

New university dance ensemble bounds into view tonight at 8

By Kim Beavers
Staff Reporter

The premiere season of the Lincoln Contemporary Dance Theatre will bow in tonight at Mabel Lee Hall.

"These dancers needed to breed with each other," said Jerry Bevington, artistic director and head of the dance program at UNL. "They needed to bring something somewhat spiritual when they dance together. Throughout auditions for this company, I hand-selected and hand-picked what I think are the best dancers here at UNL."

Dance Preview

The group includes the primary ensemble of 10 dancers, three others who make up the secondary ensemble and two choreographers. The company is managed by Lana Hollibaugh, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's new dance program manager.

Laura Milan, an assistant professor

of dance, will help with the choreography. Milan specializes in modern and jazz dance.

"The movement of the company itself is its difference," Milan said. "I think it is a good indication of what modern dance is today. I think the audience will be astounded at the high degree of talent."

"The audience will also be so close to the stage, since we're doing this in the round, that they will be able to hear the dancers breathing and be directly involved with the performance," she said.

The members of the company signed one-year contracts and will need to renew the contract at the end of that period. The company begins touring next semester, and will perform at the American College Dance Festival in Champaign-Urbana, Ill. They will appear at Howell Theatre Feb. 19 to 27 and March 26 and 27 in Kimball Hall. Other tour dates around Nebraska are tentative.

The company practices about four hours each day, Bevington said.

"A dancer's work is never done," he said. "Some of these dancers go through six-hour practices. We sweat. And to sweat, you have to love what you are doing. The dancers' social life is here, in this company."

"We are a family," said Donna Schieffer, a sophomore dance major and member of the dance ensemble.

The music in the performance will be a variety of new age, jazz, experimental percussion, contemporary and progressive music.

The dance company has plans to become a part of the Lied Center for the Performing Arts when the center is complete.

"This company will be the professional wing of the Lied Center program," Bevington said. "We hope to be part of the entire program and, at that point in time, be a reputable touring group."

Performances will be at 8 tonight through Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3. Advance tickets are available from the Howell Theatre Box Office.



Courtesy of Lincoln Contemporary Dance



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Short

Mark Sanders will give the November John H. Ames Reading Series program. The reading will be at 7:30 p.m. next Thursday in the Heritage Room at Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N streets. Sanders has had almost 200 of his poems published and the author of three chapbooks. Among his most recently published works are "The Sandhills and other

Geographies; An Anthology of Nebraska Poetry" and "On Common Ground: The Poetry of William Klefkorn, Ted Kooser, Greg Kuzma and Don Welch."

The John H. Ames Reading is one of many events sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association to promote the use of the Heritage Room.



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