

Dance concert to feature regional choreographers

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior Reporter

It may be the most important event for regional modern dance in Nebraska.

On Friday and Saturday, the Omaha Modern Dance Collective will present its fourth annual "Nebraska Dancing" concert, featuring choreographers from Nebraska and New York.

Taffy Howard, the dance group's director, hopes changes in the show will draw a more diverse crowd.

"We hope this year's concert will be even bigger and better than last year's," Howard said. "We have a new category for the 'Emerging Choreographer,' and we hope that will draw a younger audience."

OMDC began in 1981 when a number of area choreographers realized the lack of performance opportunities for new choreography. The artists organized a group, applied for grants and began teaching classes. They also started "Showcase," the forerunner to "Nebraska Dancing."

Five years ago, Howard took over as the group's director and changed the concert's name. To increase the quality and range of the choreography performed, collective hired adjudicators to judge the submitted pieces.

This year's judges included two Iowa State professors and the director of the Nebraska Theatre Caravan, judging 21 works from choreographers across the state.

This weekend's concert will feature the choreography of University of Nebraska-Lincoln dance professor Charlotte Adams and theater graduate Lisa Mercer. UNL students Jude Hickey, Carrie Orsi and Rena Armendariz will be featured dancers in the program.

Adams, whose choreography was

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CHARLOTTE ADAMS
UNL dance professor

also featured in last year's concert, said the opportunity is an honor.

"Choreographers like to get their work performed, but they have to pay for the performance space and the publicity," she said.

"It's hard to mount a production on your own. OMDC does the publicity, gives you the space, finds you a lighting designer and a set person. You don't have to deal with all those other headaches."

Adams will perform in her own piece, "One More Time," with her longtime friend and dance partner Thom Lewis. Set to Mozart's "Eine Klein Nachtmusik," the piece deals with two rambunctious friends during a dance rehearsal.

Mercer and Hickey will perform Mercer's piece, "Chairs," without music. She suggested the piece for Hickey after working with him during a UNL Theatrical production. They performed it last spring at Project One, a formal student cabaret production. In July the two traveled to Omaha to audition for adjudicators.

"It was very humid and our chairs kept sticking to the floor," Hickey said. "It was kind of scary, but as we continued, you could feel the reaction from the audience. I knew almost instantly that we had it."

"Chairs" deals with the destructive nature into which a relationship can progress. It depicts the games

people play and the struggle for control and status.

"It's about the power of silence," Hickey said. "You don't have to focus on your mouth and your face."

The guest performances are "Ordinary Festivals," by Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig, and "Climbing Blue Girl," by former Creighton University dancer Kelly Holcombe.

"Ordinary Festivals" was first produced as a collaborative effort with OMDC, University of Nebraska-Omaha's The Moving Company and Lincoln's Wagon Train Project. Local dancers, chosen in an open audition this summer, will perform the piece to Italian folk music.

Holcombe performed her solo last March at a concert for the Creighton dancers. A graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts, Holcombe has presented her work at New York's Jacob's Pillow and Performance Space 122 and the Philadelphia Art Museum.

"Nebraska Dancing" begins at 8 p.m. in the Lied Education Center for the Arts at the Creighton University campus in Omaha.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission; \$8 for seniors and students; and \$6 for OMDC members. Howard recommends making reservations by calling OMDC at 402-551-7473

Networks won't run 'Voyager'

Star Trek fans may have to go without new shows

BY BRAD PARDEE
Staff Reporter

Like its three predecessors, "Star Trek: Voyager" has won dedicated fans that few shows can hope for. To the dismay of those fans, Voyager may not be beaming down to Lincoln in the coming season.

Unlike "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Voyager" wasn't syndicated. Instead, it was part of the fledgling UPN network lineup. In the past, UPN broadcasting was carried on Omaha's Fox network affiliate,

KPTM Channel 42, and was relayed by Lincoln Cablevision on Channel 9.

However, according to a KPTM spokesman, this year the station could not carry both UPN and Fox programming. For Omaha residents, Cox Cable's O2TV will pick up the slack. O2TV is an Omaha channel that carries local and some syndicated programs.

Lincoln residents may or may not be so lucky. Pappas Broadcasting, KPTM's owner, is bidding on one of two upcoming Lincoln UHF channels. If the company secures the bandwidth, Pappas will create a sister station to KPTM that would carry

"Voyager." Lincoln's two current television stations - KOLN/KGIN Channel 10/11 and KLKN Channel 8 - have no plans to run the show.

Presently, Lincoln residents can use an antenna to pick up "Voyager" from Grand Island's KTVG, Channel 22. However, recent reports indicate that KTVG won't carry UPN programming after Jan. 1, at which time Lincoln fans of "Voyager" will have to either travel to Omaha or trade tapes with people there.

Otherwise, they'll have to boldly do what no Trek fan has done before - do without.

East Park 3 to see improvements

BY GERRY BELTZ
Assignment Reporter

Nope, nobody's going out of business. In fact, things are just starting to change.

Although the East Park 3 Theatre, 66th and O streets, is closed Monday through Thursday, it is a sign of growth for Douglas Theatre Company.

The East Park 3 will be expanding to six screens by Thanksgiving, said Doug Kinney, Douglas' city manager. The three new auditoriums should be up and running by Friday.

"That's what we're hoping for," Kinney said, "with all fingers crossed."

The only immediate changes will be in the three new auditoriums, which will feature high-backed seats in a stadium-seating arrangement, larger screens and updated sound systems, he said.

"We will have SDDS (Sony Dynamic Digital Sound), DTS (Digital Theater Sound) and DD (Dolby Digital) sound systems in the new auditoriums," Kinney said.

With the three new auditoriums up and running, the original three will be demolished and rebuilt, along with a new snack bar and lobby.

But these new arrivals won't be up and running until the end of November.

"The only new arrivals right now are the three new auditoriums,"

Kinney said.

"When everything opens in November, there will be computerized ticket sales, new concession items and, of course, cup holders built into the seats," he said.

Computerized ticket sales will allow ticket buyers to purchase advance tickets during open box-office hours, and one of the new concession items will be hot dogs, he said.

"We're planning on experimenting with some new concessions items, but this will be the only theater in Lincoln with hot dogs at the snack bar," Kinney said.

Expansion plans have been in the

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Natty Nation

Wed., Sept. 10 - Natty Nation

Thurs., Sept. 11 - from Minneapolis Groove Union Outstanding Funk

Fri., Sat., Sept. 12-13
Charlie Burton and The Texas Twelve Steppers
w/special guests: The Heartmurmurs

The Zoo Bar, 136 No. 14th Street

Women's Studies International Colloquium Series

Christina Brantner
Associate Professor of German

*On the Autobahn to the Middle Ages?
Women's Issues in (Re)Unified Germany*

3:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, City Union

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On Friday, September 12, meet these University of Nebraska Press storytellers who will read from and sign their new books.

Susanne K. George, <i>Kate M. Cleary</i>	10 am reading
William Kloefkorn, <i>This Death By Drowning</i>	11:30 am reading
Oyekan Owomoyela, <i>Yoruba Trickster Tales</i>	1 pm reading

These books not included in the sale.



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