

BALLET

ballet like you've never seen it before.

FANTASTIQUE

**DONNA MARISA BONTRAGER
+ HANNAH BONTRAGER**
DIRECTORS + CHOREOGRAPHER-PRODUCERS
www.balletfantastique.org | 541-342-4611
960 oak | downtown eugene, or 97401
get social with us: facebook | twitter | youtube | pinterest | flickr

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CONTACT: Hannah Bontrager, Executive Director + Donna Marisa Bontrager, Artistic Director
Mobile phone/direct email (not for publication): 541-206-8977; hbontrager@balletfantastique.org

2017-2018 Season QUICK FACTS

Eugene's contemporary chamber ballet company, **Ballet Fantastique**, announces their **17-18 Hult Center Resident Company Season: RENEGADE**. The new 17-18 season will feature all-live music, as well as **four** unique concepts from mother-daughter choreographer-producers Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager. Each original performance project—including two world premieres—is filled with the company's signatures: bold, playful concepts, vibrant all-original choreography, evocative cross-disciplinary collaborations. Ballet Fantastique's RENEGADE concert season runs October 2017 through May 2018 in the Hult Center's intimate Soreng Theater. Season and single ticket packages are now on sale by calling the Hult Center Box Office at (541) 682-5000 or online at www.hultcenter.org. Senior, youth, student and discounts for groups of 6+ are available. Student outreach performance tickets are also available; email info@balletfantastique.org.

WORLD PREMIERE FALL 2017: Legend of Sleepy Hollow with LIVE MUSIC by Dréos and Eliot Grasso

- Friday Oct. 27 and Saturday Oct. 28 at 7:30 pm; Sunday, Oct. 29 at 2:30 pm (Hult Center)

Ballet Fantastique's world premiere contemporary ballet *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is a wickedly funny new adaptation of Washington Irving's classic tale of superstition and rivalry. Choreographers Donna and Hannah Bontrager bring Ballet Fantastique's signature wit and verve to this sumptuous and all-original fun-loving gothic spoof, fusing Colonial American whimsy with electric guitar and violin music as would-be hero Ichabod Crane confronts his desires, fears, and—of course—the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow, in pursuit of the coquettish Katrina and her father's money. Musical collaborators Gerry Rempel Ensemble (*Pride and Prejudice; Dragon and the Night Queen*) and Dréos (with internationally acclaimed musician Eliot Grasso and his musical ensemble) provide decadent and playful new rock and world music, as well as new original compositions created especially for this inimitable new romantic comedy ballet.

HOLIDAY 2017: An American Christmas Carol with LIVE MUSIC by Halie Loren

- Performance for local schoolchildren: Thursday, Dec. 14 at 10 am (Hult Center)
- Friday Dec. 15 and Saturday Dec. 16 at 7:30 pm, Sunday Dec. 17 at 2:30 pm (Hult Center)

Ballet Fantastique's sparkling holiday tradition, *An American Christmas Carol*, returns for 2017! Donna and Hannah Bontrager have re-imagined Charles Dickens' beloved story in iconic post-WWII America with their original choreography set to the velvet voice of international chart-topping jazz singer—and local sweetheart—Halie Loren. Retro-glam choreography fuses drama and humor as it weaves the story of penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge's transformative quest. Loren (double-nominated for multiple Independent Music Awards) sets the score with her winsome original arrangements of standards by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nat King Cole. Actor Adam Goldthwaite joins the company as "Smokey Joe" Marley. Ballet Fantastique's flagship *American Christmas Carol* is for the young and young at heart (post-sugarplum set included), and it promises to charm even the stoniest of humbug hearts.

