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METRO *Life*

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

Contemporary Dance Season: Northwest Choreographers Commission

Portland State University's Contemporary Dance Season commissioned Northwest choreographers Gregg Bielemeier, Minh Tran, and Keith Goodman to create new works and engaged Choral Cross-Ties to provide live choral music for the pieces. The result will be presented as part of the 1993-94 Contemporary Dance season Friday and Saturday, Nov. 19 and 20, at 8pm, and Sunday, Nov. 21, at 2pm in Lincoln Performance Hall (at the corner of SW Broadway & Market) on The PSU campus.

Bielemeier will present a solo jazz piece; Minh tran will perform a trio, entitled "Descending," with dancers Sue Brantley and Katherine Petersen; and Goodman will perform a duet, "Exotic Dances: Eternal Partners," with dancer Linda Johnson.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission; \$17 for senior adults and PSU faculty and staff; \$8 for students; and \$6 for PSU students with valid I.D. Tickets are available in advance through the PSU Box Office at SW 5th & Mill; 725-3307. They may be available at the door, although CDS performances are frequently sold out.

GREGG BIELEMEIER

Bielemeier's dance and choreography have excited audiences in the United States and Europe for more than 20 years, beginning with his involvement with Portland Dance Theater in Oregon. Recently he has been very active in Los Angeles with appearances in Dance Kaleidoscope and at Dance Gallery's "In the Works" performance series. He received a 1990 Individual Artists Fellowship

from the Pasadena Arts Commission. He also taught and choreographed in San Francisco. His choreography was chosen for the Bay Area Dance Coalition Choreographers Showcase. He worked with dance companies and private studios in Holland for several years. His works were premiered at the International Dance Festival, and he had performances and workshops in Paris and Rome. He has trained and performed works by acclaimed New York choreographers including Douglas Dunn, Dan Wagoner, David Dorfman, Phyllis Lambut and Daniel Nagrin. He has created a unique style using experimentation, improvisation, strong technique and a sense of humor.

"Bielemeier twists normalcy up side down with style and verve. A slick mover and conceptual artist. Fresh and funny...., "Drama-Logue...." ...exuberance a la Fred Astaire...." Pour La Danse (Paris)."

MINH TRAN

Born in Vietnam and trained at Saigon's prestigious School of Performing Arts, Minh Tran emigrated to the U.S. in 1980. Settling in Oregon, he has achieved prominence both as a dancer and as a choreographer. He has worked with New York choreographer Stephen Petronio and with Northwest choreographers Judy Patton, Bonnie Merrill, Mary Oslund, Jose Joseley and Terri Mathern.

In 1987, Tran was chosen by Willamette Week as an "outstanding Emerging Artist." He also was listed as one of the Oregonian's "Art Stars of the Nineties." He has received grants from the Metropolitan Arts

Commission and received a fellowship from the Oregon Arts Commission. His choreography has been commissioned for Artquake and for Oregon Ballet Theatre. Recently Tran was chosen by the Downtowner as one of 1993's "Ten Most Interesting People," based upon achievement and contribution to the Portland community.

Tran will present his work "Descending" with dancers Sue Brantley and Kathrine Petersen and with costumes by Laurel Leverton. Tran brings to his modern dance a Vietnamese cultural background and his personal experiences as a political refugee. He is committed to breaking down cultural and racial barriers, thus the value of diversity gives meaning to his dance as well as to the content of his choreography.

KEITH GOODMAN

Goodman is a modern dancer, choreographer, teacher, fashion designer and designer of wearable art. He teaches modern dance at Jefferson High School, Portland's performing arts magnet. Prior to settling in Portland in 1984, Goodman worked as a dancer and costume designer for Liz Lerman's internationally renowned Dance Exchange and Dancers of the Third Age in Washington, D.C. He has taught, choreographed and performed independently in Europe. He studied with the Washington School of the Ballet, Dance Place and Dance Project in Washington, D.C., and at the Merce Cunningham Studio in New York.

Goodman and Linda Johnson will dance his new piece, "Exotic Dances:



Keith Goodman and Linda Johnson performing "Exotic Dances: Eternal Partners"

Eternal Partner," with text by Cassandra Kelly Stirling, original music written and performed by Tom Cheek, and costumes by Goodman with fabric designed in collaboration with Kelly Saxton. "Exotic Dances" is a collection of movement essences," says Goodman. "This section highlights the skeleton of the work, one man's obsession with a woman and the manifest destiny they share in the cycle of life."

Willamette Week has said of Goodman: "People who have had the good fortune to see Goodman know what an exceptionally fine dancer he is—strong, precise and controlled, but smooth as cream."

CHORAL CROSS-TIES

This ensemble, formed in 1985 and garnering critical acclaim ever since, is the Northwest's only independent professional choir. Musical director for the group is Bruce Browne,

choral director and head of the voice department at PSU, whose guest-conducting invitations and choral clinician engagements have taken him to virtually every region of the country and to many nations of the world. The group's accompanist is pianist Carol Rich who received her masters degree from the Juilliard School of Music and who has performed throughout the United States.

Twelve Senior Role Models Named By OASIS

OASIS honored twelve metropolitan area adults over 55 for outstanding service to the community at the downtown Meier & Frank store during the celebration of the Eighth Anniversary of Portland OASIS. Their accomplishments ranged from organizing a peer counseling program helping seniors with problems to spearheading foster grandparents and tutoring projects.

