



1590 Willamette Street,
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Backgrounder

Eugene Ballet Company

For the past 35 years, the award-winning Eugene Ballet Company has been providing the local community with a wide variety of classical and contemporary ballet performances.

Artistic Director/Resident Choreographer Toni Pimble, and Managing Director Riley Grannan founded EBC in 1978. Since then, the company has presented more than 100 different ballets in more than 32 states. The Company is also recognized internationally, and has performed in Taiwan, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Syria, Jordan, and Tunisia.

EBC currently has 21 professional dancers, with a four-production residence season at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene. The Company travels regularly throughout the Northwest, including its three-production seasons in Salem and Corvallis.

In 1996, the EBC was the first Oregon dance company to be awarded the Governor's Arts Award. The company has continuously received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts with Dance Company Grant awards.



Mowgli- The Jungle Book Ballet

The Eugene Ballet Company will be performing the world premiere of “Mowgli - The Jungle Book Ballet” at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts April 13 and 14.

Based on Rudyard Kipling’s classic stories, this full-length ballet is sure to dazzle audience members of all ages. Original choreography by EBC Artistic Director Toni Pimble is set to an eclectic compilation of East Indian and World Fusion music. The Company also worked with Emmy award-winner Gregory Crane of GRC Designs to create an immersive jungle themed set, designed specifically for “Mowgli.”

EBC aims to make “Mowgli- The Jungle Book Ballet” a visually stunning piece of theatre that will attract audiences of all ages. The lavish costumes, designed by Jonna Hayden, feature authentic Indian fabrics, a vibrant array of color, and intricate headpieces created by Lynn Bowers. “Mowgli” will also feature two giant puppets designed by Crane, including Shere Khan the



Tiger, and Kaa the Snake, requiring up to eight dancers to manipulate.

The inspiration to create a ballet based on Kipling's *The Jungle Book* came from EBC's relationship with the Haugland family. The Richard P. Haugland Foundation is a private foundation in Eugene that supports charitable, cultural and educational programs in America, such as EBC. The foundation also provides funds to the Starfish Country Home School Foundation, which is a registered charity in Thailand and to other programs operating in Asia (www.schsf.org).



Inspired by his work with underprivileged children in Thailand, Richard Haugland requested that the Company create a ballet performance that could be enjoyed by children, as well as adults. “Mowgli- The Jungle Book Ballet” is the result of Haugland’s aspiration. EBC received an initial grant of \$160,000 from the Richard P. Haugland Foundation, and additional funding from the Hult Endowment—Arts Foundation of Western Oregon Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, and Alexander and Amy Haugland.

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