



TWO MEMBERS of the Oberlin Dance Company put on a performance for a group of University Foundations students Tuesday afternoon at the Johnny Carson Theater. The dance company from San Francisco will have a dance concert at the Lied Center on Nov. 7. MATT MILLER/DN

Teachers in motion

Troupe brings modern dance to the classroom

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

The Oberlin Dance Company of San Francisco, also known as the ODC/SF, brought its combination of modern dance and teaching techniques to Lincoln this week.

ODC performed four times in the past two weeks for local elementary and middle schools and for freshman foundation classes. They will be performing for the general public Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

They will also do a special premiere performance this weekend of a new show (that won't be ready for another year) at the Wagon Train Project, 512 S. 7th St.

Founded in 1971 by artistic director Brenda Way at Oberlin College in Ohio, the group relocated to the Bay Area in 1976 as a contemporary dance outfit.

"We call ourselves contemporary — people have this weird image of what modern dance is," Way said. "They come up to us afterwards

and say, 'Was that modern?! That was really neat!' So we just call ourselves contemporary. It gets rid of that problem."

The 11-member troupe fuses post-modern dance with narrative structure, so that each performance is in a sense telling a story.

"I'm interested in the narrative of human dance," Way said. "The narrative is open in dance — you can be that guy you'd never be."

ODC's visits are sponsored by Arts Are Basic, an aesthetic outreach program in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

The group came to UNL last year to perform for the freshman University Foundation classes, and is back because of the overwhelming response, said Jim McShane, director of the University Foundations program.

"There are several things I found useful about their performance," he said. "They're very good at bridging gaps."

Way said the University Foundations classes are something new for her, as well.

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"It's extremely interesting," Way said of the foundation classes. "You're very seldom in a room with 200 people who aren't there of their free will."

ODC engages their audiences by various methods of teaching they incorporate into the classroom demonstrations. For example, McShane said, the dancers take gestures offered by students and turn them into a dance.

"They take movements that are relevant to students and turn them into a dance," he said.

They also give a history of the dance and of their performances, explaining where the ideas come from — be it the ballet, basketball or the kitchen.

Way hopes that people come away from the performances feeling invigorated by the experience.

"I hope they're connected by the feeling of people moving," she said. "I hope they think, I hope they feel (and) reflect."

"Engagement. That's my goal."

Rivalries force AOL to alter fees

NEW YORK (AP) — America Online introduced a flat-rate pricing plan for its online computer service Tuesday in its most aggressive response to the growing competitive threat of the Internet and rival online services.

The nation's largest online service also shook up its corporate structure, creating three separate divisions and naming the chief executive of Century 21 Real Estate to head its core online service.

America Online stock initially shot up more than 5 percent on the news, but erased the gains amid a broader market retreat. It was trading unchanged at \$24.62 1/2 at late morning on the New York Stock Exchange. Investors have been waiting for the nation's largest online service to forcefully acknowledge the intense threat to its business.

The company has previously warned it is having trouble keeping

subscribers and that its financial condition could be hurt by growing competition from rivals offering unlimited use of the Internet for a single fee.

Robert Pittman, the new head of the AOL Networks online service division, formerly headed up MTV Networks and is credited with coining the phrase, "I want my MTV."

AOL will encourage its customers to browse the Internet using the Microsoft Internet Explorer. Ironically, Microsoft is one of the company's biggest online competitors with its own Microsoft Network.

The America Online pricing plan matches the Microsoft Network's rate of a flat \$19.95 a month for unlimited use. Earlier this month, America Online offered the same rate but for only 20 hours' use, tacking on \$2.95 for each additional hour users spent online. Other Internet access providers also offer unlimited use for \$19.95 a month.

A second AOL plan, costing \$9.95 per month, offers unlimited access to AOL's own features for people with their own Internet access, at work for example. A third plan, for \$4.95 per month, offers three hours of AOL usage per month, with each additional hour at \$2.50.

MSN has rapidly grown to 1.6 million subscribers, making it the third-largest online service behind America Online with 7 million members, and CompuServe, with 4 million.

Pittman is no stranger to increasing recognition of famous brand names. In his most recent job at Century 21, he changed the way the real estate business promoted itself.

Referring to the phrase he coined at MTV, Pittman said he plans to "leverage the powerful AOL brand, unmatched ease of use, unique features, and competitive price to get millions of people around the globe to say 'I Need My AOL.'"

Opera Omaha celebrates arts

The Lincoln Arts Council is celebrating National Arts and Humanities month by bringing Opera Omaha to Lincoln.

Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte (The School for Lovers)" appears tonight in the Lincoln Northeast High School Auditorium, 2635 N. 63rd St.

Opera Omaha has also previewed this production in Blair, Crete, Scottsbluff and Columbus. The performance opens in Omaha Nov. 13 at the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center.

Tonight's 7 p.m. performance, a comedy based on mistaken identities, is in English.

Margaret Barry, executive director of the Lincoln Arts Council, said attending the opera is a wonderful opportunity for the people of Lincoln.

"The Lincoln Arts Council is de-

lighted that Opera Omaha invited us to partner with them in bringing this event to Lincoln during National Arts and Humanities month," Barry said in a press release. "What a great way to celebrate arts in our community."

Opera Omaha's Hal France and Peter Clogg, resident music director, accompany the full-scale production.

France, the artistic director and principal conductor gives a pre-performance talk at 6:15.

General admission tickets are \$8 and \$4 for students. To order tickets, call the Lincoln Arts Council at 434-ARTS (2787).

Ticket-sale proceeds go toward events produced by Lincoln arts organizations during the 1996-97 performance season.

—Emily Wray

Group brings funk, rap to Omaha

It's almost time to get hectic.

Phunk Junkeez, a band from Los Angeles, is headlining a concert at Sokol Hall in Omaha tonight. The six members of the band blend funk and rap into such songs as "Me and Yer Girl," a song featuring the talents of guitarist Jeff O'Rourke and the "lyrical nuisance," Soulman.

The Urge, a band from St. Louis, will be playing with Phunk Junkeez. The Urge is no stranger to Omaha — they will be playing for the fourth time in the city since March. They have per-

formed in Omaha this year with such bands as 311, No Doubt, Jimmy Skaffa and Grasshopper Takeover.

The band blends heavy metal guitar with two trombones and a saxophone. Mainstream listeners are catching onto this ska style, which is a form of jazz and calypso dance music characterized by saxophones, brass and a heavy offbeat.

Tickets cost \$12.75, plus a \$2.25 Ticketmaster charge. The show starts at 8 p.m.; the doors open at 7.

—Patrick Miner

N.Y. mayor accused of TV favoritism

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The city began airing the Bloomberg News Service on one of its channels and announced it would add Fox News Channel to public access. Cote ordered a temporary stop to the action 17 days ago. This morning, city lawyer Lorna

Goodman asked Cote to reject comments in a Time Warner affidavit that Murdoch was a supporter of Giuliani and was "calling in his chits" when he asked the mayor to help.

Giuliani has said he wants Fox and Bloomberg on the air in New York because the companies would

provide hundreds of jobs for New Yorkers.

Time Warner has accused the administration of backing Fox as a political payoff for the 1993 endorsement of Giuliani's candidacy by the Murdoch-owned New York Post.