

ALL RISE FOR NEW MODERN BALLET

When you think of ballet, you don't generally think of Bono, The Edge and friends jamming on a stage. Well come 29 September, the music of U2 is being redefined in dance, as New York contemporary ballet company Complexions brings *Rise* to the International Arts Season in Auckland.

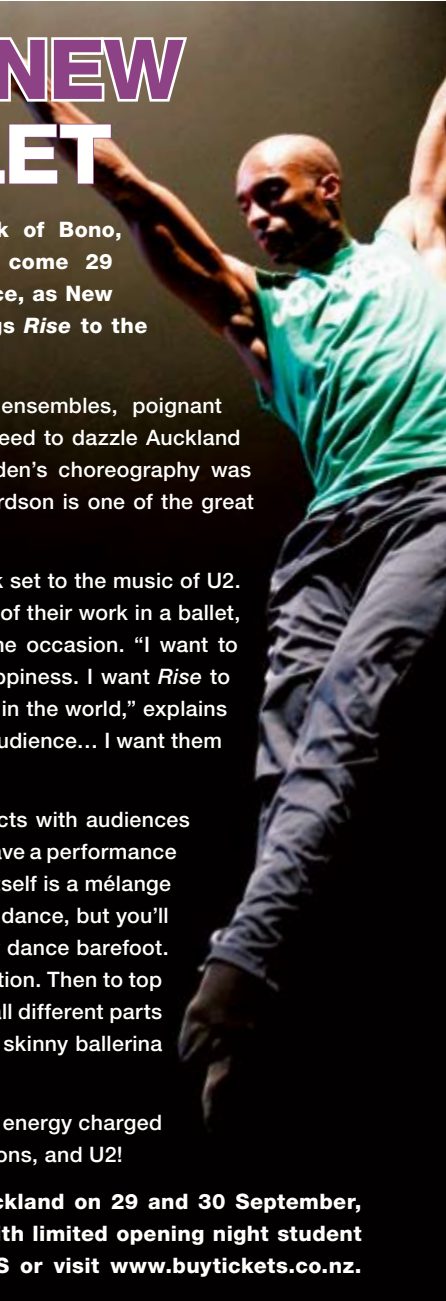
In *Rise*, Complexions encompasses powerful dynamic ensembles, poignant duets and solos in a mesmerising program that is guaranteed to dazzle Auckland audiences. Even *The New York Times* loves them. "Rhoden's choreography was like hot molten lava; flowing with undeniable power. Richardson is one of the great modern dancers of his time... with extraordinary skills."

Rise is a three-act ballet that ends with an electrifying work set to the music of U2. This is the first time U2 has granted permission for the use of their work in a ballet, and Rhoden has created a momentous piece to rise to the occasion. "I want to inspire audiences to reach into their core for their own happiness. I want *Rise* to be powerful yet joyful, to help all of us see the possibilities in the world," explains Rhoden. "I want this dance to make a connection with the audience... I want them to leave the theatre hopeful."

In an interview last year, Rhoden said Complexions connects with audiences because the works they perform are so eclectic. "You may have a performance that begins with Chopin and ends with U2. The movement itself is a mélange of all different types of stuff - there are influences of street dance, but you'll also see classicism. The dancers dance on pointe and they dance barefoot. There's that diversity in almost every aspect of the organisation. Then to top that off you have a very multicultural cast with people from all different parts of the world and all types of bodies and looks. The typical, skinny ballerina looks isn't what we go for."

So make sure you take a breath and prepare yourself for an energy charged night of unrelenting physically stunning dance by Complexions, and U2!

***Rise* by Complexions runs at the Aotea Centre in Auckland on 29 and 30 September, 01 and 02 October at 7.30pm. Tickets from \$39.90, with limited opening night student tickets for \$19.90. For tickets call 0800 BUYTICKETS or visit www.buytickets.co.nz.**



EXPOSE YOURSELF IN KINKY CHRISTCHURCH

When you think of gags, whips and rope bondage, Christchurch is generally not the first thing that comes to mind. You're more likely to conjure up mad debauched visions of munches, gatherings and erotic festivals in places like New York City, Los Angeles and London. Not Christchurch. You might be surprised to learn however, that New Zealand is not completely off the kinky map.

Because BDSM is still viewed as a deviant 'subculture', with many unfortunately choosing to hide their kinky sexual/lifestyle preferences from society, events where BDSM practitioners can meet to discuss BDSM related topics and issues with other kink-minded people are incredibly important.

