

'Esther' ballet proves to be righteously good

Ballet Fantastique excels during a smooth and educational performance of an age-old biblical lesson

By GWEN CURRAN
For The Register-Guard

On Friday night at the Hult Center's Soreng Theater, Ballet Fantastique's "The Book of Esther," billed as "a rock gospel ballet," felt like a Bible lesson in 3-D.

Beautiful dancing, plus original music by the Gerry Rempel group and soulful singing by Andiel Brown and the UO Gospel Singers, told this age-old story.

"The Book of Esther" is a part of the third section of the Hebrew Bible and also part of the Old Testament. It tells the story of a Jewish girl named Esther who is chosen by Xerxes to become Queen of Persia (modern Iran).

Esther thwarted a plan to commit genocide against her people.

The book is an integral part of the Jewish celebration of Purim, when the full text of "The Book of Esther" is read aloud, once in the evening and again the following morning.

Leanne Mizzi is a tour de force as Esther. She is on stage practically the whole time, and her dancing is perfectly divine. Hannah Bontrager shadows Leanne as her spirit with beatific precision.

Justin Feimster is regal as King Xerxes. He has grown into a solid dancer with just the right nuance.

Guest artist Ernesto Lea Place, as King Xerxes' power-seeking Vizier, shows great technique in

BALLET REVIEW

The Book of Esther

When: 2:30 p.m. today

Where: Soreng Theater, Hult Center, Seventh Avenue and Willamette Street

Tickets: \$28 to \$48 (541-682-5000, hultcenter.org)

both his solos and duets. Fellow guest artist Jim Ballard is Hegai, Keeper of the Women.

This is Lydia Rakov's first season with Ballet Fantastique, and we hope to see her more in the coming years. She rightly evokes sensuous cruelty in her role as Zeresh, wife to Haman.

Mother-and-daughter team Donna and Hannah Bontrager

have choreographed the whole ballet with equal eyes to classical technique and mirrors of ancient Persia.

That is especially true in the opening number, with Caitlin Christopher as Queen Vashti (who is replaced by King Xerxes with Esther), Ashley Bontrager as Princess Cassandane and Krislyn Wessel as Princess Amittis. The commissioned music "Procession and Fall of Vashti," written by Rempel, sets the tone for the rest of the ballet.

A surprise is the triple threat of Brown, artistic director of the UO Gospel Singers. Brown plays Mordecai, Esther's Uncle, who will not bow down to the king, and also sings, acts and dances. Brown is an excellent performer.

The 32-strong UO Gospel Singers wear black and stand

on black risers on stage left and right and become like a Greek chorus throughout the ballet. The award-winning chorus sings several traditional spirituals that flow delightfully through the performance.

Allison Ditson's costumes add much to the richness of the complete package. The enormous backdrop painting of Xerxes' palace keeps the ancient tone of this ancient story.

All in all, it is a smooth and educational event.

From the teasers about the coming Ballet Fantastique season (its fifth at the Hult), we can look forward to more exciting works.

Gwen Curran of Eugene reviews dance for The Register-Guard.

WILLAMALANE ACTIVITIES

WILLAMALANE HIGHLIGHTS
Events scheduled by the Willamalane Park and Recreation District for the week of May 11-17.

Monday, May 12

AARP Driver Safety — Ages 50 and older. Refresher course to improve driving skills. Six hours of classroom instruction might lower your insurance rate. Class continues on May 19. 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pay \$20 fee to instructor. Register in advance. Adult Activity Center.

Tuesday, May 13

Strong Bones, Strong Body — Ages 50 and older. Enhance brain strength, improve balance and increase energy. Research-based exercises are adjusted to ability. Tuesdays through June 24. 1:30 p.m. \$27. Willamalane Center.

Reiki I Workshop — Ages 50 and older. Reiki is a simple, natural and safe method of healing. It is an amazingly simple technique to learn and can be used on you and your loved ones to create healthy, happiness and well-being. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$25 individual/\$40 couple. Adult Activity Center.

Wednesday, May 14

SpringFilm — Ages 18 and older. See historical documentary featuring unique introduction by special guest speaker followed by moderated discussion. This month's film is "Spellbound." 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St.

