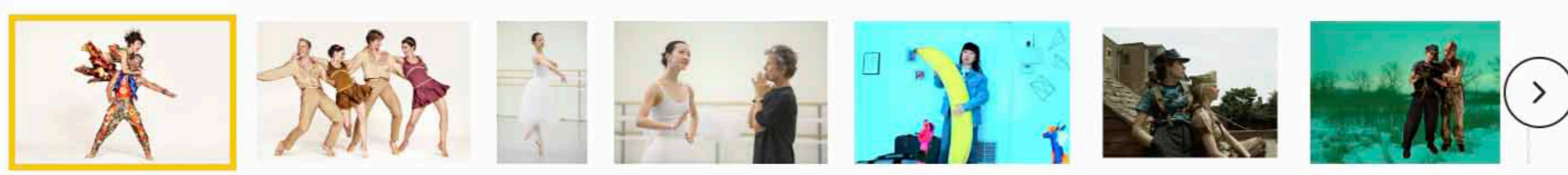


Gear up for dance legends and raw young talent: October is dance month in Portland

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Dance Month October 2015 in Portland



By [Celina Russell](#) | For [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

If you think dance is stuffy and unapproachable, it's time to start over. October is de facto dance month in Portland, the time when major companies like Oregon Ballet Theatre and White Bird start their seasons and local artists return from summer break ready to show new work. It's the best chance you'll have this year to drink a beer with ballerina, view stylized x-rays tracing the arc of a dancer's thoughts, and tour the dance world without leaving your hometown.

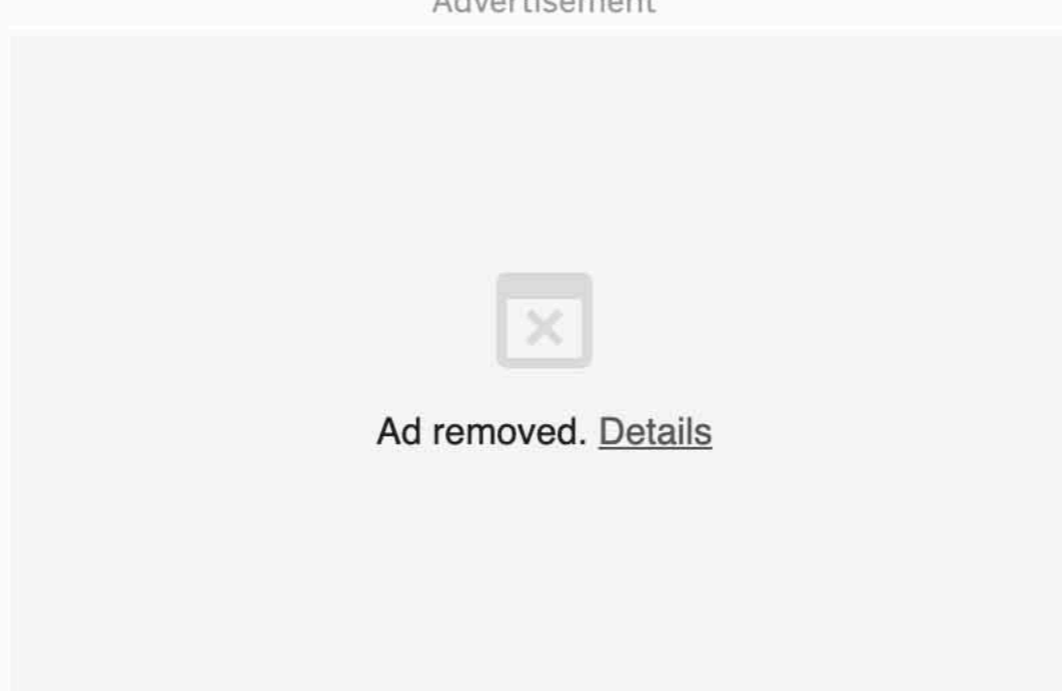
Get out there, Portland, and witness some of dance's most legendary acts back-to-back with our own raw young talent.

Here are the month's most notable premieres and programs.

Oregon Ballet Theatre brings ballet for the people to its season opener

[Oregon Ballet Theatre](#) opens Oct. 10 with "Amore Italiano," a dancehall riot of Danish choreographer [August Bournonville's](#) "Napoli," [James Kudelka's](#) "Sub Rosa," and rock violinist Aaron Meyer warming things up. It's a chance to see the entire company onstage, including the new [OBT2](#) crew of young dancers, plus guest principal of the Danish Royal Ballet [Amy Watson](#).

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The program is a more 21st-century approach to ballet, says OBT artistic director Kevin Irving. "You know, when people think of ballet they tend to think precious, elitist, swans and princesses. Bournonville liked *people*."

Irving clearly does, too, because this year he's inviting anyone with a group of friends to join OBT's ["Blue Ribbon Society"](#) for inexpensive tickets and a Pabst Blue Ribbon party at the theater with snacks, tallboys, and ballet trivia. Bunheads and bros unite!

