

SEE THE DANCE

Interview with director-choreographers
Donna and Hannah Bontrager

*Exerpts from the Eugene Weekly Bravo
cover story interview with Suzi Steffan*

SS: Tell me about the founding ideas/ideals/goals of Ballet Fantastique as a company.

HB: Ballet Fantastique's chamber company was founded originally to give local Oregon professional dancers an opportunity to share and to develop their talent. Our vision has evolved to become a company that truly interacts with and collaborates with the many world-class organizations in our community--from groups like Eugene Symphony and the Oregon Mozart Players to individual artists like classical guitarist John Jarvie or painter Rob Adams. We want to find new ways to connect with and to inspire Eugene and Northwest audiences to fall in love with ballet performance and with our company. We want to mix it up.

SS: You obviously offer classes as well as providing a space for professional dancers. What are some things you enjoy about teaching? What age groups do you teach?

DB: We teach classes for students ages 9 and up in our Professional Training Division, which is for young artists who are really serious about their ballet studies. Many of them come in between four and five days per week, and they work with only five other students their age in a semi-private coaching atmosphere

with me and with our other instructors to truly reach their highest potential. We also have a wonderful Young Dancer Program for dancers ages 4-8, where children explore movement creatively while learning the basics of music and dance. I started Ballet Fantastique because I wanted to build the kind of Academy for my daughters that I would have wanted to attend as a young dancer. It has turned into a school where we work closely with each of our dancers and his or her personal goals and challenges. It's not always easy, but I love this and I care deeply about it and making this opportunity and Russian training available to my students.

SS: What do you want Eugene to know about Ballet Fantastique that they may not know?

DB & HB: We're here to stay! We're very excited about what we're doing, both with the company and with the future generation of young student artists that we're cultivating. We want to continue to give back to the community that shows us so much passion and support, and to continue to grow new audiences!

MEET THE
DIRECTORS,
DANCERS & MUSI-
CIANS AFTER ANY
BFAN CONCERT!
ALWAYS!



PIROU-WHAT?

backstage at ballet fantastique

ANNUAL
NEWS!

Donna Marisa Bontrager, Artistic Director • Hannah Joy Bontrager, Executive Director

INVEST IN IT: The Mission

Ballet Fantastique, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, keeps classical ballet vibrantly alive through unique, world-class, Northwest-centered training, educational, and performance experiences for artists and audiences of all backgrounds and means.



All photos: D. Mundorff/Well Shoot Photo • Visions d'Amour: 10 Ballets in Paris • Hult Center

PLAN ON IT: 2010 Events

NOTE: Summer Dreamworks camps/workshops schedule will be announced in Winter 2010

March 18, 2010 • 11:15 am
SHOCASE (Hult Center Lobby):
Mini-preview of Tales of Beatrix Potter (A Ballet) FREE

April 2010 TBA • Peter Rabbit's Tea (watch website for details)

May 1, 2010 • 2 pm
Tales of Beatrix Potter (A Ballet)—And Other Children's Classics (Soreng Theater, Hult Center) Tickets \$14-30/Reserved Seating, available 1/30/10. Discounts for groups of six or more • 2010-2011 season announced

September 2010 • Debut Fantastique Gala

BELIEVE IT: THE POWER OF DANCE! DIRECTORS' LETTER 2009

Ballet Fantastique is reinvesting our resources back into our city through the power of dance—Here are some of our major artistic and educational accomplishments in 2009!

Dear friends,

Ballet Fantastique's ninth anniversary has been our busiest yet!

We produced two critically-acclaimed productions at the Hult Center, both filled with world-class live music. We debuted at the internationally-recognized Oregon Shakespeare Festival and performed our original ballet *Carnival of the Animals* with the Eugene Symphony Orchestra! We became one of only a handful of companies in the US to welcome a year-round Resident Composer (read more about Northwest genius Jeremy DeKyle Schropp on page 4 of this newsletter), and collaborated with the Trio Voronezh, classical guitarist John Jarvie, painter Rob Adams, conductor Dave Vickerman, jazz vocalist Ali Losik, and the Karin Clarke Gallery (featuring the work of Northwest visual artists Margaret Coe and Adam Grosowsky)—to name just a few of the brilliant individuals we've been honored to work with in '09. We earned our third grant in four years from Lane Arts Council, and our first from the Oregon Arts Commission!

Please read on—continued on page 3!