Thursday, May 15

Dating 101 — Ages 50 and older. Join Marilyn the Matchmaker and learn helpful tips and tricks to expand the chance of meeting your match. Learn what to do and what not to do. 5:30 p.m. Free. Adult Activity Center.

Spanish — Ages 50 and older. Choose between Advanced Spanish: 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$50; Conversational Spanish: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$67; Spanish Culture and Comprehension: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$67; Spanish Beginning II: 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$50. Each class continues Thursdays through June 26. Go to willamalane.org for class descriptions. Adult Activity Center.

Friday, May 16

Dancin' By the River — Ages 21 and older. Ballroom and free-style dancing. Free cha cha lesson with admission at 7 p.m. Food and beverages available. Music by Mike Anderson Trio with Celebrity Bash theme. Dance lesson: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Dance: 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. \$8. Adult Activity Center.

For registration details and facility rental information, visit willamalane.org or call the following facilities: Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation, 541-736-4544, 250 S. 32nd St.; Two50 Youth Center, 541-736-4544, 250 S. 32nd St.; Willamalane Park Swim Center, 541-736-4080, 1276 G St.; Splash! at Lively Park, 541-736-4244, 6100 Thurston Road; Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 541-736-4444, 215 West C St.

CALENDAR

Cottage Grove

MONDAY
South Lane School Budget Committee — 6 p.m., District Office, 455 Adams Ave. Fiscal year 2014-15 budget. 541-942-3381.

Eugene

MONDAY
City Council — 5:30 p.m., Harris Hall, 125 E. Eighth Ave. Work session: executive (non-public) session, action on selling portions of Mill Street and East Eighth Avenue alleys, approval of budget committee recommendation on library levy. At 7:30 p.m., consent calendar, work session on fireworks. 541-682-5882.

Active Bethel Citizens Steering Committee — 6:30 p.m., Petersen Barn, 870 Berntzen Road. Abcdonella@aol.com.

River Road Community Organization — 7 p.m., River Road Park Annex, 1055 River Road. Jbelcher@efn.org.

South University Neighborhood Board — 7 p.m., Edison Elementary School, 1328 E. 22nd Ave. Carolyn.i.jacobs@gmail.com.

Southeast Neighbors Board — 7 p.m., Good Samaritan, 3500 Hilyard St. Sielicki@gmail.com.

Bethel School Budget Committee — 7 p.m., Boardroom, District Office, 4640 Barger Drive. Fiscal year 2014-15 budget. 541-607-1403.

Bethel School Board — 7:45 p.m., Boardroom, District Office, 4640 Barger Drive. 541-607-1403.

Florence

MONDAY
Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee — 5 p.m., City Hall, 250 Highway 101. Presentation of budget message, public comment. 541-997-3437.

Budget Committee — 6 p.m., City Hall, 250 Highway 101. State revenue sharing, public comment, general fund presentations, vote on budget. 541-997-3437.

Lane County

MONDAY
Animal Services Advisory Committee — 3 p.m., Customer Service Center, 3050 N. Delta Highway, Eugene. 541-682-2001.

Parks Advisory Committee — 6 p.m., Customer Service Center, Goodpasture Room, 3050 N. Delta Highway, Eugene. 541-682-2000.

Marcola

MONDAY
School Board — 7 p.m., Mohawk High School, 38300 Wendling Road. Superintendent contract. 541-933-2512.

Oakridge

MONDAY
School Budget Committee — 6 p.m., Boardroom, District Office, 4797 West First St. Fiscal year 2014-15 budget. 541-782-2813.

Springfield

MONDAY
City Council — 5:30 p.m., Jesse Maine Room, City Hall, 225 Fifth St. 541-726-3710. Update on industrial marketing and investment, design standards, Metro Plan.

Logging rules altered after mudslide

Washington state will require logging firms to do geologic reviews before getting permits

By MIKE BAKER
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Timber companies that want to harvest near potentially dangerous landslide areas now will have to conduct geologic reviews before getting a logging permit from the state of Washington, officials said Friday. Under the new stan-

dards announced by Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, the state will require a geotechnical report when there's a potential risk to public safety — even if the harvest area itself doesn't include unstable territory.

"This added scrutiny provides more information to help properly identify potential hazards

and avoid impacts," Goldmark said in a statement.

The Department of Natural Resources, or DNR, which Goldmark has led since 2009, approved logging in 2004 above the hill near Oso, Wash., that collapsed in March.

