

Engaging A 'Modern' Audience

Athletic and passionate, Nicholas Andre Dance Theater takes the stage.

The pulse of one of New York City's newest and most celebrated dance companies will be felt in Eugene this Saturday as the Nicholas Andre Dance Theater (NADT) performs vibrant, original works at the Soreng Theater. Founded in 2003, NADT has dazzled audiences across the country with its innovative choreography and dynamic performance, sharing the stage with such acclaimed dance companies as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Dance Theater of Harlem.

In collaboration with Eugene's own Pacific Ballet Company, NADT promises to deliver two engaging performances that will captivate veteran dance aficionados and newcomers alike. The show will open with a performance of *Brahm's Suites*, performed by the young dancers of Ballet North West Academy, the non-profit performing branch of Pacific Ballet Company in Eugene. The piece is an original work from Artistic Director Michele Major, a former dancer and instructor of the San Diego City Ballet.

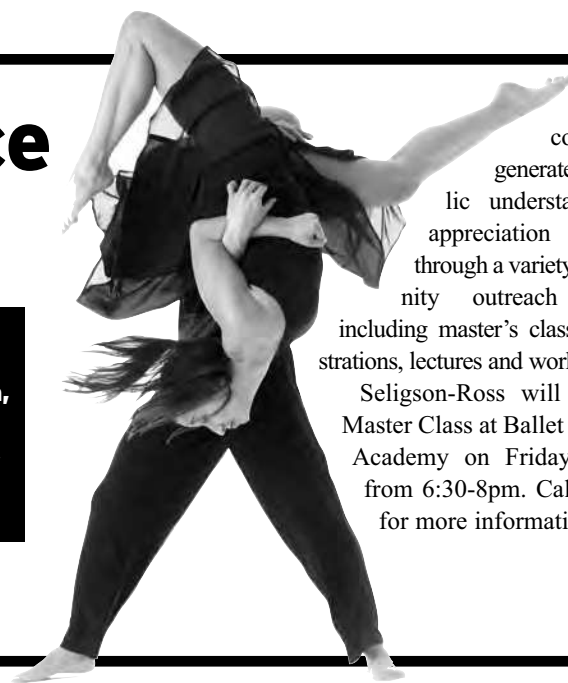
Major has copyrighted a seven-year training syllabus from pre-ballet to professional, choreographed two full-length ballets and prepared 40 of her former students to perform with the Moscow Classical Ballet during its tours of southern California. *Brahm's Suites* is a classical piece celebrating the youth and beauty of its performers.

From there, the show will edge away from Major's classical choreography toward the eclectic variations of Artistic Director Nick Seligson-Ross in a series of emotional and dynamic pieces designed to invigorate long-time viewers and attract new audiences to the 'modern' stage. Weaving together the unique cultural backgrounds and the various abilities of his dancers, Seligson-Ross cre-

ates a seamless performance accessible to a wide variety of viewers.

In 2003 he was nominated for the *Time Out New York* Dance Audience Award, a major first step toward fulfilling his mission to make passionate, athletic modern dance available to all types of audiences. The company

**Nicholas Andre
Dance Theater
2 pm & 7:30 pm,
Saturday, 4/22
Soreng Theater,
\$15/ \$13
682-5000**



continues to generate wider public understanding and appreciation for dance through a variety of community outreach programs including master's classes, demonstrations, lectures and workshops.

Seligson-Ross will conduct a Master Class at Ballet North West Academy on Friday, April 21 from 6:30-8pm. Call 343-3914 for more information. **EW**

dance BY DAN HOYT

The Shakedown of Love

Eugene's hip hop dance company Breakdown gets down with itself.

The power of hip hop dancing is seen not only in the cultures and subcultures it pops up in, but also by the people it affects and the message it sends. Eugene may not seem like the most likely place for a booty-shakin' dance group to tear it up year after year, but **Breakdown** has made it happen for over three years now.

"Our group has incredible diversity," says director Lindsey Cooper. "The dancers range in age from 17-29 ... our shows are also totally family-friendly, we have 4-year-olds all the way up to grandparents attending."

Breakdown not only promotes family gathering at their performances, but is also completely non-profit and donates all of its proceeds to charity. Recently the group has supported the Relief Nursery, which provides early intervention services for low-income families with children between birth and 6 years old.

"We usually support a different charity every year," says Cooper, "but last year we started doing benefit shows for the Relief Nursery, and we were really happy with the relationship we built with them. I am really a big supporter of their cause, so we'll keep on being a benefit for them."

The performance itself is a combination of dance, singing and storytelling. Local hip hop sensation **Michael Kay** narrates, dances and performs a few of his hits at each show.

With the backup of a star in the making, a noble cause and the popularity of Oregon's hip hop scene rising each day, Breakdown seems poised to bring their groove to the national stage. I highly recommend checking them out, if not for the bass-thumping beats and popping and locking, then to support a good cause.

Breakdown kicks off their "5th Element" show at 7 pm Saturday, April 22 at Churchill High School. The show continues April 23, 28 and 29. Tickets are \$7 for youth 11 and under at the door, and \$10 adv./\$12 dos. for adults. All proceeds benefit the Relief Nursery. **EW**

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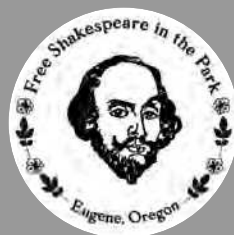
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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006

First seating at 6:00pm, Second seating at 8:00pm

\$40 per person, \$75 per couple

(Drinks not included)

Proceeds benefit the summer 2006 production of *The Taming of the Shrew* in August. Special thanks to Cattail Creek Lamb for their donation!

**Join us on April 30th at
6:30 pm when we do it
family style. More info on
website under specials.**

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