

October 20, 2014

## Ballet Fantastique 5x5 Gala Celebration

TRANSCRIPT: Mayor Kitty Piercy's Toast:

The last time I was asked to speak at a Ballet Fantastique event was five years ago, when this energetic young company was opening its new City Center for Dance downtown on 10th and Oak.

The cause for celebration that summer was Ballet Fantastique's work to revitalize a long-vacant building in the heart of our city. Yes, they made their space beautiful, but the more important work they did was to make it *busy*--Donna and Hannah have filled the Ballet Fantastique City Center for Dance with daily work to educate young dancers and to create exceptionally creative and fantastic new dance theater. They have become a cultural anchor in downtown Eugene.

Tonight, we are here to celebrate the fruits of their labor, to mark five full seasons of premiering new work here in this place--**and to usher in the Hult Center's newest Resident Company.** Ballet Fantastique has created and premiered a breathtaking 35 new works here at the Hult in the past five years. And through their wonderfully imaginative works--like those we've seen tonight--they are proving to enchant new fans. They are building our **next generations** of arts audiences, and this is so important to our city's future.

As a community, we confer Hult Center Resident Company status on an arts organization as a public and formal signal of the important role that they play as a cultural leader. I am proud of Ballet Fantastique's work to earn this honor.

Ballet Fantastique is the next generation of art in our city and in our Hult Center, and I hope that you will join me in congratulating them, supporting them in every way we are able, and toasting to this new Resident Company's **next** new creative frontiers.

**Congratulations, Ballet Fantastique!**