

The SPIN

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN DANCE THIS MONTH

BY RACHAEL CARNES

Across the country, and right here in Eugene, summer is a great time for performing artists to get out of the theater — away from the driving push of ticket sales — and into a space where making art invites a wider community conversation.

Dance *should* stand up to getting stripped down. (If movement isn't utterly compelling under bare work lights and in sweatpants, it probably needs more rehearsal.) Looking at dance can be a critical act, but as audience members, we're not given many opportunities to engage on a participatory level. **Dance in Dialogue** is trying to change that.

Tonight, June 1, **Dance in Dialogue (DiD)** presents new work by **Rachel Carrico**, **Abbey McBride** and **Shannon Mockli** in an accessible venue for sharing thoughts, questions, and ideas about making dances.

It's been a delight to watch DiD take root.

Through a constructive (and mercifully brief) group chat following each piece, DiD offers feedback to its artists, giving them a path to follow toward a fully realized final new work.

DiD's model takes the cornerstone of the creative process — critique — and bestows the audience itself with the means to articulate what they see. In a warm and inviting way, DiD quietly nurtures a future for contemporary dance in Eugene.

Catch DiD 6 pm tonight, June 1, at the Friend's Meeting House.

And tomorrow night's a party with dance freebies happening all over downtown.

#instaballet kicks off their performance-making season by creating a new ballet with audience input from 5:30 to 8 pm June 2 at Capitello Wines, 540 Charnelton Street. Catch African Dance and Drumming with the **West African Cultural Arts Institute** 6 pm at the Downtown Eugene Public Library. Or check out a history of dance presented by **Arts Alive**, 5 to 8 pm in Kesey Square, followed by a free community dance with **Gerry Rempel**.

Eugene has a growing Flamenco scene, welcom-



ing **Sentido Flamenco**, featuring **Antonio Rosario**, 6 pm June 14 at the Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln Street.

Out of town, Seattle's **Whim W'Him** presents **Olivier Wever's** *Approaching Ecstasy* at the Cornish Playhouse 8 pm June 2, 3, 9 and 10. Incorporating 40 singers, 5 instrumentalists and 7 dancers, the production is inspired by the poems of Constantine Cavafy, who lived as a closeted gay man in Egypt at the end of the 19th century.

Portland's **NW Dance Project** closes its 2016-17 season with a world premiere from **Sarah Slipper** and with the return of *Chopin Project*, featuring four choreographers interpreting Chopin's complete 24 preludes played live by Portland concert pianist **Hunter Noack**.

Locally, **Xcape Dance Company** presents *The Takeover* 8 pm June 3 at Hi-Fi Music Hall. **Reign Dance Company** presents *Rise Above* 4 pm June 4 at Willamette High School. **Eugene Ballet Academy** presents *An Enchanted Garden* 5 pm June 4 at the Hult Center. The **University of Oregon**

Dance Department presents its Spring Loft 8 pm June 9 in the Dougherty Dance Theater. **Zapp Academy of Dance** presents *Road Trip* 3 pm June 11 at the Hult. **The Academy of Ballet Fantastique** offers *ARTISTIQUE: Pictures at an Exhibition* 7 pm June 10 and 2 pm June 11 at the Wildish Community Theater in Springfield. And Eugene's hula school, **Na Pua O Hawai'i Nei**, presents its fifth annual hula exhibition *For Our King and Queen* 2 pm June 24 at Cascade Middle School.

In memoriam:

Eugene Ballet Company recently lost one of its own, company dancer **Jesse Griffin**, who died May 13 in Klamath Falls. He began his dance training in K Falls at 15, telling Rachel's School of Dance owner, Rachel Glenn, "I want to be your first professional dancer, and I want to dance with the Eugene Ballet Company." After serving as an aspirant, he became an EBC company member for the 2016-17 season. A gofundme campaign has been established in his name. A memorial for Griffin will be held June 9 in Klamath Falls.

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The Takeaway

Critical conversations, live reports from the field, a platform for commentary and analysis, and listener participation. Weekdays 11am