"Amore Italiano:" Oct. 10-17, Keller Auditorium, tickets and subscriptions at [obt.org](#)

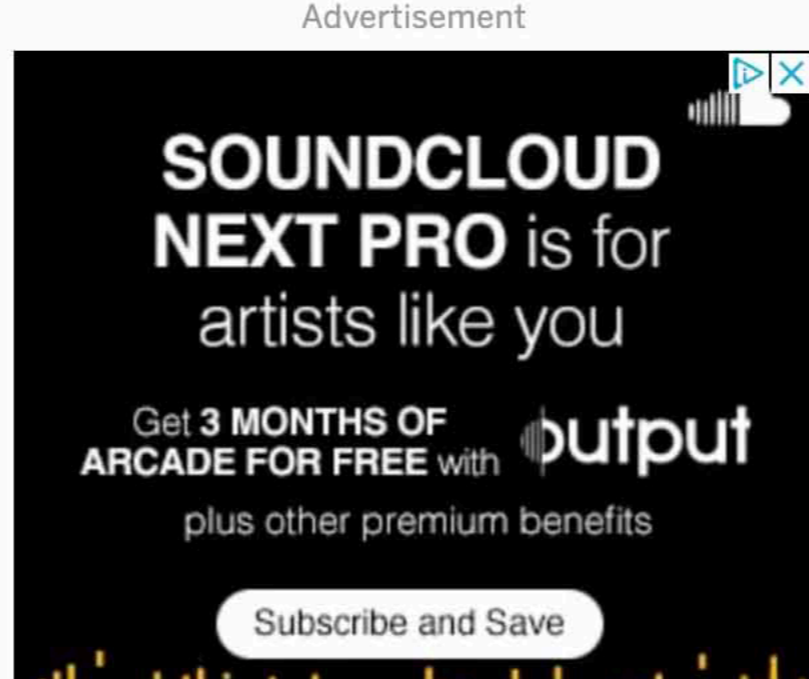
White Bird presents "Momix," Twyla Tharp's 50th Anniversary Tour and L-E-V

On their frequent trips across the globe to see new dance performances, Walter Jaffe and Paul King of White Bird always wonder how a choreographer's work will play in Portland.

"It's very important to be connected to the community," King said when discussing the new season. "PDX has become a center for dance in the Northwest; the audience here is really knowledgeable."

But deciding what to bring to Portland is about more than catering to what local dance enthusiasts already know they like. White Bird is also trying to broaden the audience," says Jaffe. That means adding performances with elements of circus and theater in the [White Bird Dance Series](#) and progressive, challenging work from smaller dance companies in the [Uncaged Series](#), so that subscribers can find old flings and discover new favorites.

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This year, White Bird kicks off the season with a jam-packed program:

["Alchemia"](#) from the dancer-illusionist company [MOMIX](#) at the Newmark Theater, followed by [Twyla Tharp's 50th Anniversary Tour](#) for one night only at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, and running, breathless, through the middle of October with former Batsheva dancer and choreographer [Sharon Eyal's company L-E-V](#) at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall.

Expect stunning backdrops and acrobatics from MOMIX; [emotion, comedy and virtuosity from Twyla Tharp's tour](#); wonderfully strange physicality from L-E-V; and, as always with White Bird, the excitement of a whole world of contemporary dance right in your backyard.

MOMIX: Oct. 8-10, Newmark Theatre; *Twyla Tharp:* Oct. 14, Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall; *L-E-V:* Oct. 15-17 Lincoln Hall, Portland State University; visit [whitebird.org](#) for details and tickets.

Choose your own dance adventure with Katherine Longstreth at UO's White Box gallery

Where does the memory of a dancer end and the fact of her movement begin? In ["Marginal Evidence"](#) at the White Box at the University of Oregon in Portland, the viscera of Katherine Longstreth's work is on view, highlighted by archival footage, drawings and notes from Longstreth's experience as a performer and choreographer.

"I'm trying to be credibly authentic and really honest," says Longstreth, who promises that all the unglamorous parts of performing a dance will be on display: "the bad parts where you fall on your ass and your hair falls out of place."

Longstreth's installation incorporates all those parts of a dance, but leaves the question of "whether the act of making a dance leaves a trace or is discernable" open to the audience, she says, "so you can control how you interact with the piece."

"Marginal Evidence": Oct. 1-Nov. 14, First Thursday reception 6-8 p.m. Oct. 1; White Box, 24 N.W. First Ave.; free, [whitebox.uoregon.edu](#)

Experimental performance art and interactive theater at Performance Works NW

Despite a summer filled with [solo performances in her "\(Un\)Made" series](#), touring and collaborations, Portland artist [Linda Austin](#) starts strong this fall with October programming at Performance Works NW. First up, locals [Lucy Lee Yim](#) and [Future Death Agency](#) will perform alongside visiting artists [Kelly McGovern](#) and Neue Welt's [Antibody Corporation](#). The shows are a crossover venture between Performance Works and Lacuna Club, a Southeast Portland performance-art venue that presents text, noise and movement in moments that range from unapproachable to startlingly personal. Venture in -- this is a chance to see young experimental artists doing their thing.

Next from Performance Works is a one-night engagement of Lee Williams Boudakian and Kamee Abrahamian, touring with the English-language production of their interactive performance ["Dear Armen."](#)

"Armen left trails to follow, even if those trails don't always lead to the truth," says Garo, the young narrator who follows threads of memoir and text in an attempt to discover the many lives of an ancestor and performer, reimagined on stage through Armenian dance and interdisciplinary performance.

Lacuna Club: 9 p.m. Oct. 2, The Watershed, 5040 S.E. Milwaukie Ave., and 8 p.m. Oct. 3, Performance Works NW, 4625 S.E. 67th Ave., \$10 suggested donation; *"Dear Armen:"* 8 p.m. Oct. 16, Performance Works NW, 4625 S.E. 67th Ave., tickets \$10-\$20 at the door or in advance at [brownpapertickets.com](#)

-- Celina Russell for The Oregonian/OregonLive