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A weekend of dance: Free children's tickets available to family-friendly ballet performance



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EUGENE – Free tickets are available to 300 children for the next performance by Eugene's own Ballet Fantastique, scheduled for Nov. 11 at the Jaqua Concert Hall at The Shedd.

The ticket offering is part of the new chamber ballet company's goal of introducing innovative, high-caliber

classical dance performances to young artists and audiences. It was made possible by a Community Arts grant of \$1,195 to Ballet Fantastique from the Lane Arts Council.

Children aged 14 and under from local schools and cultural groups can request tickets at the academy's Web site. The deadline for requests is midnight Monday, Nov. 6.

The Nov. 11 *Cakewalk Ballet: A Fall Fairytale Masquerade* program begins at 7 p.m. The product of American composers Leon Gottschalk and Hershy Kay, the *Cakewalk* is a family-friendly work that features performances drawn from fairytale characters like Goldilocks, the Three Bears, and Little Red Riding Hood.

The Eugene Ballet company will be performing Carmina Burana the same weekend as the *Cakewalk* production, making Ballet Fantastique's Nov. 11 performance part of a "ballet weekend" in Eugene.

"Ballet Fantastique is committed to creating performance experiences that bring classical ballet vibrantly alive for young people," says Hannah Bontrager, Ballet Fantastique's Executive Director.



“We want our audiences, and especially children in our city, to delve into the arts,” she continues, “—and so we’re also hosting a unique post-performance ‘Masquerade Party’ educational event. Here, children attending the ballet will be invited to meet with and question the performers, and learn more about what happens behind the scenes at a dance performance like *Cakewalk Ballet*.”

The non-profit organization, led by mother-daughter team Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager, encompasses both training and performance wings, and brings classical ballet to dancers ages 4-professional at their studio at 8th and Willamette in downtown Eugene.

Quick Facts

WHAT: CAKEWALK BALLET: A FALL FAIRYTALE MASQUERADE

- Music from American composers Leon Gottschalk and Hershy Kay meets favorite ballet composers, including Tchaikovsky
- Choreography based on the original, as performed by the acclaimed Kirov and Royal ballet companies, with additional premieres of new original choreography
- Performances by fairytale characters from Little Red Riding Hood, to Goldilocks and the Three Bears, to the Jewel Fairies from *Sleeping Beauty*
- Dancers from the critically-acclaimed professional Ballet Fantastique Chamber Company, with student guests from the Ballet Fantastique Academy
- Directed by mother-daughter team Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager

DETAILS: Saturday, November 11 @ 7 pm
Jaqua Concert Hall, the Shedd Institute for the Arts

TICKETS: Available at the Ballet Fantastique studio (60 E. 10th), at the door, or by advance online reservation at www.balletfantastique.org.

Children: FREE by advance online reservation at balletfantastique.org before midnight on November 6 or \$8 at the door

Adults: \$14 in advance; \$16 at the door

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