The Seattle Times reported in the wake of the mudslide that state officials had been relying on an outdated map to determine where loggers could harvest trees above the slide hill. A clear-cut

can increase groundwater flows and destabilize landslide-prone slopes.

Had state officials utilized a newer map at the landslide hill, regulators most likely would have restricted most of the 7.5 acres that were clear-cut in 2004. Goldmark's office said officials still are investigating the March landslide to determine if logging had any contributing role.

The March 22 slide killed at least 41 people.

FOR THE RECORD

Deadlines

The For The Record deadline is noon the day before publication for Tuesday through Saturday newspapers, and noon Friday for Sunday or Monday newspapers. Items may be delivered to The Register-Guard newsroom at 3500 Chad Drive, mailed to The Register-Guard, 3500 Chad Drive, Eugene, OR 97408, or faxed to the city desk at 541-683-7631.

Births

McKENZIE-WILLAMETTE MEDICAL CENTER SPRINGFIELD
May 8, 2014
Adamson — Cree and David Adamson, of Roseburg, a son.

PEACEHEALTH SACRED HEART MEDICAL CENTER AT RIVERBEND SPRINGFIELD
May 5, 2014
Cabo — Caley and Brandon Cabo, of Eugene, a son.

Collier — McKenzie Schamber and Caz Collier, of Creswell, a daughter.

McDaniel — Kara and Kendrick McDaniel, of Junction City, a daughter.

Paullin-Larimore — Dawn Paullin and Joshua Larimore, of Cottage Grove, a daughter.

May 6, 2014

Barker — Samantha Sosa

and Jesse Barker, of Eugene, a daughter.

Bayardo — Corinna Canell and Luciano Bayardo, of Oakridge, a daughter.

Brubeck — Rachel Brubeck, of Eugene, a daughter.

Jones — Jamie Inman and Skyler Jones, of Eugene, a son.

Juarez-Salic — Martha Salic and Edgar Juarez, of Eugene, a son.

McMaster — Amanda Martin and Scott McMaster, of Eugene, a daughter.

Wright-Robledo — Katie Henry and Efrain Robledo, of Junction City, a daughter.

May 7, 2014

Billings — Kristina and Jeremy Billings, of Eugene, a son.

Elgar — Yuri and Ulysses Elgar, of Eugene, a son.

Tvedt — Kylene and Ryan Tvedt, of Eugene, a daughter.

May 8, 2014

Dixon — Kayla and Cory Dixon, of Springfield, a daughter.

May 9, 2014

Bowman — Kim Bowman and Chris Fields, of Eugene, a daughter.

Deaths

Banville — Robert Arthur Banville Jr., 70, of Eugene, died May 8. Arrangements by Alpha Cremation & Burial Service in Eugene.

Bradley — Henry Edward Bradley, 70, of Junction City, died May 5. Arrangements by Alpha Cremation & Burial Service in Eugene.

Gregory — Winona Gregory, 91, of Springfield, died May 7. Visitation will be from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, May 12, at West Lawn Memorial Park & Funeral Home in Eugene. The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday, May 12, at West Lawn Memorial Park. Arrangements by Musgrove Family Mortuary in Eugene.

McIntyre — Donald McIntyre, 79, of Eugene, died May 9. Arrangements by Musgrove's at Springfield Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home in Springfield.

Roberts — Gary Roberts, 68, of Eugene, died May 10. Arrangements by Musgrove Family Mortuary.

Marriage license applications

April 9, 2014

Ryan Darwish, 63, of Eugene, and Sandra Weingarten, 67, of Brownsville.

Michael Espinoza, 31, and Danielle Slate, 25, both of Eugene.

Albert R. Gibson, 73, of Junction City, and Donna M. Gibson, 66, of Springfield.

Robert F. Hamel II, 35, and Linda M. Barineau, 27, both of Creswell.

Lee A. Stevenson, 30, and Kayla A. Caretto, 26, both of Springfield.

April 10, 2014

Aaron C. Bell, 35, of Baker City, and Nicole L. Trudell, 35, of Eugene.

Cornelio Pablo Bautista, 29, and Leah K. Pruetz, 21, both of Eugene.

Ramin Shamsi, 32, and Stephanie M. Jadzak, 28, both of Eugene.

