

# Portland Observer Auto Review

## 2006 BMW 530xi AUTO

BY KATHLEEN CARR

As hard as it is to push the "cool" factor behind the wheel of a 5-door station wagon, the 530xi is drenched in "coolness", especially when equipped with the BMW's sport package. This silky dynamo pulls strongly off-the-line and right through posted highway speeds without breaking a sweat! BMW has overcome the shortages of a wagon by morphing the exotic shape of the 5-Series into such without emasculating the car's bold stance and aggressive lines. In the rebirth, BMW upped the ante by adding their sophisticated xDrive, intelligent all-wheel-drive (AWD) technology to the sleek wagon, which BMW refers to as a "touring model". The xDrive is justifiably famous for its ice-handling ability. Making it even better on the slippery stuff is the Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), which if one wheel brakes automatically sends the



SPECIFICATIONS: \$52,095 MSRP; 3.0L, 24 Valve, 255 hp/6600 rpm, 6 cylinder Engine; 6 Speed Automatic Transmission; 19 City/28 Hwy MPG.

torque to the other. With its low center of gravity, the Sports Wagon would be a superior winter driving choice even over most SUVs. Another unique feature of the 530xi when equipped with the manual gearbox is the vehicle's ability to resist rolling backward on an incline as the clutch is being released. This is referred to as "Start-Off Assist" and is extremely useful when creeping forward on a hill or moving out of a cramped parallel parking spot! The dynamics of the

530xi give it grace and gusto!

The Sports Wagon is quite beautiful both inside and out. The lines of the bodywork are echoed in the interior. The dashboard offers a sleek look and intelligently placed controls that are easy to operate. The iDrive on-board controls system, Bluetooth-enabled wireless technology, a panoramic moon roof, roominess, power, abundant safety features, impressive cargo capacity and fuel economy make

the 530xi a fantastic alternative to an SUV. Wagon or not, the point of a BMW is not to be driven but to drive! BMW is more than just a status symbol it is a way of life.

Overall, the performance, appeal and the expected quality and craftsmanship from BMW receive two thumbs up on the review scale. This new kid on the block, having been released in June 2006, is way more than "just a wagon" of a "touring sedan", it is a driving experience!

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# EL OBSERVADOR



PHOTO BY JOSÉ JORGE CARREÓN

Tania Pérez-Salas' Compañía De Danza makes a Portland debut this week at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. A four-day engagement features "The Hours," an impressionist look at the nature of femininity.

## Latin Contemporary Compañía De Danza

Famed dancers,  
choreographer  
to dazzle hall

"A Celebration of International Women Choreographers," with the West Coast debut of Tania Pérez-Salas' Compañía De Danza, takes place at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 through Saturday, Oct. 14 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall.

Pérez-Salas is one of Mexico's most accomplished contemporary dancers and

choreographers, and her company of 10 men and women will perform a program featuring intense physicality as well as vibrant imagery and brilliant design.

The spellbinding works include "The Hours" set to music by Vivaldi and Lully; "Anabiosis", based on a study of love and eroticism by Octavio Paz; and "The Waters of Forgetfulness", which will transform the Lincoln Hall stage into a watery mirror.

Pérez-Salas is a native of Mexico City, where she began to dance at age eight. Compañía De Danza, founded in 1994, has performed at many major fes-

tivals including the Latin American Festival in Montreal and the Festival Oriente Occidente in Italy. Her company was invited to perform at the 2002 Biennale de la Danse in Lyon, France.

Tickets are \$25 for adults plus a service fee, and \$14 for college students with ID and seniors age 62 and older. Tickets are available at the PSU box office, 1825 SW Broadway (Smith Center), or by calling 503-725-3307 and all Ticketmaster outlets, 503-790-2787 or www.ticketmaster.com. For more information call White Bird at 503-245-1600 or visit www.whitebird.org.

## Latino AIDS Awareness Day this Saturday

"Y la Vida Sigue" ("And Life Goes On") a film about HIV/AIDS and its impact in the Latino community, will highlight National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, Saturday, Oct. 14, from noon to 4 p.m. at Centro Milagro, 425 S.E. 6th

Ave. Cascade AIDS Project, Miracle Theater Group and the Multnomah County Health Department are sponsoring the screening and other activities for the Latino community of Oregon and their friends.

Admission is free.

The film is in Spanish with English subtitles and will be followed by discussion. Other activities include free HIV testing, HIV/AIDS information, food and entertainment.

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