

performing arts



JANINE HARRIS

Eugene Lands Only Oregon Showing of Anne Frank Ballet

Artistic director Toni Pimble of the Eugene Ballet Company recalls a moment in the '50s when, "sitting in my dad's lap, watching the TV documentary *World at War* narrated by Richard Burton, the image of the corpses of Jews being bull-dozed into pits was burned into my mind."

That, plus her recollection of presenting a passage from Anne Frank's diary at a performing arts school when she was fifteen, were contributing factors in her decision to invite the staging of Mauricio Wainrot's Anne Frank ballet to Hult center for performances April 2-3. This will be the only chance to experience the ballet in Oregon.

In addition, the Singer Family Lecture series in Judaic Studies will present at 7:30 pm, March 30, in 282 Lillis Hall on the UO campus a talk on "Anne's Voice, Mauricio's Dance: An Interview of Mauricio Wainrot."

The ballet, as befits its source material, is somber, with an ominous chord throughout. It opens with Anne's father Otto returning to the small annex of an old building in Amsterdam, where the family had hidden from Nazi oppression, and finding his daughter's diary. (In reality, a kind neighbor found it and kept it safe.) As he reads, the characters come alive again, beginning with their escape from Germany to Holland. Almost the entire story unfolds in the limited space of their Amsterdam hideaway, as each of the eight people who clandestinely lived there reenact episodes from Anne's diary.

Against this interplay of tender and turbulent moments intrude reminders of the brutal fascist regime that exists just beyond their doorway, periodically disturbing the illusion of safety that their tenuous haven provides. This constant peril appears in the menacing form of two Nazi soldiers led by a strutting female officer who emanates cold, Darth Vader-like evil. At times, this malevolent trio simply remains in the shadows as a symbol of impending doom, or robotically advances to the incongruous strains of a vintage "Lili Marleen" recording.

The strengths and shortcomings of this production tread a delicate balance on stage. Most of Anne's diary, after all, is about thought and emotion within severe confines, not about grand action. That's a challenge for dancers in a play wordlessly put to Bella Bartok's musical score. Even during the families' modest Sabbath dinner, the orchestration does not lift spirits, but rather emphasizes their tragedy. Inevitably, darkness overcomes any glimmer of light – no spoiler for all who've read the book – but the ending is still something of a jolt.

Wainrot's own parents fled Poland for South America just a week before their escape would have been made impossible. When he was researching background material, Wainrot's mother told him things she'd never before revealed – how his father was the only one of eight brothers to survive, and how only two others of her 11 siblings lived through the war. It was the first time in his life that he'd seen his mother cry.

Wainrot, currently artistic director at the Ballet Contemporáneo del Teatro San Martín of Buenos Aires, says the premiere of the Anne Frank ballet in 1984 changed his life as an artist and his perception of himself as a child of the Holocaust. His motivation was to illustrate and condemn racial, political and religious intolerance – as well as the arbitrary actions of a totalitarian power that knew no limitations – doing so through the lives of eight people condemned to live and die during the worst fascist regime ever to exist. - *Joseph Lieberman*

Wainrot's free lecture is sponsored by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies. For ballet performance tickets, visit www.hultcenter.org or call 682-5000. There's a free "Ballet Insider pre-talk" in 45 minutes before each performance.

From the Street to the Stage

The homeless of Eugene and Springfield will have the chance to be heard for at least one night as Street Code Theatre brings its multimedia performance art to the Wildish Theater on Saturday, March 26.

The show, "A State of Grace: Multimedia Performance Art on Homelessness," is under the artistic direction of Judith Voss, with technical direction by Ryan Zimmer. Spoken word, live music, movement and technical aspects that include projected images, video and tape recordings make up the 26 pieces unified by the theme of homelessness.

Ten performers represent what Voss claims are "important voices from the street represented in ways that are unique and creative, meant to humanize the faces of people you may see on the street." The multigenerational troupe calls itself the Eugene Dream Weavers, and hopes to increase public compassion, dispel stereotypes and encourage community support of the local homeless population.

Through sharing their life stories, these marginalized people hope to affirm that humanity connects us all, regardless of circumstance.

Voss wants to pack the one-night-only event to show support to the homeless community, as all proceeds will go directly to the performers. She says no one will be turned away for inability to pay. Street Code Theatre takes place at 7pm Saturday, March 26, at Springfield's Wildish Theatre; tickets are \$10 and include a post-show catered reception. Donations of sleeping bags, blankets, hats and coats will be collected and given directly to people on the streets. - *Bronwynn Manaois*



In-Home Care Services

- Personal Care • Meal Preparation •
- Housekeeping • Laundry •
- Appointments • Home Care •
- Bathing • Grooming • Groceries •
- Companionship • Medication Assistance •
- Respite Care • Insurance Billing •
- Errands • Blood Pressure Checks •
- Memory Care • Insured • Cognition •
- Licensed • Bonded • Available 24/7 •

All care plans are individually tailored to each individual. There are no fees for assessments or care plan set up.

Give the opportunity of a better quality of life by living at home

541-505-9715 • www.aqhcinc.com

RONNIE ALLEN BENEFIT CONCERT

Hosted by Tom Lang of Fifth Wheel Promotions
The Musicians Emergency Medical Assoc. www.memafund.org

PERFORMANCES BY

LEON SMITH

(singing his hit song-Little Forty Ford & many others)

finger pick-in stylist

BOBBY GIBSON

with Leon Smith & Bobby Gibson Is Skip Jones, Byron Case, Paul J. Biondi

special appearance by Rockabilly Hall of Fame singer

LARRY DERIEUX

SUREFIRE COUNTRY BAND

with lead guitarist RONNIE ALLEN, drummers BRANDIN & JUSTIN MARTIN, singer, AMY KAY, bass guitar MELODY ANN & piano PAUL LANDRUS

and the

ROCKTOPIA BAND

Sunday March 27th 1:30 to 7pm

Whiskey River Ranch • 4740 Main Street • Springfield
\$5 • ALL AGES WELCOME

**Some People Say
Size Doesn't Matter...
But We Say It Does!**

**In & Out
Gardens
HYDROPONIC
SUPERSTORE**

**Largest Location
in Oregon**

**END OF CLASS
SALE**

Indoor/Outdoor Horticulture Classes
Free Class March 30th @ 6pm
Hydroponics / Nutrients / Harvest Sale
Class Details: www.inandoutgardens.com
93484 Hwy 99 S. Junction City 541-234-2342

**Laughing
PlanetCafe**

**NOW OPEN
AT WOODFIELD STATION**

2864 WILLAMETTE STREET, EUGENE
(4 doors down from Market of Choice)

OPEN 11:00-10:00PM SEVEN DAYS
(541) 505-5399 www.LAUGHINGPLANETCAFE.COM