



# Dancing in the New Year

Eugene pirouettes into big-time 2012 dance season BY DANTE ZUÑIGA-WEST

The new year brings boldly ambitious and dazzling dance performances to Eugene. Spectacular shows representing local, collegiate, national and international talent will be gracing the stages for months to come.

The UO School of Dance kicks off the 2012 season in diverse and exciting fashion with the *Dance Africa Concert*. UO's gifted Dance Africa ensemble will be guided by guest choreographer Habib Iddrisu, performing dance technique native to the countries of Zimbabwe, Senegal, Guinea and more.

For those unfamiliar with Iddrisu's caliber of work, the Ghana-born choreographer, dancer and musician is a Ph.D. who also happens to teach at Portland's Reed College.

Coming from a family of musicians, Iddrisu studied the traditional music and dance of his country before going on to win several awards distinguishing him as one of Ghana's most successful dancers. Iddrisu is best known for his leadership of the Novisi Dance group and his choreographer-at-large status in Ghana's capital city, Accra.

In the U.S., Iddrisu is often remembered for his version of a South African gumboot dance that was presented at the national American College Dance Festival in Washington,

D.C., at the Kennedy Center. His world-class aptitude combined with the honed skills of the Dance Africa ensemble make this a truly unique, must-see performance.

In February, internationally acclaimed classical Chinese dance company Shen Yun is coming to the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. An absolutely captivating show filled with elite dancers and original orchestral compositions, Shen Yun seamlessly blends music and dance. The New York-based performing arts troupe is on a mission to revive 5,000 years of Chinese tradition.

Displaying historic Chinese culture as it once existed, Shen Yun presents ethnic and folk dance styles while retelling some of China's legendary creation stories. With high-tech animated backdrops that recreate rich landscapes and scenes of mythological grandeur, Shen Yun beautifully showcases dancers whose skills are highlighted in dramatic form. Boasting hundreds of handmade costumes representing various Chinese regions and dynasties, Shen Yun is an all-encompassing immersion in history and harmony.

Make sure to listen for distinctly unique Chinese instruments such as the pipa and the erhu as the original compositions unfold throughout the show.

Also in February, the fresh, high-energy dancers of Work Dance Company bring a younger, more explosive type of performance to the Hult Center stage. *Nightlife!*, a dance production fusing hip hop, jazz and funk styles together with video, is an eye-catching experience with upbeat tempos and wonderfully raw choreography. Look to see Nate Boozer's group of dedicated dancers pop off with old-school and new-school style and technique.

Perhaps most exciting about *Nightlife!* is the who's-who list of guest groups also involved — Kings Krew, UO Jam Squad, Dance Factory, Zapp, Dance Northwest and more — that are sure to make it an eclectic and fiery evening to remember. Work Dance Company has a habit of selling out the Hult Center shows, so make sure to get your tickets soon. **ew**

"Eugene's most eclectic, energized and fun dance show!"

18th Annual

## Dance for a Reason



A Benefit for DanceAbility International

Friday, January 27th

Hult Center | Silva Concert Hall | 7:30 pm  
Tickets \$15 | [www.hultcenter.org](http://www.hultcenter.org) | 541.682.500

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Bounce Gymnastics & Circus Arts Center | Denbaya Drum & Dance  
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For Tickets  
541.463.5761  
[lanecollege.edu/tickets](http://lanecollege.edu/tickets)

7:30 PM Curtain

\* Indicates 2 PM Matinee

LCC Campus  
4000 E. 30th

Blue Door Theatre



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Saturday, Feb. 4  
3 p.m., Beall Concert Hall

541-346-4363 | [tickets.uoregon.edu](http://tickets.uoregon.edu)



Featured Conductor:  
Jameson Marvin  
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