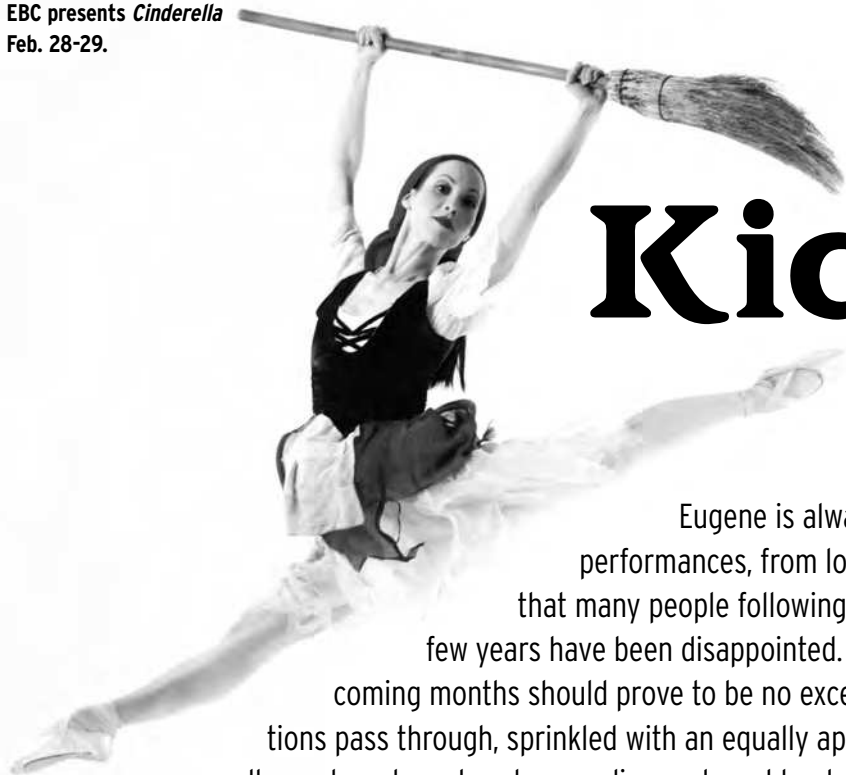


EBC presents *Cinderella*
Feb. 28-29.



Kickin' It

DANCE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THIS WINTER AND SPRING.

BY JACQUELYN LEWIS

Eugene is always an excellent place to find exciting dance performances, from local favorites to exotic imports. It is doubtful that many people following the city's performing arts scene in the past few years have been disappointed. Each season has had its own flavor, and the coming months should prove to be no exception. We will see several big-name productions pass through, sprinkled with an equally appealing smattering of smaller scale shows — all sure to get our hearts pounding and our blood pumping. Let's take a look at what's in store.

The Hult Center, always one of Eugene's best places to see dance, will kick off 2004 when it hosts the musical *Fame* on Jan. 16 and Jan. 17. The production tells the story of young hopefuls at New York's famous High School for the Performing Arts. Though the musical is not strictly a dance performance, *Fame* is a must-see for dancers, aspiring dancers and dance fans. The show boasts stellar dancers, awe-inspiring moves and an inspirational story.

February will usher in this season's most exciting dance highlight when the worldly, immensely talented **Dance Theatre of Harlem** visits Eugene. The company, founded in 1969 and predicted by *The New York Times* to be "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings," has grown into an internationally acclaimed cultural institution and powerhouse neoclassical ballet company, deriving its works from Balanchine to the African Diaspora. The company has appeared all over the world and set box office records everywhere. Mark your calendars, because Feb. 4 will be Eugene's only chance to see these bold, decadent dancers, and it's an event not to be missed!

Also on the Hult Center's February agenda, local youth performance group **The Edge** will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a high-energy performance

encompassing a wide variety of dance styles, including tumbling and break dancing. Catch this show Feb. 20.

Next, Eugene Ballet Company will add the perfect finishing touch to an already dance-packed month with its staging of *Cinderella* on Feb. 28-29. Artistic Director Toni Pimble and company are adept at concocting the perfect mixture of modern and classic, and *Cinderella* will include Pimble's original signature choreography paired with the timeless Prokofiev score. In addition, the company will treat us to its lively **Jitterbug, Jive & Jazz** — a break from classical ballet, focusing instead on swing dance, with music from OFAM's Emerald City Jazz Kings. Lindy Hop to the Hult Center April 17-18 to see and hear this lively show.

For tickets and information on these events, call the Hult Center Box Office at 685-5000.

The UO and LCC dance departments will also offer up a satisfying smattering of dance opportunities in the next few months. The UO dance department's all-student produced **Winter Student Dance Concert** is scheduled for Feb. 12 through Feb. 14. Year after year, this proves to be an innovative evening, filled with fresh works by students, featuring their fellow students.

On March 6, **Dance Africa** will present its African Community Night in the Dougherty Dance Theatre. Student dancers from the company will perform, along with Zimbabwean guest artist Lucky Moyo, brought to the UO with the help of the Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center. This performance will be a definite stand-out for the season, providing a night of both entertainment and education.

Paul Taylor 2, an offshoot of the renowned Paul Taylor modern dance group, will visit the UO April 26 and April 27, providing Eugene audiences with yet another opportunity to see world-class talent without leaving home.

The UO dance department also has its annual **Faculty Dance Concert**, the **MFA Project Concert**, **Dance Quarterly**, **Loft Series** and **Open Showing** planned for later. Contact the department at 346-5678 for ticket information and a full schedule.

LCC also offers its own student dance concert, **"The Works,"** April 22 to April 24. The dance department will celebrate National Dance Week May 20-May 22 with a cornucopia of events, including workshops, demonstrations and performance. For more information on LCC dance happenings, call 463-5202.

Lastly, dance students from various studios will also perform around Eugene this season. One stand-out show will be Musical Feet's 26th Annual student concert, **"Hats Off: A Tribute to Gregory Hines."** The tap dancers will appear at the Hult Center in June. The date for this performance hasn't been set, so call 485-2938 for details.

The space here is too small to detail or even mention every notable upcoming dance event, so check *EW* each week for additional coverage. I'll do my best to keep you updated on what's shaping up to be a great season. **EW**



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