

# Nebraska Dance Ensemble set to show off youth

Friday and Saturday the Nebraska Dance Ensemble will perform in an event that will be the culmination of a learning experience for 14 young dancers and, they hope, an evening of enjoyment for their audience.

Members of the Nebraska Dance Ensemble auditioned for the company in September. They and other members of the Dance Division's production and composition class have been working on all aspects of the finished performance.

"There's a lot of energy and enthusiasm. The students have developed ideas for their own publicity and then doing their own publicity. They're a part of the university but they especially want to make Lincoln aware that they're a part of Lincoln, too," said artistic director, Marianna Ariyanto.

The performance will cover many types of dance, from classical to modern ballet while Ariyanto will perform a classical Balinese dance.

Ariyanto choreographed "Crescendo" in 1975 and described it as a "jazz trio," while "Mobiles" she choreographed especially for the ensemble.

"I thought 'Mobiles' would be good for the dancers and that the audience would enjoy it. The emphasis is on the visual, there are a lot of slides and the costumes have long silver pieces that catch the light. I want it to be a pleasing dance to watch, there is no theme, it is the movement patterns of how the wind will blow particular pieces in a mobile."

Gayle Kassing, head of the UNL Physical Education Dept. dance division, choreographed the neoclassical ballet piece that the ensemble will perform. The work is

entitled "Bellavia-Mangione" and is set to the music of jazz artist, Chuck Mangione.

"In choreographing the piece I was trying to see how I could mix jazz and modern movements with ballet. I'm really concerned with the design in abstract. The costumes bring this together in the kaleidoscope effect of their colors."

Kassing said that Janice Stauffer, who teaches costume design in the Theater Dept., captured the mood of the piece exactly in the costumes she designed.

Students in the ensemble will gain experience from performing.

"You get used to performing and when you see how a real performance works; production, behind the scenes problems, lighting, people, costumes—I feel like I'm learning it from the inside out," said Shelly Thorell, one of the dancers.

Maureen McKenna, the ensemble's stage manager, said she feels diversity will improve her chances of getting a job.

"I'm trying to get as much experience as I can in any kind of theater work, especially with dance. I want to stay in the field of dance and I've always been interested in this aspect."

For Laurel Shoemaker the dance ensemble provides a chance for her to work at her craft. Shoemaker is a senior in the Theater Dept. and supervises all the production people.

"I'm terribly interested in dance lighting. This particular job excites me because there are many types of dance involved and I have to treat each differently."

"Being able to work with a professional dancer like Derryl (Yeager) is really an experience. To work on a classical piece makes you feel like you're really dancing because it's well known and danced by the major companies. It's been demanding because the rehearsals are so intense, but I've learned what it would be like to work for a professional company," Schnabel said.

Ariyanto and Kassing both have things they hope their students will learn from the performances.

"I hope they come out of this with good feelings about how to make a show as a totality, rather than as a competitive thing," Ariyanto said.

"Performing is an important process. It is a culminating experience. Performance is the great teacher, you must make snap decisions and be sensitive to what is going on around you and your own body. It's what dance is all about as an art form, it brings all things experienced together and makes them viable," said Kassing.

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