

DanceAbility brings eclectic dance to Florence

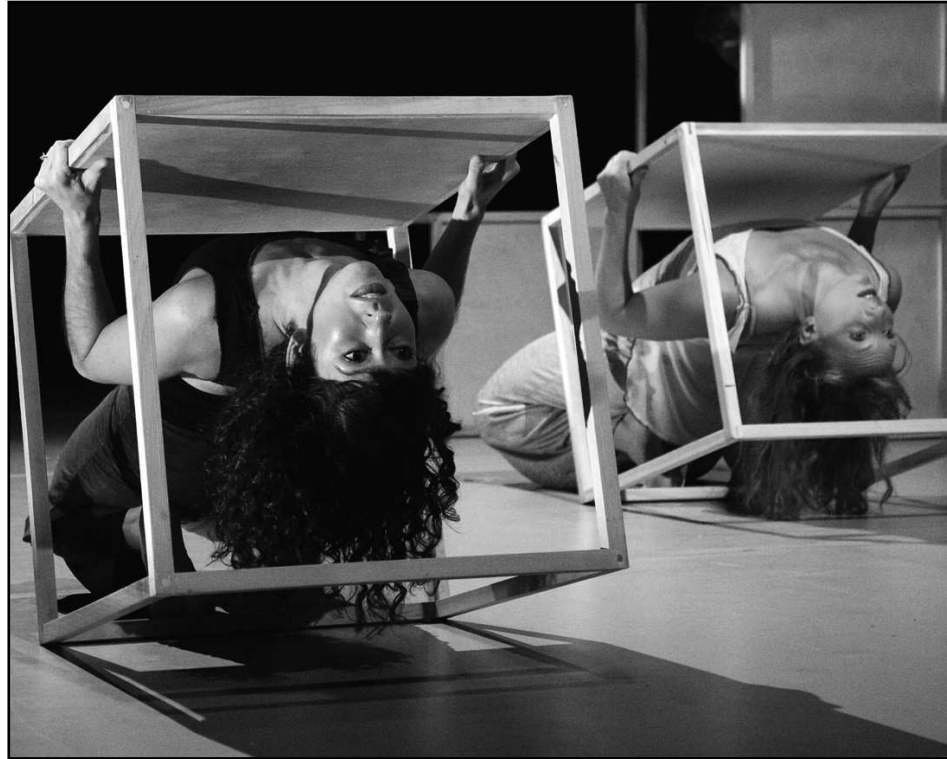
FLORENCE — “Don’t Leave Me” is an enthralling modern dance performance that celebrates creativity and the potential that is only possible when people with and without disabilities work together as equals.

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 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



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of DanceAbility perform an original modern dance, “Don’t Leave Me,” which is set for June 10 at Florence Events Center.

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 on Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m. For tickets, visit eventcenter.org or call 541-997-1994.

Rhody Showcase set for May 11

FLORENCE — This year’s junior and senior Rhody Courts are gearing up for the Rhododendron Court Scholarship Showcase set for Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the Florence Events Center.

This year’s event features two juniors, Hanna Anderson and Taylor Coolidge, and one senior, Lyndsey Keppel, from Siuslaw High School who will compete for scholarships and title Queen Rhododendra.

Court members will be judged individually and as teams on participation, mentorship, public speaking and platform presentation, pin sales and talent.

Queen Rhododendra will be crowned at the end of the showcase. The 109th Annual Rhododendron Festival is May 20 through 22 in Florence.

Showcase tickets are \$13 and available through the Florence Events Center box office, or online at www.eventcenter.org.

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SUNDAY MAY 29TH

2:00 pm MEMORIAL PARADE

3:30 pm MEMORIAL CEREMONY Hahn Park War Memorial

4:00 pm VETERAN'S MEET & GREET Pacific Auditorium

VETERAN'S DINNER Presbyterian Church

7:00 pm PATRIOTIC CONCERT Pacific Auditorium

★

**Memorial Day
MONDAY
MAY 30TH**

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DAY SERVICE
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Cemetery

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VETS**

MAY 29TH & 30TH