

A NIGHT OF IMPROV

WITH

THE CAST OF "WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY"

RYAN STILES • COLIN MOCHRIE
GREG PROOPS • CHIP ESTEN
BRAD SHERWOOD • JEFF DAVIS

JUNE 4
7:30pm

**Hult Center
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Eugene Weekly

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Dance BY RACHAEL CARNES



Road Tour 2005

UO Dancers excite in this season-ender.

All hail the conquering heroes! Like Odysseus sloughing off his road-weary mantle as he returns to the cozy manse, the University of Oregon Repertory Dance Company concludes its spring tour with performances in Eugene and Cottage Grove. The seven-member company, currently in its seventh season, recently showed them how it's done in Newport, Cannon Beach and Astoria — performing and holding community class until they were ready to drop. Overcrowded shared housing and food on the road: It's a tour!

Companies such as the UO-RDC serve a dual purpose. Participation offers students the opportunity to work with new choreographers, to try challenging movement and gain experience performing in the home court as well as in new venues. And the UO dance department focuses on the educational opportunity for audiences, too. Exposure to dance throughout the state raises expectations and understanding of the art form. It's a win-win.

The company's latest offering is a dance sampler that matches youth with eclectic innovation. Highlights include UO alum and "veteran Broadway dancer" Barry McNabb's Fosse-Fosse-Fosse "For Jamie," performed to tunes by silky-smooth Nat King Cole.

Also on the bill are two pieces by department chair Jenifer Craig, including "Waiting," a

new work that explores the unsettled themes of those left behind when loved ones work at sea. Skip *The Perfect Storm* and see the dance.

Walter Kennedy's "Crossed Purposes" is a collaborative effort for five dancers. The piece intertwines spoken word within a shifting, amorphous dance space. Other new works include pieces by Rita Honka and Amy Stoddard.

UO-RDC performances are scheduled for Eugene at 8 pm on April 29-30 in Dougherty Dance Theater, Gerlinger Annex. Cottage Grove performance is at 8 pm on May 13 at the Cottage Theatre.

In other news, community-wide kudos to **Alito Alessi**, who recently received a 2005 Guggenheim Fellowship for choreography. Alessi, choreographer, dance instructor and artistic director of Joint Forces Dance Company/DanceAbility, said he intends to use the funds in 2006 to create new choreography in Eugene, Hong Kong

and Buenos Aires. Alessi has worked in the Eugene dance community since 1972, pursuing a unique contact-improvisational inquiry. He co-founded Joint Forces with Karen Nelson in 1979 and later became the company's sole artistic director. Alessi developed the "DanceAbility" dance method, which strives to ensure inclusive dance involvement of people with and without disabilities. **EW**

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