

DanceAbility brings eclectic dance to Florence



“Don’t Leave Me” is an enthralling modern dance performance that celebrates creativity and the potential that is only possible when people with and without disabilities

work together as equals. This is the first professional mixed-abilities performance to ever be shown in Florence. It is also the first time that DanceAbility International will perform in Florence.



“Don’t Leave Me” is being presented by the DanceAbility international dance company, in collaboration with the University of Oregon School of Architecture, which designed the set structures. The show explores how we are all dependent on each other and how space determines action and vice versa. The dancers use the ever-changing set design as apparel, as furniture and as architecture. The human and architectural bodies act as a symbiotic community.

This cross-discipline collaboration of dance and architecture takes risks with frames and bodies. During a rehearsal, one of the dancers was high up on the designed structure and felt it start to shake. She immediately called out to the

dancers below her “don’t leave me!”

This became the title of the piece.

It speaks to our interdependence and also the DanceAbility method belief that nobody should be left out or left behind.

This performance will open audience’s hearts and minds. It shows the unlimited potential of people when disabilities are not viewed as something inferior. The dancers with and without disabilities create and express together as equals.

DanceAbility International performances surprise and delight, as they dissolve labels and barriers.

This project is made possible in part by Western Lane Community Foundation, Plum Creek Foundation, and Lane County Cultural Coalition, with operating support from Lane Arts Council and Oregon Arts Commission.

“Don’t Leave Me” will be performed at the Florence Events Center June 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22.

For tickets, visit www.eventcenter.org or call 541-997-1994.

FEC offering artists many exhibit opportunities ahead

The Florence Events Center will have several opportunities for artists to display their talents in galleries One and Five during the fall and winter of 2016, and continuing in 2017. The FEC Gallery Committee, as part of Friends of the FEC, is giving artists advance notice of upcoming exhibits, as well as offering new and creative challenges to artists.

The first special exhibit will take place in October and November. This will be the second annual Artistic Visions Award Show. Artists can display up to three pieces of artwork, including 2-D, photography and 3-D.

Cash awards will be given to winners in each category, as well as honorable mention ribbons. Qualified jurors from outside the Florence area will judge this show.

In December 2016, the FEC will offer a new exhibit encouraging people to “Give Art this

Christmas.” Artists will be asked to submit works that are \$100 or less, and a fun reception will be planned with live music, refreshments and photos with Santa.

January and February 2017 will be third annual “For the Love of Animals” exhibit, with a reception held to benefit the Florence Area Humane Society. Pet photos are always a fun part of this event. March and April will be a patriotic themed exhibit, with a reception benefiting DAV and the Military Heritage Museum.

Florence and the surrounding regions have many talented artists who are encouraged to share their works at the FEC.

Publicity and details on each of the upcoming exhibits will be available the month prior, and applications will also be available at that time at www.eventcenter.org.