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World premieres, BFan originals, and live music comprise Ballet Fantastique's 2022–2023 season as tickets become available for purchase to the public for all performances

2022–2023 Season QUICK FACTS

The 22-23 season features **four unique dance theater concepts** from mother-daughter choreographer-producers Donna Marisa and Hannah Bontrager. Each original performance project—including a new world premiere—is filled with the company's innovative signatures: all live music, bold, playful concepts, vibrant all-original choreography, evocative cross-disciplinary collaborations.

"This season we are bringing back some of my favorite ballets," says Ballet Fantastique Principal Dancer Carolin Koeplin, who will be dancing her 7th season this year with the company. "The stories of the **Legend of Sleepy Hollow** and **Babes in Toyland** are full of fun and whimsy, larger-than-life characters. I'm enjoying rehearsals so much, and I know audiences will have a blast at these holiday shows, especially the fun twist we put on our holiday show, *Babes*." Ballet Fantastique's *Babes* world premiere in 2018 was featured nationally in *Pointe Magazine* and sold out with a waiting list for tickets. It's back by popular demand for 2022.

One of our newest dancers to join the company, Soloist Nicole Brown adds, "I'm so excited to immerse myself into playing different characters! I look forward to building the intricacies of whichever character (or characters) I'm playing in upcoming performances this season." These intricate character roles especially come to life in BFan's March performance of **Misadventures of Casanova** with a new twist on an old story.

The season concludes in May 2023 with a world premiere, in development by Ballet Fantastique's creative team since 2020: **Robin Hood & Maid Marian** features collaborations with Hollywood fight choreographer Michelle Ladd, who choreographed for major film projects such as *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Lord of the Rings*. The *Robin Hood* collaboration will represent Ladd's first-ever project for a ballet company. The premiere also features original musical compositions and arrangements written for *Robin Hood* by LA-based female composer Liza Carbé with JP Durand, who have written music for *Entertainment Tonight* as well as Paramount movies and TV.

"Our goal at Ballet Fantastique is to create these immersive experiences where people get lost and fall in love with the experience of live dance theater. We love what we do, and we're ready to break ballet out of more boxes!" says Hannah. "The season is bold, fresh, charming, romantic, funny, and fun—and there's something for everyone," adds Hannah.

Ballet Fantastique's Hult season runs Oct 2022 through Mother's Day 2023 in the Hult Center's beautiful Silva Concert Hall and intimate Soreng Theater. Season and single ticket packages are now on sale by calling the Hult Box Office at 541-682-5000 or online at hultcenter.org. Senior, youth, student and discounts for groups of 6+ are available. Student outreach tickets are also available—email info@balletfantastique.org. Ballet Fantastique's 22-23 Season is presented by Alpha IT.

FALL 2022: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

with live music: Dréos + Gerry Rempel Ensemble

- Thurs Oct. 20, Fri Oct. 21 and Sat Oct. 22 at 7:30 pm; Sun Oct. 23 at 2:30 pm (Soreng Theater, Hult Center)

BFAN ORIGINAL (2017): *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is BFan's wickedly funny original dance theater adaptation of Washington Irving's classic 1820 tale of superstition and rivalry. Would-be hero Ichabod Crane confronts his desires, fears, and – of course – the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow – all in pursuit of his love, Katrina. Colonial American whimsy fuses with electric guitar.

LIVE MUSIC: Dréos & Gerry Rempel Ensemble play decadent, playful new rock and world music- infused versions of classics, plus new work created just for BFan.

Project support: Nils & Jewel Hult Endowment



THANKSGIVING WEEKEND 2022: Babes in Toyland

with live music: Gerry Rempel Jazz Syndicate + Star Guests

- Sat Nov. 26 at 7:30 pm, Sun Nov. 27 at 2:30 pm (Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center)

BFAN ORIGINAL (2018): *Babes in Toyland* reimagines a lost holiday classic with BFan's trademark wit and whimsy. Victor Herbert's original madcap fairytale mashup collides with hot jazz and genre-defying dance. Contagious, retro-glam new choreography and an entirely new holiday tradition.

