

Hot September Nights

Lighten up with some local entertainment ♦ BY VANESSA SALVIA

Celebrate, celebrate, dance to the music. Those lyrics were bouncing around in my head as I wrote this guide to the Celebration's local music. Didn't Three Dog Night realize that this was not a particularly danceable song? Oh, the irony! Of course, any kind of movement passes for dancing these days, from the head bobbing shoelace gaze to the whirling dervish hippie twirl. Whatever move you call your own, get down with your bad self and check out some local talent. Here, in alphabetical order to show that we are equal opportunity favoritists, are our top picks for local entertainment not to miss. All shows are free with a wristband (\$10 for the entire weekend).

DEAD AMERICANS

Their name is kinda reminiscent of Dead Prez, but this is no group of rappers. Their allegiance is to the 1970s New York club scene, where Blondie, the Dolls, Dead Boys, Ramones, Iggy and Bowie battled for supremacy. Then there's the influence of resistance music: Fugazi, Black Flag, Bikini Kill, Spearhead, Fela Kuti, Bob Marley, Dead Kennedys. Add in a dangerously good female singer, and it's no wonder this band has found fans all along the West Coast. 1:30 pm Sat., Sept. 8, Library Stage.



HEAVENLY OCEANS

These guys are scruffy and often appear in public in an unkempt state (full disclosure — I have a strong anti-beard bias) but their hearts are pure and their hands are clean. They make music for the Gidgets of the world ... which is to say groovy, hip and cool guitar-led retro rock. As they say in their press kit, it's *Beach Blanket Bingo* starring not Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon but Uma Thurman and Steve McQueen. Smooth, sexy, and no lyrics to get in the way of your dancing. 1:15 pm Sat., Sept. 8, Broadway Plaza Stage.

I-CHÈLE AND THE CIRCLE OF LIGHT

Reggae lovers take note: I-chèle delivers rousing reggae with a soulful feel, perfect for dancing. Vince Black, of Black Uhuru fame, winds his deep bass grooves around I-chèle's smooth vocals. Her reggae is reminiscent of Sade's sensuous soul, Marley's uplifting message and the roots rock of the genre's early days. 3 pm Sat., Sept. 8, Saturday Market Stage.

JERRY ZYBACH

Eugene Celebration entertainment would be irreparably broken without a hefty dose of blues. Jerry Zybach and his Blues Scoundrels are just the thing for a main stage rampage. The Scoundrels are Zybach, Chris Alexander, Ralph Novack, Russ Whitlatch and Theo Halpert. Zybach describes the Blues Scoundrels as chasing "the old Chess Records sound," incorporating roots blues along with today's progressive styles. Zybach plays a variety of instruments including his signature homemade cigar box guitar. 7:30 pm Sat., Sept. 8, Broadway Plaza Stage.



JESSIE MARQUEZ

A beautiful woman, a beautiful voice and beautiful rhythms just about says it all. Marquez interprets traditional and modern Cuban music with the help of her collaborator, jazz guitarist Mike Denny. Together, their interpretations of Cuban and American music are warm, rich and sensuous. Marquez recently lived in Cuba for almost a year, performing in the country's premier theaters and clubs and appearing on national television and radio. She has produced works by emerging Cuban artists and performed with Cuba's leading national orchestras. But this time, she's singing just for you. 4:45 pm Fri., Sept. 7, Broadway Plaza Stage.

JOHN SHIPE & EHREN EBBAGE

Ehren Ebbage is also playing individually at the celebration, but you may want to catch him with his long-time collaborator Shipe. Actually, they will be performing as a trio with Jerry Abelin (Saltlick), a bassist who is a frequent collaborator. That should give you some idea of their musical direction — a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll, and a little bit jam. Will Shipe play Blue Rebeahs stuff? Renegade Saints songs? Scapegoats? Only one way to find out. 7 pm Sat., Sept. 8 pm, Cozmic Pizza.



