



Friday, March 26, 2004

Student choreographers showcased in spring concert

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

The student dance companies from Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** present the "Young Choreographer's Forum 2004" April 2-4 at Varner Studio Theatre.

The concert, featuring nine student choreographers and two nationally recognized choreographers, showcases 35 of OU's talented dance students from the Oakland Dance Theatre and OU Repertory Dance Company. The show is directed by Gregory Patterson, associate professor of dance, and Mariah Malec, assistant professor of dance.

Student choreographers are eligible to participate in the annual spring concert after completing Dance Composition (DAN 372). Dances are evaluated after mid-semester by full-time faculty, and several of those pieces are selected to be performed. Selection criteria varies from creative merit, choreographic idea and structure, to length of dances.

The student choreographers are Sheherazade Berry, Shannon Busse, Rodney Brown, Alexis DeCapua, Carrie King, Kimberly Ledwell, Kelly Moretto, Marcie Tolbert and Alexandra Troth.

"Each of the student's work is quite different in context," Patterson said. "Many of the dances chosen for this concert utilize modern technique. Some are considered more jazzy, and a couple of the dances fall under the category of lyrical jazz."

Students have full creative control, with music selections ranging from "Save Me" by the Dave Matthews Band to "Fever" by Peggy Lee.

Guest choreographers Jeannie Hill and Jennifer Salk were commissioned to teach the two companies that perform in the recital.

Hill, associate artistic director and principal performer with Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, has toured nationally and internationally.

Salk, assistant professor at the University of Washington, teaches master's classes and choreographs for companies, schools and festivals throughout the country. Her work "Conchairto," which she set on the OU Repertory Company, recently was performed and adjudicated at the American College Dance Festival and was chosen for the gala performance at the Great Lakes Regional Conference in March at Wayne State University

Showtimes are Friday, April 2, at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 3, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, April 4, at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be reserved through the Varner Box Office Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m. by calling (248) 370-3013. Tickets also are available through Ticketmaster outlets by visiting the **Ticketmaster** Web site or calling (248) 645-6666. Discounts are available for OU employees, seniors and groups of 20 or more.

SUMMARY

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