

# PIROU-WHAT?

*backstage at ballet fantastique*

Annual Newsletter 2007

## News & Highlights

2007 • 2008

**Mission:** Ballet Fantastique keeps classical ballet vibrantly alive through unique, world-class, community-centered educational experiences for young artists, audiences, and professionals.



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## Spotlights: News/Highlights 2007

From the Ballet Fantastique Board of Directors

Another eventful year has just flown by! As we look back, we can't help but be grateful for a whole host of successes—and to you for helping us to make them happen. Ballet Fantastique may have begun as a small family business, but we're quickly growing into an organization a whole community believes in, invests in, and *needs*. You are such an integral part of making us what we are in the exciting project of becoming.

- We wowed audiences again at the annual Northwest

Slavic Festival, holding our own with visiting professional Russian dance troupes, who told us they couldn't "believe Russian dance of this caliber is happening in Eugene!"

- In a new extended partnership, Ballet Fantastique dancers collaborated with the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (UO) to bring dance to local families in tri-annual Open House/Family Days. Free, open to the community, and hosted

by the Museum, these educational events featured Ballet Fantastique dancers and offered post-presentation opportunities for kids in attendance to learn about dance, meet the dancers, and take a dance lesson.

- In May, Hannah brought dance to second-grade classrooms at Moffitt and Harris Elementary Schools in Springfield and Eugene through an innovative pilot program under the umbrella of our



**EXPERIENCE DANCE!** Project. Learning about birds and oceans through dance, these young students—many of whom come from families who fall well below the federal poverty line—experienced dance in an immersive, creative way. Hannah’s research on integrated dance education programs will be presented to both the Eugene Rotary Club and the American Association of University Women in 2008.

- Ballet Fantastique’s Summer Dreamworks programs again attracted attention from all over the country, and gave young dancers the opportunity to train intensively in semi-private lessons with Ballet Fantastique’s professional coaches.
- With the help of Café Soriah and a full gamut of generous local businesses, we pulled off another fantastique-ly successful fundraiser gala at Territorial Winery.
- In an effort to fulfill our mission to create high-caliber classical dance educational experiences available to young artists and audiences from *all* sectors of our community (especially in a current cultural climate, where the cost of attending a professional concert is prohibitive to many families), Ballet Fantastique again opened the doors of our studio to the community. Dozens of families and youngsters packed the space for free preview performances.
- Two near sold-out concerts at the Hult Center with the world-renowned Trio Voronezh earned standing ovations.
- Increased attention from the media for our unique concert and outreach programs: Front-page features in *both* the

*Register Guard* City-Region and Arts sections, articles in *Eugene Weekly*, and KWAX and KLCC interviews.

- Exemplifying our growing reputation for providing a unique fusion of professional training in the context of small class sizes—and groundbreaking outreach, performance, and professional development programs, over 5,000 people from all over the world accessed [balletfantastique.org](http://balletfantastique.org) *per month!*
- An expanded roster of foundations (US Bank, Lane Arts, and the Richard Haugland Foundation) underscored Ballet Fantastique’s financial health.
- 48 monthly scholarships were awarded to young dancers and artists in need.

With all of this growth, we’re wondering this year more than ever how Ballet Fantastique accomplishes as much as we do with a staff of two teacher-directors and five company dancers. Then we remember: we do it with help from our friends and supporters like you.

To our parents and families, we appreciate you! We consider your kids to be very special people in our lives, and we love learning and growing with them. And to our generous sponsors: As 2007 come to a close and you consider what causes you’d like to support, we hope you’ll keep in mind that a tax-deductible donation to Ballet Fantastique is like making a donation to the future of the arts.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating this *new* year of growth. *You* are what we’re most thankful for this holiday season. We can’t do it without you!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Donna, Hannah, Debora,  
Angie, Bart, Margie, Katy,  
Emily, and Christy  
Ballet Fantastique Board*

PHOTOS:  
WODEN PHOOGRAPHY



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