White Bird's season. "It was a big and important work for me," he says.

The three dances of Petronio's that Portland saw in 2004 ("City of Twist," "Island of Misfit Toys" and "Broken Man") were also a far cry from sweetness and light. Such a far cry, in fact, that Catherine Thomas wrote in *The Oregonian*, "Stephen Petronio is still

OUT DANCING Learn to Dance



Cha Cha Rumba Country Swing Waltz Foxtrot www.outdancing.info

503-236-5129



justoutpersonals.com

WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE...