

Dancing the tales of Beatrix Potter

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Dancers Naomi Todd and Marina Ross will perform in Ballet Fantastique’s “Tales of Beatrix Potter.” (MONOVITA PHOTOGRAPHY)

Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin and Jemima Puddle-Duck will be among the characters portrayed by dancers at the Hult Center on Saturday when Eugene’s Ballet Fantastique closes its season with “Tales of Beatrix Potter.”

The afternoon performance is designed to be “family friendly,” explains Hannah Bontrager, executive director of the small chamber company and also a dancer in the show.

“The dancers are having a lot of fun with this,” she said.

The show is choreographed by Bontrager and her mother, Donna Marisa Bontrager, and was inspired by the Royal Ballet version done in London in 1992.

Costuming the show was a challenge, Hannah Bontrager said. The production features 22 masks, for example.

And more than a dozen people helped sew and paint costumes for the production.

The choreography will mix elements of English country dance and ballet. The show is composed of short dance suites, tied together by the character of Potter herself.

The program also includes an opening act of four folk tales, drawing from “Cinderella,” “Little Red Riding Hood,” “The Little Humpbacked Horse” and “Calamity Jane.”

The piece lasts about 45 minutes and will be followed by an intermission before “Beatrix Potter” begins in the second half. The entire program runs less than two hours.