

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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No time to whine, dance instructor says

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Tacked on a cork board outside Anita Lemon's office is a sign that reads "Don't Complain. Don't Explain. Just Do It." Inside her office, a big "No Whining" stares from her desk.

For Lemon, a visiting dance artist, the signs serve as personal logos.

"I'm one that believes the second you cross the door of the studio, you have to leave everything else behind you," she said. "The time you spend with the dancers is important."

In 90 minutes of class, the outside problems can't be changed, she said. Sometimes, Lemon wears her pin to class and points to it when her students start complaining.

Lemon, who has traveled extensively in the United States and Europe, said she had been relocated many times while working with companies and maintaining her solo repertoire.

She juggles these responsibilities with her duties to her husband in Utah and her son in Texas.

"We do a three-state commute," she said. "If I whine, I could make myself crazy. I can't permit myself to worry."

"I love what I do. I love working with dancers."

She said that while she enjoyed her work with professional dancers, she particularly loved working with young dancers, because she could teach, guide and expose them to new skills and ideas.

Lemon said she noticed that in a university setting, dance students were studying, dancing and often working two jobs. She said in a physically demanding field such as dance, students needed help getting through this experience.

This means again — of course — no whining.

While teaching, Lemon said she didn't want her students to think she had all the answers.

"I vomit out my guts and tell them everything I learned from square one," she said. "I want them



Anita Lemon, center, teaches a jazz dance class on Tuesday afternoon in Mabel Lee Hall.

Gerik Parmele/DN

to grow. I don't want them to be dependent on me to where they can't operate without me."

Lemon is teaching and choreographing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during the fall semester. She is teaching two jazz classes, a modern technique class and a dance composition class, and she is choreographing part of the UNL dance department's fall concert "In Motion."

cert "In Motion."

Lemon said she considered herself a modern dancer and a modern choreographer. She choreographed and performed a new piece in January called "Postcards."

Lemon began as a ballet dancer in Houston when a modern dancer, Roberta Stokes, approached her and asked her to join her new company. Lemon was hesitant at first, but she

soon gave in to the offer.

"It was the first time I had exposure. I was finding out about a dance form and I was learning to do it and contributing creatively to it," she said.

After her first experience with modern dance, she saw the Bella Lewitzky dance company perform and said, "That's what I want to do. I want to study like that."

This was about the same time dancer Amy Ernst joined the Lewitzky team. Ernst is now an assistant dance professor at UNL. When Dr. Lisa Fusillo, dance department director, called Lemon and asked her to come to UNL, Lemon said she was thrilled to discover that Ernst would be there too.

See LEMON on 10

'Nightmare Before Christmas' and 'The Wall' worth renting

By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

It's an incredibly average week for new releases; one great flick came out yesterday, and two bad ones hit the shelves today. This week's pick of the week is NOT for the straightforward, obvious-plot-line moviegoer.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" (PG) — The brainchild of Tim Burton ("Edward Scissorhands," the upcoming "Ed Wood") tells the tale of Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king of Halloweentown. Jack finds out about Christmasland and decides to take over by kidnapping Santa Claus.

The entire movie is done in stop-motion animation, and seeing it on the small screen doesn't take away

from either the magic or music that the film provides. The very young might be a bit frightened by "The Nightmare Before Christmas," but it still is a good film for young and old.

"Surviving The Game" (R) — Blech!! This film did for action-adventure flicks what the baseball strike did for the World Series.

Ice-T ("New Jack City," "Trespass") stars as a homeless man who is hired to be a hunting guide but ends up as the human prey for a group of ruthless hunters led by Rutger Hauer.

No action, no suspense. Just a whole lot of nothing.

"Bad Girls" (R) — An all-star cast (Mary Stuart Masterson, Madeleine Stowe, Andie MacDowell and more) with an all-crap result.

It is the time of the Old West. Four women are fighting for the right to own land, and they are willing to kill other people to get what they want.

It could have been done better.

PICK OF THE WEEK — It's bizarre; it's weird; it's a trip. It's "Pink Floyd: The Wall."

Bob Geldof stars as Pink, a guitar player who is, shall we say, psychologically disillusioned. The audience gets to see what is going through Pink's head.

We've got faceless kids falling into a meat grinder, goose-stepping hammers, and an eagle that turns into a mountain top.

It's an incredible movie, both visually and musically, but leave the NyQuil in the medicine cabinet.

People Watch

School to hold Burns' work

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Why did Ken Burns give the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill mounds of papers and miles of tape from his documentary projects?

"We asked," said David Moltke-Hansen, director of the school's Southern Historical Collection.

"I'm sure he also recognized that we're a major repository for many of the subjects he's pursued

— notably the Civil War."

Burns gave the school the complete working papers and footage from eight of his projects, including the acclaimed Public Broadcasting Service series "The Civil War." Nothing from his current PBS series, "Baseball," was included.

Burns donated the collection last fall, but the university didn't announce it until Tuesday.

Garbo's life inspires Nicks

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Stevie Nicks has often felt that Greta Garbo desire to be alone. On her latest album, Nicks wrote the song "Greta" just for her.

"I have often thought, maybe I'll just go paint, or maybe I'll go and write that book that everybody wants me to write about my life, or maybe I'll just go do some-

thing else really creative for a while, and I have never been able to quite do that," said Nicks, who made her name with Fleetwood Mac.

"So I've always been fascinated to know why. What drove her away?"

The song is on the album "Street Angel."