



Michael Weixel/Daily Nebraskan

Costumes, props add to show Ballet mixes styles

By Julie Naughton
Senior Editor

The Miami City Ballet brought classical dancing with a modern touch to the Lied Center for Performing Arts this week, with performances that combined both elements.

The ballet's Wednesday night performance allowed the company to show off its youthful, Latin-influenced style to Lincoln audiences.

The ballet's first offering was Scotch Symphony, with music by Felix Mendelssohn and choreography by the late ballet legend George Balanchine. The classical ballet, with allusions to the romantic ballets of the 19th century, was also performed by the Kirov Ballet at its Lied Center performance last fall.

The Miami City Ballet gave this act a good try, but it lacked the technical perfection offered by other ballet companies that have performed at the Lied during the past year — most notably, the Kirov Ballet. This is understandable, however, when one considers that the Miami City Ballet was not formed until 1986, making it a great deal younger than other companies that have recently performed here.

Although the dancers weren't always synchronized and didn't reach the great heights on leaps that other companies have, the dancers no doubt will mature as the company does. Dancers Maribel Modrano, Cornel Crabtree and Elizabeth Dretzin offered a pleasant interpretation of the 1952 ballet.

After a short intermission, the company began Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra

("Rubies") with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by George Balanchine. The dance spotlights a tall female and her dynamic partner, along with a female alternate and her partner. The company's eerie red and black backdrop focuses the attention on the dancers. Natalie Hauser, David Palmer and Sally Ann Isaacks gave impassioned, well-executed performances here.

While the first two acts were fairly traditional, the last act was thoroughly modern. After yet another intermission, the company began its dynamic last act.

Modern ballet proved to be the company's strong suit as the dancers gracefully whirled through 10 short pieces, ably choreographed by resident choreographer/ballet master Jimmy Gamonet De Los Heros. Most of the pieces had a definite '30s feel; old-fashioned chairs were among the props used.

The exquisite costumes, designed by Helen E. Rodgers, added a touch of elegance to the act. Men in charcoal-gray pants and suspenders danced side by side with women in light, flowing chiffon in blue, rose and peach.

Dancers Illiana Lopez, in black beaded fringe, and Franklin Gamero, in black pants, both offered solos as well as performing in four other dances apiece within the act. Both proved that they are easily among the company's most talented dancers.

The Miami City Ballet's combination of Balanchine-inspired precision, Latin flavor and modern energy made the company a pleasure to watch.

Jello shakes media, politics, satirically suggests changes

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

Jello Biafra took on society and politics with humor, satire and criticism Thursday night in the Nebraska Union, as a crowd of about 450 people laughed and cheered.

Biafra, the former singer for Dead Kennedys, spoke for three hours to a crowd that was sometimes unsure where his satire ended and a description of current political trends began.

He condemned "a society in which we are brought up to aspire to be spectators," Biafra said as he addressed music censorship, the recent war in the gulf, the ongoing war on drugs, and the role of the mass media in informing the public and instigating change.

Many of Biafra's works, including "Pledge of Allegiance" and "Die For Oil, Sucker," were familiar to those who have heard Biafra's four spoken word recordings, yet others were tailored to his Nebraska audience.

Biafra also did much improvisation, responding to comments from the audience and articles in news magazines. At one point, Biafra opened a pack of Desert Storm bubble gum cards and ridiculed their glossy view of "the world's first tabloid war, where no one dies," he said.

In the midst of his criticism, Biafra also was careful to make suggestions for constructive means of seeking change, such as voting on local ballot initiatives and actively supporting music and book stores which carry items some

might consider to be obscene.

Biafra also was critical of the mass media, claiming they only reinforce the status quo.

"Don't hate the media; become the media," he suggested. "Have a little fun each day, monkey wrenching the New World Order," said Biafra. "Protest and resistance shouldn't be a grim struggle. No, no, it should be fun."

