

Focus

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1999 The Portland Observer

On Stage

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVERWhite Bird announces the Portland
premiere of Tony Award-winning
choreographer Garth Fagan's
acclaimed company *Garth Fagan
Dance*. The hugely popular
company will perform for one night
only on Wednesday, March 15, 7:30
pm. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert
Hall in downtown Portland.Garth Fagan, called "a true dance
original" by New York Post critic
Clive Barnes, founded his company
in 1970 in Rochester, New York
and has won worldwide acclaim for
his unique movement language
called Fagan Technique, which isderived from Afro-Caribbean
dance, ballet, modern dance and
post-modernism. In 1996 he was
chosen to choreograph Disney's *The
Lion King* on Broadway, and he
was awarded the prestigious 1998
Tony Award for Best Choreography
as well as a host of other awards.
Garth Fagan Dance is renowned for
the individuality and virtuosity of
its dancers. Susan Reiter of *New
York Newsday* comments, "No one
else moves like these virtuosos, with
their uncanny air of calm
focus...and the sheer sculptural
beauty they bring to Fagan's sensual,
often quirky movement." David
Vaughn exclaimed in *Ballet Review*,
"The dancers...are fearless...able
to sustain long adagio balances, to
change direction in mid-air,...to

*Garth Fagan, world famous for his
unique movement language called
"Fagan Technique" will present
his style of dance at the Arlene
Schnitzer Concert Hall on
Wednesday, March 15 which blends
Afro-Caribbean, ballet, modern
dance and post-modernism.*

stop on a dime."

In Portland the company will
perform several works from Garth
Fagan's classic repertoire - *Prelude*
(1981); *A Trois* (excerpted from
Mix 25, 1996); and *Touring Jubilee*
1924 (1982) - as well as two
critically acclaimed recent works:
Two Pieces of One: Green (1998)
and *Woza* (1999). *Woza* is an
exuberant piece set to the
polyrhythmic music of South
African composer Lebo M, one of
Garth Fagan's collaborators in *The
Lion King*. After the Joyce Theater
premiere in New York City only
three months ago, Anna Kisselgoff
of *The New York Times* raved that
"Mr. Fagan has come up with a
dazzling piece - from finger to toe,
everything dances in *Woza*." *Two
Pieces of One: Green* is serenely
beautiful work set to 16th century
choral works interspersed with
contemporary jazz saxophone solos.
Anna Kisselgoff called the piece "a
deep work on a formal and human
level" that shows Fagan as "the
equivalent of a painter who explores
the possibility of paint itself."
Tickets to *Garth Fagan Dance*, as
well as the two remaining dance
companies of White Bird's 1999-
2000 season, are available at all
Fred Mayer FASTIX outlets, or
by calling 503/224-8499/800-992-
8499 (outside Portland). Ticket
prices range from \$15.50 to \$29
plus service charges. Discounted
tickets are available.

KENNEDY SCHOOL
McMenamins

MARCH EVENTS

JON KOONCE & THE GAS HOGS
Thursday, March 9, at 7pmTHE STEVE BRADLEY GROUP
Thursday, March 16, at 7pmST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, March 17, 4pm to 11pm
Irish Bands · Irish Dancers · Irish Coffee
Leprechauns · Storytelling · Family FunCRAIG CAROTHERS
SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND
Sunday, March 19, Doors at 7pm, Show at 7:30pm
Admission \$7I & I
"Reggae Inna Afrikan Stylee"
Thursday, March 23, at 7pmBATTLE OF THE BANDS 2000
STEVE BRADLEY GROUP
WITH JON KOONCE
VS
THE X ANGELS
Thursday, March 30 at 7pm

All ages welcome · No cover charge unless noted

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