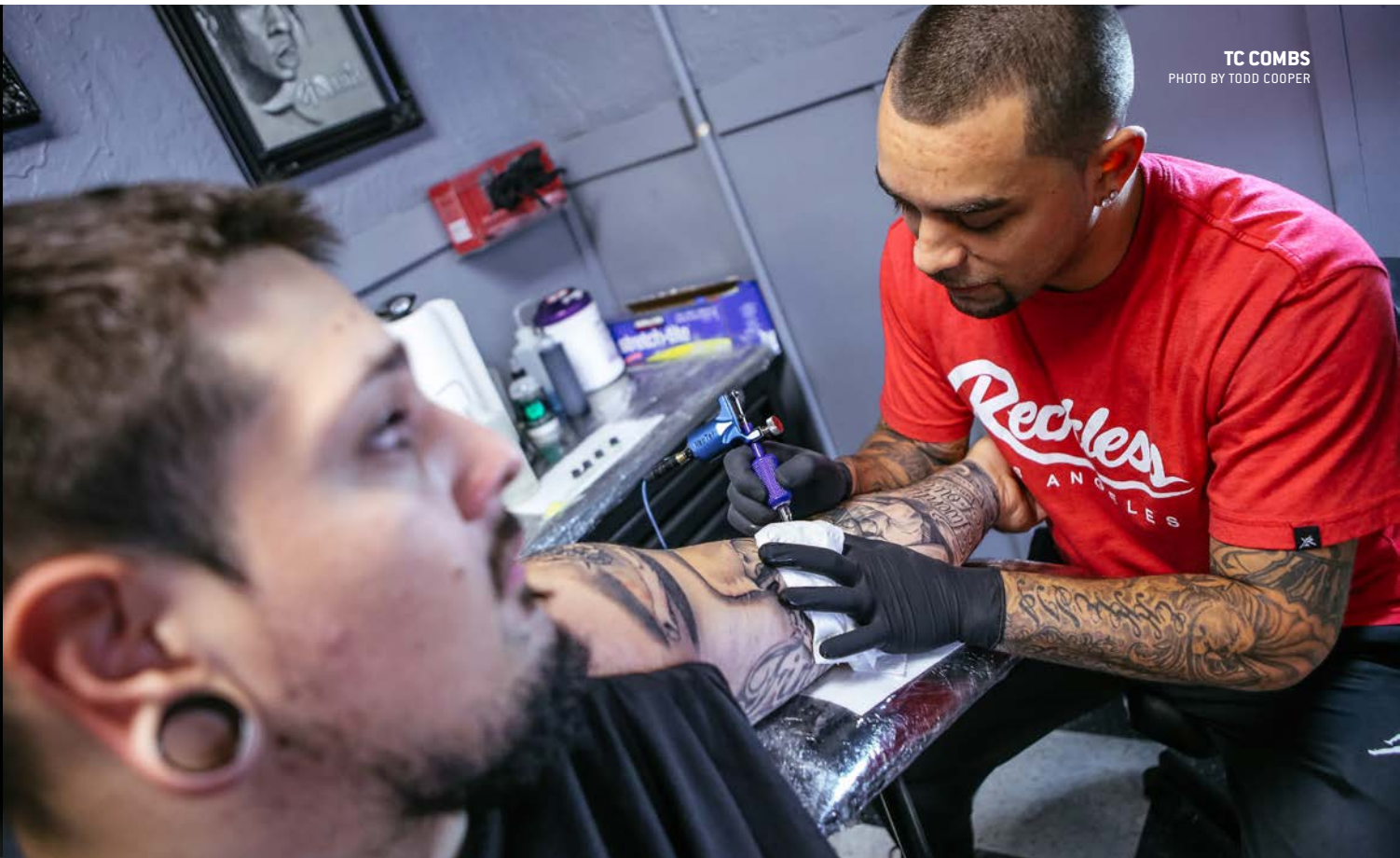




TC COMBS
PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

BEST TATTOO/BODY MODIFICATION ARTIST

1. **TC Combs**
2. **Splat Ter**
3. **Jimmy Singleton**

When the shit's done right, there's a fine line between "tattoo artist" and "artist." Trent "TC" Combs of Ink'd Up Tat2 says that he "got started in tattooing because of art, and I got started in art because... I don't know. I've always liked having a pen in my hand." These days, the ink that flows from Combs' pen ranges in style from traditional rococo lettering to dynamically colored tribal patterns to religious symbolism, but he specializes in black and grey. Any way you cut it, though, you're practically guaranteed a tat that'll make you look in the mirror, flex and laughingly shake your head at your own sex appeal while whispering to yourself, "Sick, dude. Sick." And, according to Ink'd Up Tat2's Facebook page, Combs is "getting better every day" — an especially exciting prospect, since he's already no stranger to the great honor that is *EW*'s best tattoo artist distinction.

BEST DANCER

1. **Nathan Boozer** workdancecompany.com.
2. **[three-way tie] Eileen King/Heather Wallace/Vanessa Martin** unityschoolofdance.com; eugeneballet.org; eugenedancefactory.com.
3. **Lindsey Shields** flexstudios.org.

You like the way he moves. Last year his company Work Dance nabbed first place for best show, and this year the man himself gets the gold. Boozer studied dance at LCC, but he first caught the jitterbug at 12 while watching Michael Jackson on an MTV awards show. "My inspiration was definitely Michael Jackson," Boozer says. "For kids of my era, it was all about him. He's created dance moves that no one could." Now Boozer creates choreography for Work Dance that no one else in town is doing, pulling inspiration from the King of Pop and Lady Gaga (who he's met, twice). Next up is *Mechanical Dancer* in February at the Hult. "It's about keeping the dance alive," he says, "creating your own art and being confident."