Shortly before intermission, Biafra shifted into a less serious vein, forecasting a "Desert Storm of Islamic Speed Metal" led by the band Magnum Jihad, garbed in leather turbans adorned with spikes.

Biafra then went through a familiar list of possible band names: The Janitors of Anarchy, Anchovy Smegma, Madonna Death Cult, and The Lone Derangers.

After the intermission, Biafra's tone shifted again, as he focused on political issues with impromptu comments.

Biafra referred to his own trial on obscenity charges concerning a poster insert in the Dead Kennedys "Frankenchrist" album and gave extensive information about the continuing efforts of Tipper Gore to label and restrict music.

"Sex and love is not obscene," said Biafra. "What is obscene is intolerance."

When the Nebraska Union's midnight closing forced an end to his talk, Biafra passed around one of his shoes to take a collection for the No More Censorship Defense Fund, formed during his obscenity trial. The Fund, based in San Francisco, continues to distribute information about censorship.

Annual jazz festival to celebrate Earth Day and cultural diversity

By Andrea Christensen
Staff Reporter

The participants and planners of Jazzfest IV will be watching the skies anxiously this weekend. They're nervous because the possibility of rain would affect the annual event held outdoors at the Pinewood Bowl.

Nebraska Wesleyan University student Laura Kestner, who organized the event, said rain affected last year's turnout.

"Last year it rained and we had only one or two hundred people. We're hoping Sunday will be nicer so we have a better turnout," she said.

The festival will feature four Nebraska jazz ensembles. The 25-member Nebraska Wesleyan jazz band will open with its traditional big band sound. Then rock/jazz group Tuna Fish Jones will take the stage, to be followed by the Guliza Bros. of Omaha. The new age/jazz group Prime Time will close the festival with performances of several original pieces.

A professional stiltman from Chicago and several amateur jugglers will perform also.

"The festival should be a fun time for everyone," Kestner said. "We like to keep the festival casual so people can play frisbee or talk

with friends and have the music in the background." According to Nebraska Wesleyan student Laird Ruth, the festival is also a celebration of Earth Day.

"Jazzfest is being held the day before Earth Day, and since the city isn't doing much to celebrate, we thought we would do something special," Ruth said.

According to Ruth, there will be about a dozen environmental groups setting up booths at the festival. The energy office will be giving away free seedlings and pamphlets on how to reduce home energy costs. The Lincoln Children's Zoo will give a rap presentation on conservation and the group Recycle with Michael, which carries away recyclable materials, will set up a promotional booth.

"The theme of Earth Day is not just environmental," Ruth said. "It's about respecting different cultures and parts of our world, too. We hope our displays will help people appreciate that."

Jazzfest IV will be held Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pinewood Bowl at Pioneers Park. Admission is \$1 or a can of food for the local food bank. Frisbees will be given to the first 100 people at the festival. Cotton candy and snowcones will also be given away.

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\$3.00 per day for 15 words on individual student and student organization ads.
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Loveseat, sofa, table and chair. Must see! Best offer. Call Mike 436-8268. Leave message.

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FOR SALE: 3.5 cu. ft. refrigerator. Excellent condition, \$100. 475-7799.

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'82 Kawasaki KE 175, one owner, 1,400 miles, like new, \$500 firm. Jim 423-3810.

'81 Honda Prelude, excellent condition, very clean, 1 owner. Must see at 6720 Dudley.

'80 Firebird, Air, AM/FM Cassette, Excellent Mechanically, New Battery, Fan Belts, Muffler, Shocks, Very Clean, \$2000 obo, 438-2085 evenings.

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1987 Toyota 4Runner, red, excellent condition. Alpine stereo, 499-6867, after 6pm 786-3371. Ask for Tom.

1986 Kawasaki LTD 1100 with extras. Call 435-5536.

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How to make up to \$958 next weekend. Free details. Troyce, 3812 Normal Blvd., Ste 101, Lincoln, NE 68506.