BE INSPIRED

*When I dance,
I ...*

"feel alive!" -Leanne, company dancer • "feel creative" -Camille, age 12 • "smile" -Regina, age 11 • "am happy" -Tracy, age 13 • "feel free because I can do anything" -Julia, apprentice dancer • "feel muscular!" -Tom, age 14 • "forget about everything else and I just get lost in the art form" -Donna, Artistic Director • "I feel like I'm flying" -Anna, age 4 • "I get hungry because I feel myself growing" (-Jo, age 6)

BALLET *Fantastique*

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www.balletfantastique.org
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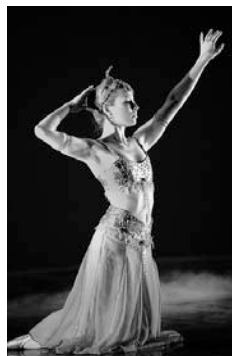
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OUR TEAM

Dozens of people join together to give hundreds of hours each month to empower Ballet Fantastique to touch young artists and audiences through the tremendous power of dance. We couldn't do it without:



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CHAMBER COMPANY

Ashley Bontrager
Hannah Bontrager
Leanne Mizzonni
Alonzo Moore
Amelia Unsicker



PARTNER ARTISTS

Jeremy DeKyle Schropp,
Resident Composer
Ellen Jorde Urrutia and Donna Marisa
Bontrager, Co-Costume Designers
Donna and Hannah Bontrager, Leanne
Mizzonni, Naomi Todd, Ballet Fantastique
Teaching Staff
Dave Vickerman, Conductor

BEHIND the SCENES

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Kim Espinoza, Corporate/Media Partner
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Manager
Mary Hall, PR Designer

The Numbers 2009

We may work out of a busy **1,000** square foot studio with just **5** professional chamber company dancers and **2** paid staff, but **here's what we give back to our city, thanks to your help!**

16	World-premiere works
100%	Concert productions with live music from Northwest musicians (including Eugene Symphony, classical guitarist John Jarvie, Trio Voronezh, composer Jeremy Schropp and 25-part orchestra, and classical pianist Dr. John Jantzi)
100%	Chamber company and Academy dancers who participate in community outreach
5:1	Average ratio of Academy students to coaches for more personal attention
100%	Academy students over age 14 who receive solo coaching experience
7	Number of fundraising events in 2009
\$1926	Dollar amount of scholarships awarded to needy kids
1,200	Youth and adult participants in outreach programs (most often via 100% FREE events/performance)
16	Number of internship program participants reached (UO/LCC undergraduate and graduate students for career development experience in 5 different areas of degree concentration)
48	Estimated number of collaborating groups, partners: (including Eugene Symphony, Karin Clarke Gallery, Oregon Shakespeare Festival)
124	Individuals, businesses, and foundations donating to Ballet Fantastique
5x!	Ticket revenue increase over the 2008 season

Note: The Numbers does not yet include Ballet Fantastique's new Adult Ballet Program, an outreach program to adult dancers in our community.

ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY 00-09 BY DONNA & HANNAH BONTRAGER

Visions d'Amour: 10 Ballets in Paris (with composer Jeremy Schropp, live orchestra, pianist John Jantzi, artist Rob Adams)
Oregon Shakespeare Festival Green Show (with classical guitarist John Jarvie)

Danse en Rouge: Variations in Red (with Trio Voronezh, classical guitarist John Jarvie)
Carnival of the Animals (with Eugene Symphony)
Daphnis & Chloe (for Eugene Symphony Discovering Daphnis Festival)

DIRECTORS' LETTER

Continued from page 1

In educational work, we've stepped up to meet unprecedented need for dance training scholarships among families in our community. Our unique Professional Development Programs gave hundreds of hours in training and performance experience to young professional dancers from the Northwest. (Psst: Next year, our ambitious outreach plans will also include a free educational matinee for kids from underprivileged families, educational programming and meet-the-dancers events for hundreds of Girl Scouts.) Ballet Fantastique educates about more than just dance—over 16 graduate and undergraduate UO and LCC intern students learned about public relations, event planning, and nonprofit arts administration and gave back to the community in hands-on mentored experiences with Ballet Fantastique.

Finally, in the infrastructure development that underscores our financial health and continued (sustainable!) growth, we drafted new strategic plans. We began an exciting new continuing education Adult Ballet Program; and several new Academy class offerings for youth will begin in January 2010. Ticket sales grew substantially—along with our media, social media, and online presences. Last but not least, we welcomed three new highly-qualified and energetic individuals to our thriving board of directors.

In all, 2009 has been a whirlwind of a journey that only continues as we invest every dollar you give us *back* into our community through just these sorts of unique (and, we believe, vitally important) artistic and educational endeavors to enrich lives through the power of dance—and to do it with 110% accountability, integrity, and passion! It's such an honor to have you onstage with us in this process—since the truth is, we need you so much. We hope you'll consider a tax-deductible year-end gift to Ballet Fantastique this month in as generous an amount as you are able. Your generosity is changing lives. Now, doesn't that feel good?

*With great joy,
Directors Donna and Hannah Bontrager*

P.S.... The enclosed form gives you 10 simple ways to make a big impact for Ballet Fantastique and the young artists and audiences we serve! Thank you so much for your continued support!

