



Monday, February 4, 2002

Professional artist series to debut new dance company

The **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is hosting an evening of contemporary dance highlighting the OU premiere of the new Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Company on Friday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

The new company, which specializes in jazz-fusion dance techniques, is under the direction of Gregory Patterson. Patterson is the assistant director of the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble and is an associate professor of dance at Oakland University.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Patterson received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan. He has been dancing professionally in the Midwest for more than 12 years and has been a member of Harbinger Dance Company, Ann Arbor Dance Works, A Company of Dancers and Rigmarole Dance Company. He also has performed as a guest artist with both the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the Doug Elkins Dance Company from New York.

Patterson has been invited to teach and choreograph around the country in dance studios, workshops, American College Dance Festivals and at universities. The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Orchesis (WMU), Bal-Chi Dance Company in Chicago and a number of university companies have performed his work. His signature work "Who's the Boss" was performed in Russia as part of an Eisenhower Dance Ensemble appearance with the Pushkin Ballet. Patterson also has choreographed several musicals at Oakland University and Meadow Brook Theatre.

Other members of the company include Melanie King of Rochester and Nicole Detloff of Romeo.

In addition to the Patterson Rhythm Pace Company, the dance concert will feature Mariah Malec, who holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in modern dance from the University of Utah and a Master of Fine Arts in dance performance/choreography from Arizona State University, and William McLellan Jr., who recently completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Malec has performed for Beware of Dance Productions, Circle Modern Dance, the Tennessee Stage Company and the Institute for Studies in the Arts, among others. Her repertory includes works by Della Davidson, Steve Koester, Tandy Beal, Donald McKayle, Ellen Bromberg, Paul Taylor, Pat Graney and Doris Humphrey.

Malec has taught for Arizona State University, the School of Ballet Arizona, Salisbury State University, Virginia Commonwealth University and the Community College of Baltimore County at Essex. She currently is a visiting assistant professor of dance at Oakland University and has just been nominated for this year's Faculty Excellence Award.

McClellan began dancing at age 15 at the Sammy Dyer School of Theatre under the direction of the late Shirley Hall Bass. In 1995, he was a scholarship student at the Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre. In 1998 and 1999, he studied in New York at Dancespace with Lynn Simonson, Michael Foley, Kevin Wynn and Jacyn Villamil. McClellan is a founding member and principal dancer of the Counter Groove Dance Company, a soulful, modern-jazz dance company.

Another highlight of this performance is the special guest appearance by MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company. This Troy-based company, under the direction of Janet Clayton-Reid, presents professionals with impressive personal credentials who both perform and choreograph a diverse and eclectic repertoire with wide audience appeal. The MoreDances Company has appeared at the Detroit Opera House, Wayne State University, Michigan Dance Council Showcase Concert, Dance Gallery, the Mendelssohn Theatre in Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan.

Tickets are \$6 for students, \$10 for seniors and OU employees, and \$12 for the general public. For ticket information, call the box office at (248) 370-3013.

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