LIVE MUSIC: Swing Shift Jazz Orchestra plays Duke Ellington's epic jazz *Nutcracker*, Original Compositions & Arrangements from Duke Ellington + more, Original arrangements for BFan by Steve Sharp

Project support: Team Kammerer, Summit Funding

WINTER 2023: The Misadventures of Casanova

With live music: Oregon Mozart Players + Baroque Celebrity Guests Play Vivaldi, Bach, Rameau, and more

- Thurs Mar. 2, Fri Mar. 3, Sat Mar. 4 at 7:30 pm; Sun Mar. 5 at 2:30 pm (Soreng Theater, Hult Center)

BFAN ORIGINAL (2013): BFan brings you a new twist on an old story of Giacomo Girolamo Casanova de Seingalt (1725-1798). A swashbuckler and master of disguise, it was said that no woman could resist his charms. In this richly-textured Venetian masquerade, anything can happen and no one is who they seem. Decadent costumes, BFan's RomCom choreography of storytelling, and beautiful music make this a show you don't want to miss.

LIVE MUSIC: Oregon Mozart Players, with Baroque celebrity guests and Original Compositions: Antonio Vivaldi, Jean-Phillipe Rameau, Jean Baptiste de Lully, Johann Sebastian Bach.

Project support: Nils & Jewel Hult Endowment



MOTHER'S DAY WORLD PREMIERE 2023: Robin Hood & Maid Marian: The Ballet

With live music: Original Musical Score from JP Durand & Liza Carbé (LA's Incendio) + Areyeh Frankfurter, Lisa Lynne, & Eliot Grasso

- Thurs May 11, Fri May 12, Sat May 13 at 7:30 pm; Sun May 14 at 2:30 pm (Soreng Theater, Hult Center)

MOTHER'S DAY WORLD PREMIERE: Irresistible dance theater, great personality, and a story where good wins. Watch enigmatic, unstoppable Robin Hood and brave, brilliant Maid Marian rise to fight injustice in Donna and Hannah's new **Robin Hood & Maid Marian: The Ballet**.

LIVE MUSIC: JP Durand & Liza Carbé (LA's Incendio), Areyeh Frankfurter & Lisa Lynne (Celtic Harps, Swedish Nyckelharpa, Ukrainian Bandura, Bouzouki, Cittern), Eliot Grasso (flutes, tin, whistle, uilleann pipers)

Project premiere support: Nils and Jewel Hult Endowment

Open Barre—Open rehearsal series

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 winemakers, and delightful refreshments from various local eateries.

- **Sleepy Hollow Open Barre:** Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 6:30-8 pm
- **The Misadventures of Casanova Open Barre:** Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 6:30-8 pm
- **Robin Hood & Maid Marian: The Ballet Open Barre:** Wednesday, May. 3 from 6:30-8 pm

Company artists

Ballet Fantastique's season includes performances by the Company's international roster of resident artists, including Principal & Soloist dancers Ashley Bontrager (OR), Hannah Bontrager (OR), Nicole Brown (MN), Carolin Koeplin (ID), Jenavieve Hernandez (WA), Isabelle Overstreet Bloodgood (CA), Preston Andrew Patterson (GA), and Gustavo Ramirez (Colombia); Company Artists & Apprentices Ana Brooks (UT), Phoebe Green (VT), and Brooke Geffrey-Bowler (WA).

About Ballet Fantastique

Founded in 2000 in downtown Eugene, Ballet Fantastique brings stories to life, writing new classics from diverse storytelling perspectives with all live music and bold, visionary new dance theater choreography and cross-disciplinary collaboration. 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 *Aladdin: A Rock Opera Ballet* with Satin Love Orchestra playing the music of Queen. Ballet Fantastique has forged new collaborations with sculptors, choirs, opera and soloist vocalists, symphony and chamber orchestras, literary and visual artists, actors, break dancers, circus artists, and composers. Ballet Fantastique has been a proud Resident Company at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts since 2014. BFan tours across the PNW and internationally, and has been heralded "a bold, cross-disciplinary dance company" (*Eugene Weekly*) "imaginative geniuses" (*Portland Monthly Magazine*), "not your grandmother's Swan Lake" (*Register-Guard*), "a company to watch" (*Eugene Magazine*), and featured in the *Washington Post*.

