

OUT & ABOUT

» FORMER COMPANY MEMBER REJOINS PENDULUM DANCE THEATRE

RETURNING TO THE AIR

Aerial dance, an acrobatic art form incorporating circus-inspired apparatus such as the trapeze, is a unique and demanding style of movement.

"You have to keep doing it every week, three or four times a week, or you lose your muscles and strength," says Luis Torres, a member of Portland's **Pendulum Dance Theatre**.

Torres would know. He was with Pendulum Dance Theatre from 2002-04, when he moved to Los Angeles to study music production and to work as a producer and stage manager at a number of nightclubs, including Circus Disco and Arena Café.

One highlight of his time in L.A. was opening for disco queen Thelma Houston. Another was when Torres joined California's courthouse rush and married his partner.

Now that Torres is back in Portland, he juggles his responsibilities as husband with training 16-plus hours a week with Pendulum Dance Theatre. The company prepares to celebrate its ninth season with an evening program called *Nine*.

"It's a lot to be everywhere and make everybody happy," says Torres, who also works part-time for a local fashion designer.

The challenge of balancing work and personal life doesn't dampen Torres' excitement about being back in the world of aerial dance. He feels great about having regained the flexibility and strength the style demands, and he enjoys working with Pendulum Director Suzanne Kenney, who focuses not only on the physical details of the choreography but also on the stories the company tells through its performances.

Torres says, "When you know you're touching people's lives, that's your pay. However difficult it was to get there, everything is worth it in that moment, when you realize 'I did it: I connected with that audience and told my story.'"

— REBECCA RAGAIN

*Pendulum Dance Theatre performs **Nine: An Evening of Unconfined Circus** May 2-3 at Portland's French American International School, 8500 NW Johnson St. \$20 adults, \$15 students, \$10 children under 12, pendulumdancetheatre.org.*

grasslands, fields of balsamroot and lupine on the way to the top of the mountain. Hike includes excellent views of the Columbia River and neighboring volcanoes. RSVP required. Meet outside Starbucks in Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am, 3030 NE Weidler St. For info, call Chris @ 503-329-3916)

Rosetown Ramblers First Saturday Dance. This month's caller is BC's Anne Uebelacker. 5 pm-6:30 pm, advanced-level dancing; 6:30-7:30 potluck dinner; 7:30-10 pm, Class, MS and Plus Level dancing (Milwaukie Grange, 12015 SE 22nd Ave., Milwaukie)

Q Center presents its monthly storytime for kids 0-5 years and their families. Nurture a love of reading while meeting other gay and lesbian parents. Youth Librarian, Maria Lowe, will read engaging stories and coordinate song and movement activities to match the ages and attention spans of the children attending. (10-11 am, Q Center, 4114 N. Mississippi)

New Cooking and eating well group at Manifest. Open to adult men of all ages, sizes, races, orientations, experience levels and backgrounds. Learn how to cook simple, nutritious meals. RSVP George Ellis 503-223-8822 x1 (10 am-noon, \$15-\$25 sliding scale, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

» SUN • MAY 3

Peacock Productions presents the Second Annual Soul Food & Gospel Music Celebration, door 5 pm, dinner 5:30 pm. \$15 in advance, \$20 door. Net proceeds benefit the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund. (Darcelle XV Showplace, 208 NW 3rd Ave.)

DO JUMP!'s teen performance troupe, the Zig Zags, presents its original show, *Between Then and Now*. The troupe uses acrobatics, aerial dance and physical theater to bring their stories of change, letting go and finding a place in the world to the stage. (1 pm & 4:30 pm, Echo Theater, 1515 SE 37th, \$5 12 and younger, \$10 adults)

Crush presents "That's So Gay" trivia night every Sunday. Trivia about all things fabulous! (7 pm, 1400 SE Morrison St.)

