

Dancers to combine talents with students

Performance honors four dance legends

By Andrea Christensen
Staff Reporter

Two world-class ballet dancers will take the stage with University of Nebraska-Lincoln students this week at the Howell Theatre. They will perform "And the Dance Goes On... A Tribute to Four Legends of the Dance."

dance PREVIEW

Meelis Pakri and Patricia Renzetti, the principle dancers with the Colorado Ballet Company, have been in Lincoln for the past week. Their performance will be an homage to recently deceased dancers Margot Fonteyn, Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey and Sammy Davis Jr.

The duo will perform with UNL dance students. Pakri said working with student dancers had been a pleasant experience.

"With the way the piece is choreographed," he said, "we don't have too much physical contact with the dancers. But in rehearsals there has been a lot of camaraderie."

UNL dance instructor Lisa Fusillo said that working with professional dancers was a marvellous opportunity for students.

"The students are learning what the discipline of ballet is all about," Fusillo said. "This production gives them a phenomenal opportunity to see, work with and interact with great artists."



Andy Fredrick/DN

Meelis Pakri and Patricia Renzetti rehearse Tuesday evening at Howell Theater. The pair, world-renowned artists with the Colorado Ballet, will perform "And the Dance Goes On" beginning Thursday.

See DANCE on 10



David Badders/DN

Duffy's featuring old Lincoln band tonight

Green Things to find their roots

By John Payne
Senior Editor

"God, this band started out as a complete joke," laughs Mike Keeling from his Minneapolis apartment.

Keeling, bassist and vocalist for Leafy Green Things, is recounting the Lincoln band's short history and seems genuinely pleased with the way his troupe has hunkered down in the big city. The quartet that once preached the simple virtues of "three-chord rock" hasn't abandoned its blue-collar approach. In fact, they're happy just to be able to pay the rent.

Five months ago, Keeling and his bandmates left town to peddle their wares in the Twin Cities' thriving music scene. The move brought to an end the Leafies' three-year reign as Lincoln's premiere mosh outfit, though Keeling admits they didn't really learn to play until two years ago.

"When we first started playing together, we wore dresses, or whatever, just to make it interesting because we knew how bad we were," Keeling recalls.

The Leafies hope the move to Minnesota will turn out to be the first step toward landing a recording contract.

First, though, they will return to Lincoln for a 10 p.m. show tonight at their old stomping ground, Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St. Cover charge is \$3.

Over the past five months Keeling, guitarist/vocalist Dan Boardman, guitarist Dana Mjelde and drummer Mark Munn have been busy putting together new material for a demo tape, which Keeling will send out to as many independent labels as he can dig up.

Aside from looking for a record company to take a chance on them, they are also working hard to break into a club scene that Keeling and Boardman describe as "very closed."

"Working your way into it is difficult," says Boardman of Minneapolis' live music circuit. "Especially without knowing any of the other bands. But I've got a decent relationship with some of people that do the booking (at local clubs), so I bug the

hell out of them everyday."

For a band like the Leafies, Minneapolis would seem like the perfect place to carve a niche. With an abundance of solid independent record companies, good bar bands don't go unnoticed for too long.

With that in mind, Boardman and Keeling say the band's first priority is to revamp its live set for shows coming up later this month in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"Hopefully, this show at Duffy's will give us a chance tighten up and work in some new things," he said.

Boardman and Keeling agree that relocating forced them to be more productive musicians.

"We've written more songs since we've been here than we had in a year in Lincoln," Keeling said. "We all got up here and it was like 'we're here, we better actually start doing it instead of just messing around.'"

Keeling expects to start laying down tracks for a demo in a couple of months.

See LEAFY on 10

State patrons getting 1st-rate film discount

By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

The State Theater, 1415 O St., is a second-run movie house, but second-run definitely doesn't mean second-rate.

As a second-run theater, the State shows movies that have already played in Lincoln.

This time around, however, the admission price is discounted. The State began screening second-run films last December, and according to the theater's management, it's working out well.

Manager Hai Tran said that with the \$1.75 admission price, seeing a movie at the State Theater is not only cheaper than seeing a movie at a first-run theater, it's also cheaper than renting a new release on video cassette.

"We get a lot of families coming through," Tran said. "People have caught on and they're willing to wait."

As a member of the United Artists Theatre Company, the State books films through a national booking agency in Texas which distributes films to about 3,000 screens nationwide.

Tran said the State has run most of the summer blockbusters, including "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," "Terminator 2" and "City Slickers."

The State is also showing some of the sleeper hits of the summer. "Naked Gun 2 1/2" will play through Friday, before "Hotshots" opens.

Tran said the film usually changes every week, although they may keep one film longer, depending on the response.

"We had 'Robin Hood' for four weeks, but we'll only have 'Naked Gun 2 1/2' for one," Tran said. "It just depends."

The popularity of a movie during its first run generally carries over into its second run also, Tran said. Some movies will generate a big response, others will do average business.

— 66 —
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Tran
Manager of State Theater

— 66 —

Assistant manager John Voboril agreed.

"Dances with Wolves" was pulling in 100 people per show on the weekend," Voboril explained, "so certainly the blockbusters do better."

Tran said business has been steady because of the lower ticket prices. The State has a group of regular patrons who call about each new show and come every week, he said.

In addition, Tran said, the State's customer market has expanded.

Tran explained that before switching to the second-run format, the theater ran mainly horror films, which brought in primarily a college-age audience.

Chris Moore, a Lincoln deliveryman arriving despite the cold for a screening of "Naked Gun 2 1/2," said he comes to the State mostly for the movies they show, "but the price is good too."

"Nowadays," Moore said, "\$1.75 is a lot better than \$3 or \$5 dollars."

Cheryl Barnhill, a freshman business major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, agreed. She said that given admission prices and the cost of concessions, she is willing to wait for a movie to come to a second-run theater.

Tran stressed that being a second-run movie house in no way detracts from the quality of the motion pictures shown at the State.

"We're still showing quality pictures," Tran said. "It's a good concept and it's about time Lincoln had the dollar house."