April 11, 2014

Francisco Calcanas Martinez, 45, of Vancouver, Wash., and Wren W. Rubio, 34, of Eugene.

Brian J. Carlstrom, 27, and Kristi A. McCown, 30, both of Tillamook.

Charles T. Douglas, 79, of Springfield, and Nancy E. Shepherd, 72, of Veneta.

Travis S. Hansen, 37, and Heather R. Carrell, 32, both of Veneta.

Dwayne E. Kistner, 46, and Dana Jean M. Kistner, 42, both of Springfield.

Mykle A. Lee, 21, and Brandi Goodfellow, 22, both of Logandale, Nev.

Ricardo Losano, 53, and Kalena L. Doolittle, 20, both of Eugene.

Colin D. McCarthy, 29, and Faith S. Allen, 26, both of Eugene.

Murder: Faces possible life sentence

Continued from Page B1

a list of messages on her cellphone and concluded that she had been in contact with other men.

Cromwell said that after checking the phone, he picked up a baseball bat and struck Wright in the head approximately four times, according to police.

If convicted of murdering Wright, Cromwell will be sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

Barring a last-minute plea deal, Cromwell's will be the third murder trial this year in Lane County Circuit Court.

A jury in March convicted Johan Gillette, 38, of aggravated murder in the deaths of his father, James Gillette, and the elder Gillette's domestic partner, Anne Dhu McLucas, a retired professor and dean of the University of Oregon School of Music.

Johan Gillette was

sentenced to two consecutive life terms and will never be eligible for parole.

On Thursday, a jury found David Ray Taylor guilty of three counts of aggravated murder for killing Eugene resident Celestino Gutierrez Jr. in 2012. The sentenc-

ing phase of Taylor's trial begins Tuesday. Taylor, 58, could be sentenced to death.

Follow Jack on Twitter @JackMoranRG. Email jack.moran@register-guard.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities

Springfield TNR Project — Seeks volunteers to transport cats to be fixed from Springfield to Willamette Animal Guild (seven-mile round trip) mornings (8 a.m. to 9 a.m.) or afternoons (3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.) For information, email pearlsperson@gmail.com.

Friends of Hendricks Park, Eugene Park Stewards — Volunteers needed to weed trail edges from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in Hendricks Park Forest. Tools, gloves and snacks provided. Other opportunities available. For information, call Mieko Aoki at 541-510-4636, email Mieko.e.aoki@ci.eugene.or.us or visit www.eugene-or.gov/eps.

Eugene Park Stewards — Seeks volunteers to remove invasive plants and prune to improve the habitat along the trail at Blanton Ridge from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, May 18. Wear weather and work appropriate clothing and footwear. Other opportunities available. For information, call Carrie Karl at 541-682-4850, email

carrie.l.karl@ci.eugene.or.us or visit www.eugene-or.gov/eps.

United Way Volunteer Connection and RSVP

Elder Help — Seeks assistance for low-income seniors with transportation to shopping, errands and medical appointments and help with household tasks; commitment of two to three hours per week requested.

McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center — Seeks volunteers 16 years old and older to work shifts of four hours each; passage of TB skin test and criminal record check required.

For more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, call the United Way Volunteer Connection and RSVP at 541-741-6000 or visit www.unitedwaylane.org.

Videos. Slideshows. Panoramas. Multimedia at The Register-Guard.
registerguard.com/mm

Camps for kids
Local Guide to Fun Camps, Outdoor Adventure, Classes & Fun!
Once Upon a Kingdom Summer Camp
Sign your kids up now for summer fun and Royal Memories. Camps are for ages 5-18. Dates vary by age and run June 23 to August 30! For complete information and registration go to www.campharlow.com 541-683-5416
Camp Harlow
A ministry of First Baptist Church
Whole Earth Nature School
DEEP NATURE CONNECTION
NATURECAMPS.ORG
To Advertise Your Kids' Camp Call 541-338-2421

Open House
PUBLIC WORKS DAY
Eugene
◆ Take a look at the many ways Public Works serves our community!
◆ With special guests from the City of Eugene Police and Fire departments.
◆ LTD shuttle service every half hour to and from the Eugene Station.
Thursday, May 15
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
1820 Roosevelt Boulevard
It's fun...it's free!
eugene-or.gov/pwday • 541-682-4800