CC Slaughters presents the Superstar Divas 2nd Anniversary party and bash, A Walk in the Magic Kingdom. (9 pm, no cover, 219 NW Davis)

Q Center Volunteer Appreciation Party. All volunteers, past and present, are invited to come by the new space, check out the digs, mix and mingle and enjoy food and drink. (2-4 pm, 4114 N. Mississippi)

Rose City Softball Association players head to the fields of Hillsboro. Pack the friends, family and lunch and enjoy a day out. Leave the dog at home, no dogs allowed. (www.rosecitysoftball.org)

New personal training group for men. Learn to turn your wellness goals into fun, easy exercise and nutrition. David Scheer, ACE Certified Personal Trainer (7-8:30 pm \$10-\$15 per session, sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds. David 503-223-8822 x1, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)



The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa runs May 8-30, 7:30 p.m. Thurs., 8 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. at the Milagro Theatre Group, 525 SE Stark St.

» Read *Just Out's* interview with actor Vicente Guzmán-Orozco on page 30.

» MON • MAY 4

CD promotion party at CC Slaughters, Gavin Castleton, Home. (9 pm, free, 219 NW Davis)

Wanderlust Cycling Group. Have fun exploring Portland by bike, followed by optional dinner & hot tub. (6:30-8 pm Mondays, weekly. www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Test your trivia knowledge for FREE every Monday night at Suki's (near PSU, located below the Travelodge). Prize is chiefly bragging rights, but last week's champion also got to be a karaoke VIP Thursday through Saturday. Groups as well as individuals welcome - they'll find a team for you. (9 pm, Suki's Bar & Grill, 2401 SW 4th Ave., www.sukisbargrill.com)

» TUES • MAY 5

Willamette Writers welcomes local author Laura Whitcomb, who will share her tips for writing well, quickly and under pressure. Whitcomb, author of the book *Novel Shortcuts: Ten Techniques that Ensure a Great First Draft*, is one of Willamette Writers' rising stars. Portland meetings are held 7-8 pm in downtown Portland the first Tuesday of each month. Free for members, \$5 for guests of members and students, and \$10 for non-members. (The Old Church, 1422 SW 11th, www.willamettewriters.com, 503-452-1592.)

» WED • MAY 6

Personal Training Group. Learn with ACE Certified Personal Trainer David Scheer, and a team, how to

turn your wellness goals into fun, easy exercise & nutrition. (7-8 am weekly Mon, Wed, & Fri. www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Get easy and fun exercise with the Walking Group. Create community and enjoy Portland's beautiful Esplanade & neighborhoods. (6-7 pm Wednesdays weekly. Bob Basar & David Hicks www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

FAME! North Portland's new queer dance night. Every Wednesday night. Cheap food and drinks, pinball and pool. (9:30 pm - close. Portsmouth Pub, 5262 N. Lombard St. Free!)

Join Brian Kurth, career strategist, author and founder of VocationVacations® and career/life transition coach Will Wiebe for a special Happy Hour and presentation of "The Ultimate 40-Hour Career Transition Plan." (5:30-7:30 pm, Aura 1022 W. Burnside. RSVP www.vocationvacations.com)

» THUR • MAY 7

Connect your breathing, body & mind with Beginner's Yoga. Bryan Rollins, Hatha Yoga Instructor. (6:15-7:30 pm, Thursdays weekly. www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Scandals presents the art of Tom Hardy for First Thursday. Featuring live music from SNEAKIN' OUT, Patrick Bunch, and DJ Crumz. (7 pm, with music at 8 pm. Scandals, 1125 SW Stark. www.scandalspdx.com)

Bag&Baggage Productions and The Venetian Theatre present Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Take a journey out to Hillsboro's



» HILLSBORO'S ONLY PRO THE IMPORTAN

Oscar Wilde's classic work *The Importance of Being Earnest* was shocking when it debuted on London stages back in 1895. The queer subtext was new and powerful to Victorian audiences. More than a hundred years later, it hasn't lost its punch.

Beginning May 7, Hillsboro's only professional theater company, **Bag&Baggage**, interprets Wilde's play in a way that's both irreverent and relevant. The production relies on the gay sensibilities of Noel Coward and The Roaring Twenties, exchanging tea and crumpets for martinis and caviar.

Artistic Director Scott Palmer explains, "We are pulling out all the stops to make Wilde's insights into gender, sexuality and passion the focus of our show."