

Movers & Shakers

Meet the people who shape Eugene's dance community

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The Innovators

Hannah Bontrager

Executive director and choreographer, Ballet Fantastique

Donna Bontrager

Artistic director and choreographer, Ballet Fantastique

Cinderella as a rock opera? A tongue-in-cheek feminist twist on the *The Misadventures of Casanova*? *Pride and Prejudice* set in the Roaring Twenties? The women behind Ballet Fantastique's productions, mother-and-daughter team Donna and Hannah, are not afraid to push the boundaries of the Russian Vaganova method taught at their company. The duo, who have more than 50 years of ballet training combined, also refuse to cast dancers by the rigid standards rampant in ballet; there are no height restrictions. "For us, diversity is worth it," Hannah says. Together, they research, write and choreograph all of their ballets from scratch — for *Casanova* they prepped by reading the playboy's autobiography. The world is taking notice of their innovative, whimsical approach. Ballet Fantastique recently returned from Italy, where they performed *As You Like It: A Wild West Ballet*. *Cinderella: A Rock Opera Ballet* will tour Trinidad and Tobago next summer.