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**2012-2013 VENTURE SEASON QUICK FACTS:**

- ***Cirque de la Lune***: Saturday, October 20 at 7:30 pm—Sunday, October 21 at 2:30 pm, Hult Center (LIVE MUSIC: Troupe Carnivale, Betty & the Boy, Mood Area 52)
- ***The Misadventures of Casanova***: Saturday, February 2 at 7:30 pm—Sunday, February 3 at 2:30 pm, Hult Center
- ***Pride & Prejudice: A Parisian Jazz Ballet***: Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 pm—Sunday, May 5th at 2:30 pm, Hult Center (LIVE MUSIC: Gerry Rempel & the Jazz Cats)
- Tickets on sale now at the Hult Center Box Office, 541-682-5000 or [www.hultcenter.org](http://www.hultcenter.org)
- Discounts for students, youth, seniors, and groups of six or more

**Ballet Fantastique announces its 2012-13 season: VENTURE**

Get ready to take an unforgettable journey with Ballet Fantastique as the Eugene-based contemporary chamber ballet company launches their 12–13 Hult Center concert season: VENTURE. Mother-daughter choreographer-producers Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager have created a retro-futuristic series of three new collaborative productions, two of which feature live music. Each concert is filled with the company's signatures: fresh perspective, original choreography, and evocative cross-disciplinary collaborations.

**Cirque de la Lune: October 20-21, 2012**

The season will open with the Bontragers' premiere of *Cirque de la Lune*, set in the world of a 1930's Depression-era circus.

"Rather than creating a story narrative ballet, we decided to develop characters from the era when a circus traveled to almost every community in America. Our *Cirque* will be full of personality—exploring these colorful characters and how they interact with each other," says Ballet Fantastique Artistic Director Donna Marisa

Bontrager. The seventy-minute ballet follows the ten characters, all members of a struggling touring circus, in the hour before it opens. Sharing the theater with the dancers are the Bontragers' invited collaborators: "folkestras" Troupe Carnivàle, Betty & the Boy, and Mood Area 52, as well as guest circus aerialist Raymond Silos from Miami.

### **The Misadventures of Casanova: February 2-3, 2012**

Ballet Fantastique's winter premiere tells the "misadventures" of the world's most notorious romantic, Giacomo Girolamo Casanova de Seingalt. In this new production by Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager, the dancers of Ballet Fantastique, embellished with elaborate costumes and moving through colorful, dramatic choreography, create a richly textured Venetian masquerade, where anything can happen and no one is who they seem.

### **Pride & Prejudice: May 4-5, 2012**

Closing Season 12-13: VENTURE season is a new take on Jane Austen's classic tale, *Pride & Prejudice*—set in 1920's Paris. Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager's all-original *Pride & Prejudice: A Parisian Jazz Ballet* brings Austen's spirited women, nosy neighbors, embarrassing relatives, determined bachelors, and smarmy cads to life. The ballet will open with sparks flying as the fiery Elizabeth Bennett and her four sisters meet the single, rich, and proud Mr. Darcy and the dashing Mr. Bingley at the Bennett family's jazz cabaret. From there on out, be prepared for a playful battle between pride and passion, with live music from Gerry Rempel and the Jazz Cats. UO professors Liz Bohls and Diane Dugaw will be contributing their Austen expertise to the adaptation.

### **As You Like It: A Wild West Ballet in San Benedetto, Italy: July 27, 2013**

Ballet Fantastique's upcoming season culminates when the company embarks on its first international tour to San Benedetto, Italy in July 2013. They have been invited to perform Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager's wild-west ballet version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Italian dancer Alberto Liberatoscioli will dance the part of Lando opposite Ballet Fantastique's Hannah Bontrager, dancing the role of Rosie.

### **About Ballet Fantastique's Contemporary Chamber Company**

Comprised of ten professional dancers from across the US, Ballet Fantastique has made a name for itself in out-of-the-box contemporary spins on classic stories: recent productions by Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager include a twist on the traditional fairytale *Cinderella: A Rock Opera Ballet* (set in 1964), the full-length *Arabian Nights*, and a dramatization of Van Gogh's "Café Terrace at Night" painting, *Love at the Café Terrace*. In 2012–

2013, the company performed throughout Oregon and outside Seattle, touring its *Beatrix Potter, Incendio* (with live music from LA), and *Cinderella: A Rock Opera Ballet* productions to Everett, WA, and Portland, Florence, and Noti Oregon. The 2012–2013 season will be Ballet Fantastique’s final year of the three-year Hult Center resident company application process. Season tickets are up a whopping 837% from the company’s inaugural season in 2010–2011, and two out of three of the 2011-2012 productions sold out their runs at the Hult Center, earning consecutive standing ovations.

### **General Season Information**

The season runs October 2012 through May 2013 in the intimate Soreng Theater at Eugene’s Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Season subscription packages are now on sale by calling the Hult Center Box Office at (541) 682-5000 or online at [www.hultcenter.org](http://www.hultcenter.org). Senior, youth, student and group discounts (for groups of six or more) are available. Single tickets go on sale September 13, 2012.

Also this season, Open Barre, Ballet Fantastique’s unique Wednesday night open rehearsal series at the City Center for Dance (960 Oak, downtown Eugene), is back. Guests can enjoy a tasting of local wine from Pyrenees Vineyards and Wine Cellars (wine is also available for purchase by the glass), light hors d’oeuvres, and a one-hour open rehearsal with Donna Marisa Bontrager and the dancers, for a suggested donation of \$10. This year, Domaine Meriwether winery, Ninkasi, and Blue Dog Mead will also participate with tastings. (Musicians are part of some Open Barre rehearsals; check the Ballet Fantastique website for details.)

- *Cirque de la Lune* Open Barre: Wednesday, October 3, 2012 from 6:30-8 pm
- *The Misadventures of Casanova* Open Barre: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 from 6:30-8 pm
- *Pride & Prejudice* Open Barre: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 from 6:30-8 pm

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