

► performance/classical music, dance, comedy



“La Boutique Fantasque”

Few words can snap a kid's head around faster during the holidays than the promise of a magic toy store, and this short ballet for the little ones has the added feature of dolls in revolt against a grumpy shopkeeper. It's based on Sergi Diaghilev's famed 1919 Ballets Russes version, choreographed by Leonide Massine and set to a lively score by Rossini. But Pacific Artists Ballet Theatre's restaging comes with a George Balanchine pedigree. Artistic director Nancy Davis danced with Balanchine's New York City Ballet, and it's been something of a loose secret that John Clifford, a renowned Balanchine protégé and guest ballet master to Russia's Bolshoi and Kirov ballet companies, has been in town to create all-new choreography for this production of what's known in English as "The Fantastic Toyshop." It's an ambitious undertaking - from the poodle dolls that pirouette to the whirling tarantella dolls, blue fairies, Cossack toy soldiers, dancing deck of cards, high-kicking can-can dancers and the requisite Pinocchio and ballerina. Opens 7:30 p.m. Friday; continues 1, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1p.m. Sunday; Performing Arts Center, Portland Community College/Sylvania, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.; \$10-\$15; 503-452-8448.

– Catherine Thomas
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