From what I have read and been told by friends who have attended, the upcoming Southern Exposure conference looks like a buttload of fun and a decent enough reason to venture down to Christchurch. It's a conference that spreads over four days (22 to 25 October) and features a variety of hands on informative workshops from both locally and internationally renowned presenters who are all experts in their chosen fields of kink. Although the line up of presenters is still being finalised, the thus far confirmed instructors are incredibly exciting and insanely talented people whose sex positive kinky brains I would love to pick... Some of the workshops so far on the agenda are punk rock tantra - a workshop that promises to explore the connection because music, sex and tantric energy, while teaching you how to breathe yourself to orgasm (as someone who is sometimes too lazy to get on top, breathing myself to orgasm sounds ideal), bondage 101 - which addresses many forms of basic bondage and provides the opportunity to participate, flogging - be taught how to incorporate the use of floggers into your BDSM play and then there's workshops on rope, needles, polyamory, caning, power play, plus heaps more. Phew! That's a lot of kink to learn about over a period of four days. A fellow conference goer said, 'I attended by both Southern Exposure conferences in 2006 and 2008, and what attending did for me was not simply learning new things, but confirming my place in the BDSM community and fuelling my passion for all things kinky'.



Madison Young

Alongside the awesome workshops are the presenters! Put your kinky pants on and get down to Southern Exposure and you will be attending workshops held by likes of erotic novelist Laura Antoniou, erotic educator and gender radical author Lee Harrington, gor enthusiast Dairota, hypnosis and sex teacher Peter Masters and my personal favourite presenter, redheaded pornstar, director, BDSM model, gallerist and published author Madison Young. Madison will be teaching a variety of workshops at Southern Exposure from tantra to deep throat. She has been directing BDSM and erotic porn since 2005 and has been given awards at the 2008 and the 2009 Feminist Porn Awards. Her videos circulate erotic film festivals around the world, including having been shown at the Cinekink Film Festival in New York City for the past three years in a row.



Other than all the presenters/workshops to pick and choose from, there's also a fetish market, so you're able to stock up on kinky books and toys before you head home.

Southern Exposure is being held in Christchurch at the Copthorne Durham Hotel, where discounted rooms are available for kinksters attending the conference. For more information on the conference, check out Southern Exposure's website: www.southernexposure.gen.nz. Hopefully I will see all you fellow perverts and pervettes there! Long live bondage! See you in October! | Amie Wee

BOOK REVIEW: Heroes & Exiles

Tom Ambrose

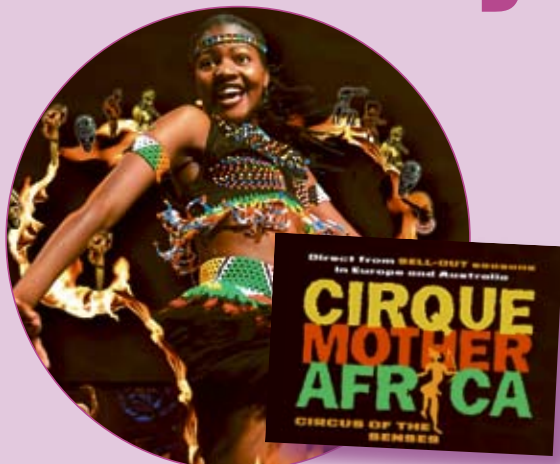
Revered in Ancient Greece and Rome, and demonised in many cultures since then, homosexuals and lesbians have led extremely turbulent lives over the centuries. Many were forced into exile or went into voluntary exile from their homelands to escape persecution or, in some cases, death. *Heroes and Exiles* looks at gay exile through the experiences of some of the most eminent homosexuals and lesbians in history. Tom Ambrose's book reads well, providing a brief history of attitudes towards gay and lesbian people from Grecian times to modern day life. It's definitely a historical piece



- there are none of what could be described as 21st century "stereotypical" gay icons here so don't go expecting to read up on George Michael or Elton. In the book you'll find Queen Christina of Sweden, the Ladies of Langollen and Oscar Wilde, but a lot of omissions that will leave you wondering just what the criteria for a gay icon actually is. Who should be a gay icon? Who gets to decide? These questions are left unanswered.

| Aggie Ledbetter

Giveaways!



CIRQUE MOTHER AFRICA
CIRCUS OF THE SENSES

8 x Double Passes to Cirque Mother Africa
5 double passes to Auckland concerts & 1 double pass each to Hamilton, Wellington & Chch shows. A must-see high energy circus spectacular featuring 40 performers from all over Africa are coming to a town near you in September.



rise

3 x Double Passes to Rise: Complexions Ballet
Opening Night performance, 7.30pm Wed 29 Sept at the Aotea Centre, The Edge, Auckland. Make sure you take a breath and prepare yourself for an energy-charged night of unrelenting, physically stunning dance. Featuring the music of U2, Rachmaninoff, Billie Holiday, Roy Buchanan.

To be in to win any of these prizes email your details: giveaways@expresstoday.co.nz with the name of the prize in the subject box



The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler



3 x Double Passes The Vagina Monologues
4pm Sun 05 Sept, The Basement, Lower Greys Ave, Auckland. Royale Productions presents *The Vagina Monologues*. They want to talk to you. These potent stories from a range of ages, ethnicities and sexualities will make for a jubilant night.