ME.LT

featuring MARV ELLIS and LAFA TAYLOR

ME.LT is the latest from two of the Northwest's best hip hop artists. MarvEllis and Lafa Taylor each have individual performances scheduled, but their collaboration is a natural. Both maintain a positive outlook in their rap and singing. Taylor released his debut album, *Life Music*, in 2003 at the age

of 17. He mixes hip hop beats with reggae, electronica and funk and is known for intricate beat boxing and creating live unrehearsed beats using his voice and a guitar loop pedal. Ellis is a more seasoned veteran, having recently released his seventh album, *Underwater Not Underground*. He says he has taken "a personal oath to make his music human, timeless and authentic." 9 pm Sat., Sept. 8, WOW Hall.

MOOD AREA 52

I know, we write about Mood Area 52 almost as often as bandleader Michael Roderick changes his socks, but they're just so much fun to listen to. And dance to. And watch other people listening to them while dancing. And watch other people ... oh, you know. The popular group's twisted tango imparts a pleasing old-world sophistication, but it's also modern enough to prove they're making their own rules. Accordionist and vocalist Roderick, cellist Amy Danziger, vocalist Marietta Bonaventure, guitarist Billy Barnett, bassist Sylvain Duplant and drummer James West also utilize the talents of various other Oregon musicians, adding horns, strings, drums and additional vocals. 3 pm Sun., Sept. 9, Broadway Plaza Stage.



REEBLE JAR

Don't you think Tyler Spencer, Reebble Jar's didgeridoo player, is tired of people asking him what a "Reebble Jar" is? He's probably thinking, "Damn, why didn't I name my band the Clay Pots or something, *anything*, with a little less mystery?" These seven dudes play music that rocks, rolls and bends over backwards to get your ass into the groove and digging the good vibrations, man. 9:30 pm Sat., Sept. 8, McDonald Theatre.

SAWYER FAMILY

On weekends, when you wake up to beer bottles strewn all over your lawn, your cat missing and mysterious goo all over the sidewalk, that's the work of the Sawyer Family, just letting you know they're still around. Fans of Reverend Horton Heat, the Cramps and Link Wray will love these guys, who manage to be creepy, fiendish *and* fun. Surely you can fit some rockabilly punk into your schedule? 11 pm Fri., Sept. 7, John Henry's.

Ballerina For a Day

Leaping and admiring at Ballet Fantastique

Ballet Fantastique intends to put the dance back into the Eugene Celebration.

"Dance has totally been absent at the celebration for many years," says Ballet Fantastique Executive Director Hannah Bontrager.

"As a nonprofit ballet academy, we feel it is our mission to bring ballet to everyone in the community, and the Celebration is a great opportunity to get every one up close and personal with the dancers and the studio."

The academy will be performing a sneak preview of its October 13-14 Hult Center Concert with Trio Voronezh, "From Tchaikovsky to Tango," at 4 pm on Sat., Sept. 8, at the Ballet Fantastique studio. "This is a good chance to see part of a professionally choreographed dance for free," says Bontrager.

At 4:30 pm, little dancers in training, ages 4-12, will get the opportunity to try some ballet moves with a dance lesson taught by a professional Ballet Fantastique coach. Don't worry about ballet shoes or structure, Bontrager says; the class will be very informal and fun. Participating children should bring athletic socks and wear clothes they can move freely in. "By giving the kids a chance to try some dance moves, we are hoping to demystify ballet performances and show them that ballet really is something they could do," Bontrager explains.

At 5 pm, in the final bit of the event, the children can try on costumes, meet real dancers and teachers, take pictures and try choreography for themselves. "The kids will be able to meet dancers who are in their age group and see what someone their age can do after a little practice and hard work," says Bontrager. "This is a great time to meet us, see the studio and get a good sense of what we do."

All of the Ballet Fantastique events are free, but seats are limited and are first come, first served. All ages are welcome; the only requirement is to take off your shoes before entering the studio. Ballet Fantastique is located at 60 E. 10th Ave. on the corner of 10th and Oak Alley. For more information you can reach the academy at 541-342-4611 or online at www.balletfantastique.org

— Deanna Uutela