

The Focus

An Australian Dance Company Makes its Portland Debut

White Bird is delighted to announce that Australia's acclaimed Sydney Dance Company will make its Portland debut with Artistic Director Graeme Murphy's remarkable full-length work *Salome*. Since its premiere in 1998, *Salome*, based on the biblical story of John the Baptist, has created a stir in the Australian dance world with its highly theatrical production and sensual dance movement. Sydney Dance Company will perform *Salome*, based on the biblical story of John the Baptist, has created a stir in the Australian dance world with its highly theatrical production and sensual dance movement. Sydney Dance Company will perform *Salome* with live musical accompaniment, for one night only on Tuesday, October 24th, 7:30 p.m.

at the Keller (formerly Civic) Auditorium, SW 3rd between Clay and Market. This performance will partially benefit Our House of Portland, Oregon's only residential care facility for people in the advanced stages of AIDS.

Salome is a full-length work conceived and choreographed by Graeme Murphy, with haunting, Middle Eastern-inspired music by Australian Composer Michael Askill and percussionist Omar Faruk Tekbilek. The collaboration between Askill and Murphy is longstanding and has been called "one of the most interesting co-operative ventures in the performing arts...producing works of major scope and duration." The production also features striking costumes by fashion designer Akira

Isogawa, and a sleek, minimalist set designed by Murphy and is stunningly lit by lighting designer John Rayment. The action centers on a quartet of characters: John the Baptist (Josef Brown), Salome (Tracey Carrodus), Herod (Bradley Chatfield), and Herodias (Janet Vernon). The plot follows the biblical storyline closely, moving from John's river baptism, to his fateful meeting with Salome in Herod's debauched court, to the familiar gory conclusion.

Salome has received rave reviews from the Australian press. *Dance Australia* commented: "What makes *Salome* so satisfying is simple...it is theatrical, it pushes the talents of the creative team in new ways, its choreog-

raphy is full of surprising and inventive movement..."

Tickets to Sydney Dance Company's *Salome* are available at all Fred Meyer FASTIXX outlets, the PCPA Box Office (SW Broad-

way & Main), or by calling FASTIXX at 503/224-8499 - 800/992-8499.

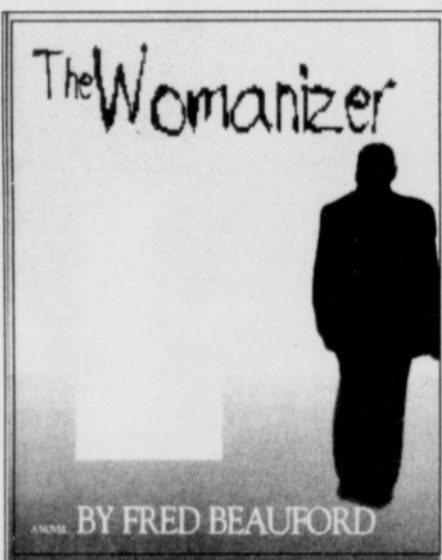
Ticket prices range from \$15.50 to \$35.00 plus service charge, with a 10% discount for students, seniors, and groups of 8 or more.

In Print

By Fred Beauford
Morton Books; 1997
Author Fred Beauford freely admits that he would not have written a novel like *The Womanizer* as a young man.

"When I was in my 20's, there were a number of highly active

"cold wars" that thinkers were preoccupied with. For example, there was the cold war between East and West, with a big bomb



hanging over all our heads; and then there was the not so cold war between the Euro-American settlers and the Afro-Americans.

"Given that reality, what black writer was going to worry about the relationship between men and women?"

Now in his fifties, his funny, provocative debut novel is indeed about the relationship between the sexes. Beauford laughs a large hardy laugh at

The Womanizer

the reminder of his age. A cold war. Isn't that a little harsh?

"Not so," Beauford answered. "The Women's Movement brought power to many women. But the leaders of the movement asked men to change, but

did not ask women to change. So the results of all of this is to concentrate wealth, because these women are not going to spread their wealth downward as males will do. Can you imagine, for example, someone

like Oprah Winfrey, Martha Stewart or Kathy Couric marrying the janitor! Please.

"White males have been able to compete for a woman by working harder and making more and more money. So when I was in my 20's, it was a big deal to be a millionaire. Now, if you are not a billionaire, forget about it. The person who has really lost out in all of this have been black males. You

can see armies of these loveless lost souls tucked away on urban streets, or in jails all over the country."

Beauford says that he understands the pain of these unfortunate, marginalized black men because, as a thinker and creative person, in America, he is considered as "inferior" as them.

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Tickets on sale 60 days prior to show date