Ballet in the Park (with Ballet Rogue, Ashland)
Tour de Suites
A Novel Experience (with Oregon Mozart Players)
Star-Filled Russian Nights (Slavic Festival)
Tchaikovsky to Tango (with Trio Voronezh)
La musica notturna (for UO Dance Dept)

Tchaikovsky Festival (for Eugene Symphony)
Mosaico de Danza (with Traduza Dance Company)
Fairytale Favorites
Cakewalk Ballet
On the Wings of Song

Note: Each of the above performances in this selected list included numerous world premieres of new choreography by Donna & Hannah Bontrager—and many were comprised of only new works!



D. Mundorff/Well Shoot Photo
Students Camille (age 12) and Regina in their first pointe performance at the Hult • Hannah and Goh practice a lift backstage

KUDOS 2009

- Awards: Best of Eugene Award for Dance Instruction for 2009 (second consecutive year), World Congress on Dance membership
- Newspaper: Eugene Weekly Bravo cover story, Oregon Daily Emerald cover story/centerfold feature, Register Guard Dash feature and multiple arts section cover stories
- Magazine: Flux Magazine documentary and feature story draft (for Oregon Public Broadcasting submission), Eugene Magazine
- Radio: KVAL, KWAX, KLCC, STAR

HATS OFF TO OUR ANGELS

*You're what we're most
thankful for this holiday
season!*

Between our ambitious arts partnerships and outreach plans to our world premieres, to the unprecedented need for dancer scholarships among our city's families, it's been such a busy ninth anniversary season for Ballet Fantastique's financial development!

The people of our city have stepped forward as never before to ensure that beautiful, Northwest-centered art thrives and grows for audiences from all backgrounds and means, even in these tough times. Our deepest gratitude to all of you, including:

The dancers, musicians, & their families • Our incredible board of directors & intern team • Our sponsors & all attendees of Debut Fantastique & Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction • Oregon Arts Commission, Lane Arts Council with support from the City of Eugene Cultural Services Division • [A-3 High School](#) • [Abbi Skin Care](#) • [Anne Nunn Photography](#) • [Actors Cabaret](#) • [Rob Adams](#) • [Sam Allen](#) • [Nikos Aragon & Jackson Hager](#), [Vanguard Media](#) • [Baron's Den Shooting Range](#) • [Basin & Range](#) • [Emily Bauman](#) • [Beauticontrol](#) • [Bijou](#) • [Blink New Media](#) • [Caitriona Bolster/KWAX 91.1](#) • [Roger Bong/KWVA 88.1](#) • [Brandy Peak Distillery](#) (Gold Beach, OR) • [Broadway Rose Theater Company](#) (Portland, OR) • [The Bungalow](#) • [BrushFire](#) • [Kelly Cadigan](#), [Eugene Celebration](#) • [Cafe 440](#) • [Caramel French Patisserie](#) • [Dianna Carrizones](#) • [Cascade Raptor Center](#) • [Randy Clays](#) • [Cardae Flowers & Gifts](#) • [Comcast](#) • [Cozmic Pizza](#) • [The Crux](#) • [David Minor Theater](#) • [Davis's Bar & Restaurant](#) • [The District](#) • [Deborah Mundorff Photography](#) • [Ari Denison](#) • [Leigh Donlan](#) • [Eugene Magazine](#) • [Eugene Symphony](#) •

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Giving Coupon

Please support Ballet Fantastique! Your support brings the power of dance to our entire community.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE Dancer Sponsorship Pledge or donation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50/month <input type="checkbox"/> \$25/month <input type="checkbox"/> \$10/month <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____/month <input type="checkbox"/> One-time gift amount: \$ _____ We will contact you to arrange your tax-deductible sponsorship in support of a dancer in need, and THANK YOU!
OTHER/NOTES	

PAYMENT TYPE: CASH CHECK
 CARD (Visa, Mastercard, Discover)

CONTACT INFO

Name (must match card): _____

Billing Address (must match card): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CREDIT CARDS:

Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CVC: _____

Receipts for card transactions will be emailed to you.

Jump In! TOP 10 EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT BFAN THIS YEAR

HOW CAN I HELP?

Use the above coupon to give in so many ways!

WISH LIST

(CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO)

1. Monthly pledges for scholarships (pledge above, in amounts from \$50 to just \$10 a month!), or a one-time tax-deductible donation
2. Networking—tell everyone you know about us!
3. Program Ads—a great way to advertise your business with our dedicated, sold-out Hult Center audiences!
4. Volunteering—in any area that meets your interest and availability
5. Escript—Sign up at escrip.com and purchases you make earn dollars for BFan! Free and easy.
6. Adult classes—Make dance and fitness a priority in your life in the new year with a class card or drop-in classes!
7. Ballerina Birthday Parties—complete with cake, favors, and a class with a real ballerina!
8. Passport to Dance—buy tickets for kids in the community who would be otherwise unable to attend a dance performance, and BFan will MATCH your donation!
9. Season Tickets—Treat yourself to three Hult concerts in 2010-11. All BFan season ticketholders receive invitations to post-concert events with the artists!
10. Beatrix sets—we need help with construction, design, and/or materials! Show your artsy side!



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