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR

1. **Bob Welch** bobwelch.net.
2. **Ken Kesey** key-z.com.
3. **Bill Sullivan** oregonhiking.com.

BEST LOCAL THEATER COMPANY

1. **Oregon Contemporary Theatre** 194 W. Broadway. 465-1506. octheatre.org.
2. **Actor's Cabaret of Eugene** 996 Willamette St. 683-4368. actorscabaret.org.
3. **Very Little Theatre** 2350 Hilyard St. 344-7751. thevlt.com.

Since moving to its new, improved location on Broadway, Oregon Contemporary Theatre has become one of the anchoring institutions in a revitalized downtown scene, providing a line-up of consistently strong, often homegrown stageworks that find a heady balance between artistic risk and entertaining accessibility. Artistic director Craig Willis is a staunch advocate of plays created here in the Northwest, and he works to keep the productions affordable for local audiences. "OCT's mission is to produce bold entertainment that challenges expectations, inspires curiosity, encourages dialogue and supports positive change," Willis tells *EW*, adding that the best way to keep theater vital in Eugene is by "bringing the best artists together to collaborate on something they feel passionate about." Bravo, OCT.

BEST PLACE TO SING KARAOKE

1. **Black Forest** 50 E. 11th Ave. 686-6619. blackforesteugene.com.
2. **Level Up** 1290 Oak St. 654-5632. leveluparcade.com.
3. **Cornucopia** 207 E. 5th Ave. 485-2676. cornucopiaeugene.com.

The quickest way to both gain and lose someone's heart is available two nights a week at Black Forest's karaoke nights. A two-time winner, Black Forest provides the necessary cocktails and instrumental version of hit songs, allowing Eugeneans to unleash their inner Monday blues — often and unapologetically in the form of Radiohead or Springsteen. To help loosen those vocals cords and inhibitions, Black Forest offers \$2.50 wells on Mondays and a "liquor for the price of a well" deal on Wednesdays. Start dreaming of stage dives.



THE CAST AND
CREW OF OREGON
CONTEMPORARY
THEATRE'S CURRENT
SHOW, *I AND YOU*
PHOTO BY ATHENA DELENE