WINTER 2018: ZORRO®: The Ballet with LIVE MUSIC by Incendio and Kim Angelis

- Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 pm; Sunday March 4 at 2:30 pm (Hult Center)

Ballet Fantastique's ground-breaking ZORRO®: The Ballet returns to the Hult Center in 2018. This contemporary ballet re-telling of the legendary masked Diego de la Vega—aka "El Zorro" (the Fox)—premiered in 2013. Choreographer-Producers Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager's ZORRO®: The Ballet tells the origin story of the titular hero, set in a world in flux: Spanish America and Barcelona, a backdrop including decadent romance and fierce political intrigue, conflict between Native Americans and Spanish hacendados and great rivals from worlds of privilege. To bring this great romance adventure to life, Ballet Fantastique partners with LA-based Latin fusion band Incendio and virtuoso violinist-composer Kim Angelis. Angelis's unique blend of gypsy violin, flamenco, and classical elements and Incendio's pyrotechnic fusion of jazz, rock, and fierce Latin guitar propel ZORRO®'s heroic journey.

**MOTHER'S DAY WORLD PREMIERE 2018: Alice in Wonderland: (An Electro Swing) Remix
with LIVE MUSIC by High Step Society**

- Performance for local schoolchildren: Thursday, May 10, 10 am (Hult Center)
- Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 at 7:30 pm; Sunday May 13 at 2:30 pm (Mother's Day Weekend; Hult Center).

This Mother's Day weekend, choreographer-producers Donna and Hannah Bontrager present a bold, splashy, and playful new ballet that crosses genres and defies expectations. *Alice in Wonderland: Remix* brings the vivid visions of Lewis Carroll to life, combining BFan's dance theater with an electro-swing soundtrack and a steampunk twist. An exhilarating, daredevil score of original music from Eugene's High Step Society takes Alice through a raucous journey filled with theatrical invention, puppetry, and playful costumes. This Alice is a witty, whimsical extravaganza that takes you to the furthest flights of fancy.

About Ballet Fantastique

Founded in 2000 in downtown Eugene, Ballet Fantastique brings to life great stories, with mischievous innovation, all live music—and bold, visionary new dance theater. Under the direction of mother-daughter Producer-Choreographer team Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager, Ballet Fantastique (BFan) creates and premieres genre-defying all original contemporary ballets. BFan's inimitable new works include *Cinderella* as a rock opera ballet set to 1960's billboard hits, a Wild West spin on Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, the first-ever authorized ballet version of *Zorro*® with the LA-based band Incendio and virtuoso violinist-composer Kim Angelis, the ancient epic of *The Odyssey* accompanied by the live looping electric violin of Cullen Vance (BFan marked Cullen's first-ever performance at the Hult; he now performs regularly with groups such as Oregon Bach Festival), *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* with the DaXun Zhang and the Oregon Mozart Players, and most recently, *Aladdin: A Rock Opera Ballet* with Satin Love Orchestra playing the music of Queen. Ballet Fantastique has forged new cross-disciplinary collaborations with sculptors, choirs, opera and soloist vocalists, symphony and chamber orchestras, literary and visual artists, actors, break dancers, circus artists, and composers. In 2014, Ballet Fantastique proudly became the first new Resident Company at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in over a decade. BFan has been heralded "a bold, cross-disciplinary dance company" (*Eugene Weekly*) "imaginative geniuses" (*Portland Monthly Magazine*), "not your grandmother's Swan Lake" (*Register-Guard*), and "a company to watch" (*Eugene Magazine*). The new 17-18 season marks BFan's 8th full concert season of all-original contemporary ballet at the Hult Center.

OPEN BARRE: 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. Join the Ballet Fantastique dancers, choreographers, and musicians on selected Wednesdays throughout the season for a behind-the-scenes open rehearsal preview of new performance premieres in progress, plus tastings of wine from local artisan winemaker William Rose Wines, and delightful refreshments from Fraga Farmstead Creamery and Sundance Natural Foods.

- **Legend of Sleepy Hollow Open Barre:** Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 6:30-8 pm
- **An American Christmas Carol Open Barre:** Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 6:30-8 pm
- **ZORRO: The Ballet Open Barre:** Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 6:30-8 pm
- **Alice in Wonderland: (An Electro Swing) Remix Open Barre:** Wednesday, May 2 from 6:30-8 pm