OASIS is an educational program dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for mature adults through educational programs and meaningful volunteer opportunities. OASIS (Older Adult Service & Information System) is part of a national network of centers located in May Department Stores. Meier & Frank and Legacy Health System are local sponsors. OASIS has 12,000 members in the Portland area, and over 200,000 nationally.

OASIS Presents Another Of The Honorees: Alberta Tasker Phillips

It's not easy to support and raise six children—but when you're a single mother on your own the problems are enormous. Today, Alberta Phillips' six children are successful professionals with 12 children of their own. The struggles she encountered along the way have been translated into working with other children with problems bigger than they are.

To support her family, she took courses and became a surgical technician. At St. Vincent Hospital, she assisted at over 10,000 births.

She founded and is a director of a school for suspended children, sponsored by Christian Women Against Crime. She started a youth department at her church, is a member of the Committee for Black Children and Family Concerns, founded the Christian Women Against Crime. She's a member of the board of North Portland Bible College.

In 1992, she was nominated for Mother of the Year. She says, "As a



Alberta Tasker Phillips

parent, I believe I should be "salt and light" to my children—salt to preserve them and light to guide them."

OASIS salutes Alberta Phillips as a Senior Role Model!

Remodelers, Stevedoring Services of America, OECO Corporation, Sanitam, Flav-R-Pac, Norpac Foods, Inc., and Volunteers of America of Oregon, Inc.

Volunteers of America is a nationwide social service organization with branches in over 200 communities. Volunteers of America Oregon, Inc. serves the community through child care, child abuse prevention, a shelter for homeless women with children, a senior center, senior health clinic, adult day-care program, residential alcohol and drug treatment facilities, a shelter for homeless adolescent girls, and a Christmas Assistance Program.

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence Receives Grant

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Housing and Community Service Department announced the award of a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Legal Access Project. Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is scheduled to receive \$110,000 over a two-year period to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence.

"The Legal Access Project funded by the Fund for the improvement of post-secondary education will involve law students in assisting victims of domestic violence," said Holly Pruitt. "Students will conduct court watches, witness interviews, and assist with advice clinics. These activities are designed to improve access to legal

protection for battered women and their children, and will increase the number of attorneys committed to this issue in the future. The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing domestic violence in Oregon through assisting in the writing of this grant."

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Legal Access project will provide help through trained volunteer students from Oregon's three schools of law to help victims understand the legal protection available to them, access this protection, and gather information for use in Court proceedings.

"Domestic and sexual violence is the leading cause of homelessness and injury for women in Oregon and

in the nation," said Rey Ramsey, former Director of the Housing and Community Services Department. "These funds will assist victims in securing legal representation."

The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence was organized in 1976 with a two-fold mission: To provide assistance to programs serving the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victims and to work to end violence by eliminating the social conditions and attitudes which cause it. The Coalition is comprised of 32 member programs serving nearly every county in Oregon.

Additional information is available from Judith Armata, Project Coordinator, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at 503/239-4486.

Free Coats, Sweaters & Jackets

We are pleased to announce that the African American Clergies has been awarded approximately 600 coats, sweaters, and jackets. These items will be distributed to the public on Saturday, November 20th from 9:30am to 1:30pm at the St. Mark Baptist Church, 103 N.E. Morris Street.

The Rev. Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church and the President/Executive Director of The African American Clergies says, "We are concerned about the welfare of our citizens of our community."

All persons in need of a coat, sweater or jacket is welcome. If you need further information, please call the African American Clergies office at 282-3975, and ask for Roy Washington.

Foster Parents Learn Massage To Help Severely Disabled Infants

Three month old Rachel is in a coma and does not respond to touch. Six month old Tony is a drug-affected baby who is as sensitive to the human touch he cries out in pain. For medical foster parents of Children's Services Division, these types of children pose extraordinary challenges.

On Thursday, November 18th, Medical Foster Parents will get an opportunity to learn how massage can comfort, soothe and help in the care of disabled children.

Marybets Sinclair is a Massage

Therapist who specializes in the massage of children with disabilities. She has taught parents in a wide range of locations including a village clinic in Mexico.

Ms. Sinclair will teach simple techniques foster parents will be able to use on the children in their care.

For more information call Sharon Goddard-Foster Parent Trainer at 731-3134, Extension 426. Sharon can also share information about CSD's Medical Foster Parent program which is "one of a kind" in the nation.

The foster parents are encouraged to bring their kids to this hands-on training:

Thursday, November 18th
10am to Noon
First United Methodist Church
Southwest 18th & Jefferson,
Portland
"Infant Massage w/Marybets Sinclair, L.M.T."

Adopt A Family Program Needs Adopters

Volunteers of America's Adopt A Family Program is now accepting applications for those interested in helping families in need for the holidays. The Adopt A Family program matches families in need with individuals, families, groups or business which provide food, clothing, gifts and toys for the holiday season.

"What's really special about this holiday program is the personal involvement. You find out exactly what a family needs, and you get to see the excitement on the children's faces at the delivery," said Zelda Langdale, Adopt A Family Coordinator. "It's a very meaningful way to celebrate the holidays."

VOA is reaching out to families

most in need by receiving referrals through schools, head start programs, and other agencies which work with children in poverty. An adoption entails helping a family in poverty with children under 18, or low-income seniors over 60.

Those interested in adopting a family should call 23-Adopt, (323-3678). Those who cannot adopt a family but would like to help can support the program through a cash donation sent to Volunteers of America, 537 SE Alder St. Portland, OR 97214.

The Adopt A Family program has been made possible by the generous support of the following companies: Neil Kelly Designers/