

**Work It**

Work Dance Company is about to grace the Hult Center with a performance that can only be described as all-encompassing.

"We are about bringing raw and honest dance to the stage," says choreographer and LCC dance alumnus Nathan Boozer. "This is a full-scale production. It's theatrical and high energy."

*Nightlife!*, a show touting 125 dancers, 20 original pieces of choreography, video projection and an incredible music score is Eugene-based Work Dance Company's fifth show at the Hult. The group's last four shows have completely sold out, and it's easy to see why this one probably will too.

"This is a huge collaboration, with guest appearances by really incredible dancers," Boozer says.

And indeed, the lineup is pretty impressive. Kings Crew, Zapp, Dance Northwest and UO Jam Squad will be making appearances throughout the evening in what will be a production that has "no slow pieces."

The jazz, funk, hip hop, modern and contemporary dancers on stage will be backed by a 30-by-40-foot video screen showing the videography of Boozer and Ryan King. A series of exciting props, everything from white picket fences to dry ice, will also play a role in the show.

The theme of *Nightlife!* fits this energetic menagerie of dance. "This is about the feeling you get when you get off work, or when you get your paycheck," says Boozer. "We are taking the audience through a fantasy land of nightlife, what happens when the work is over and you want to live."

Pieces to look forward to include "Monster's Religion," in which dancers costumed as zombies put a new spin on what it means to be the living dead, and "Place Your Bets," a dance riffing on the theme of gambling, set to the sound of Lady Gaga's "Poker Face."

*Nightlife!* hits the stage 7:30 pm Friday, Feb. 17, at the Hult; \$13-\$15.



NATHAN BOOZER AND SOME OF THE LADIES OF WORK DANCE COMPANY

PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

**On to the Next One**

The Midtown Throwdown III on Feb. 11 showcased Eugene's mixed-martial arts talent in masse. Local gyms pitted gutsy competitors against each other in fight after fight in what proved to be a gripping series of contests – with each combatant hungry to further propel his nascent career into what has now become the world's fastest-growing sport.

And one up-and-comer was preparing to welcome another kind of birth.

Amateur fighter Chris Sanjose sat in the staging area. His body bears telltale signs of the fight he'd just engaged. Next to him sat his wife, Jamilyn, attending to his wounded ankle with an icepack. She is eight months pregnant. Their daughter is to be named Anaia. It's a family affair.

With a record of six wins and only one loss, Sanjose has built a reputation for himself in the Northwest as a skilled stand-up fighter in the 135-pound weight class – he competes in Thai boxing as well as amateur mixed martial arts. At Midtown Throwdown III, he defeated Haizam Golez by unanimous decision, in a Thai boxing match that displayed the most surgical striking of the evening.

Though from a cultural perspective, it was odd to witness Thai boxing performed in a cage without either the traditional woodwind music or requisite ceremonial dance, neither Sanjose nor Golez lacked in form or conditioning. Sanjose set the pace, and his leg kicks were the determining factor. The match went all three rounds before defaulting to the judges' score cards.

"I wanted to open up with boxing but (Golez) is a heavy puncher," says Sanjose. "I stuck to the game plan, which was kicking."

He says in his next fight he will look to go pro, but not before some well-deserved rest, and the arrival of his daughter.

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CHRIS SANJOSE

PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA

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