

Guest artist shows UNL dance program new steps

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

With soft-spoken grace, Ellen Mills Young asked the five dancers to listen to Mozart's Symphony No. 33 on the CD player.

As the first few crystalline notes filled the room, Young and the dancers began to stretch, preparing for the choreographic process to come.

After two hours of intense pointe-work and lightning-paced learning, the dancers had the beginning to a classical ballet piece choreographed by Young.

Young is here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this week as a guest artist in the dance program. On Monday, she began choreographing a piece for five UNL dance majors to perform in the Spring Dance Concert this March. In addition to this work, she has been teaching ballet classes and has lectured in Introduction to Dance.

Lisa Fusillo, a dance professor at UNL, said Young's work in the program will help students realize a professional career is not out of range for a college-level student.

"There is, particularly in ballet, the



RYAN SODERLIND/DN

ELLEN MILLS YOUNG (right) instructs five dancers who auditioned to perform a short classical ballet for this spring. Young, who came from New York, is a visiting artist at UNL.

perception that you have to train young and go to professional schools to have a career in ballet. And for the most part, that's true," Fusillo said.

However, Fusillo added, schools exist all over the United States that offer

professional training in ballet. It is possible for someone who did not study at the American School of Ballet to have a professional career, Fusillo said.

"(Young) has had some unusual experiences in unusual places. The won-

derful experiences and adventure in her life can help the students understand that these sort of things are possible," Fusillo said.

Young is actually a former student of Fusillo, having studied under her at Texas Christian University in the mid-1980s. After graduating from TCU, Young, a Kansas native, studied as an exchange student in Paris. She then moved to New York City where she danced with a number of companies.

Young recently founded her own New York dance company called beyond ballet, which presents contemporary ballet pieces.

After working with the dancers on Monday night, Young said she was excited to choreograph for young dancers who have yet to define their boundaries.

Young said she was used to collaborating with older dancers who have more experience and knowledge about their capabilities - sometimes too much.

"It's refreshing to work with dancers who are willing to try new things," she said.

Dance majors chosen to perform in this piece for the Spring Dance Concert

are freshman Sarah Harris, sophomore Megan Dant, junior Megan DeBoer, and seniors Kevin Gibbs and Corbin Popp.

After working with Young for two hours on Monday night, the dancers said the process moved more quickly than usual.

"She seemed to know exactly what she wanted," Dant said.

While Young had definitive ideas about the structure of the set, she was open to suggestions from the dancers.

"I try to choreograph so they feel comfortable with the movement," Young said.

Once the dancers have the choreography down, Young said she would work on their timing and execution.

"The hardest part is getting the feel of the music when you're more worried about the steps," Young said.

Despite the time pressures involved with learning Young's choreography, the dancers said they relished the chance to work with a guest artist.

"You get to see a different perspective and have a different role model. Just by attending a class with a different teacher, you see new aspects of dancing," Popp said.

New Releases

unexceptional and frequently inconsistent guitar work of the front man himself, Dave Matthews.

Perhaps that is why the band brought Tim Reynolds into the mix. Reynolds is a remarkably deft guitarist, and he has showcased his talents on each of the DMB studio albums. Thankfully, he accompanies Matthews on "Live at Luther College."

This two-disc album is simply Matthews and Reynolds strumming away at some of the DMB's biggest hits, including "Satellite," "Ants Marching" and "Crash Into Me," along with 20 others. The album was recorded from a Feb. 6, 1996, show, so most of the songs are from the band's first three albums, "Remember Two Things," "Under the Table and Dreaming" and "Crash."

To make up for the absence of the other band members, Matthews vocally improvises the parts of saxophonist

Leroi Moore and violinist Boyd Tinsley. Reynolds goes past the recorded versions of the songs and frequently adds new rhythms, such as on the tracks "Warehouse" and "Dancing Nancies."

While the bareness of the songs and skill of Reynolds are interesting at first, listeners will be strained to listen to the entire two-hour performance at once. For non-fanatics, getting through both discs will be nothing short of a chore.

Matthews and Reynolds will be heading out this summer on a tour that should be very similar to "Live at Luther College," except it will feature some more recent songs. East Coast dates have been announced, with the rest of the shows to be confirmed soon.

Of course, it is a Dave Matthews concert, so fans should not be too surprised by what they will see. Especially with the release of "Live at Luther College," fans can prepare now for yet another dragged-out Dave Matthews performance with a lot of babbling between songs.

- Patrick Miner

DAVE MATTHEWS
TIM REYNOLDS

Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds
"Live at Luther College"
Bama Rags/RCA Records
Grade: B

As most people who have seen a Dave Matthews Band concert can attest, the best part of the show is the inspired work of drummer Carter Beauford and bassist Steffan Lessard.

Without this superior rhythm section, fans would only have the often



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Jabali Afrika

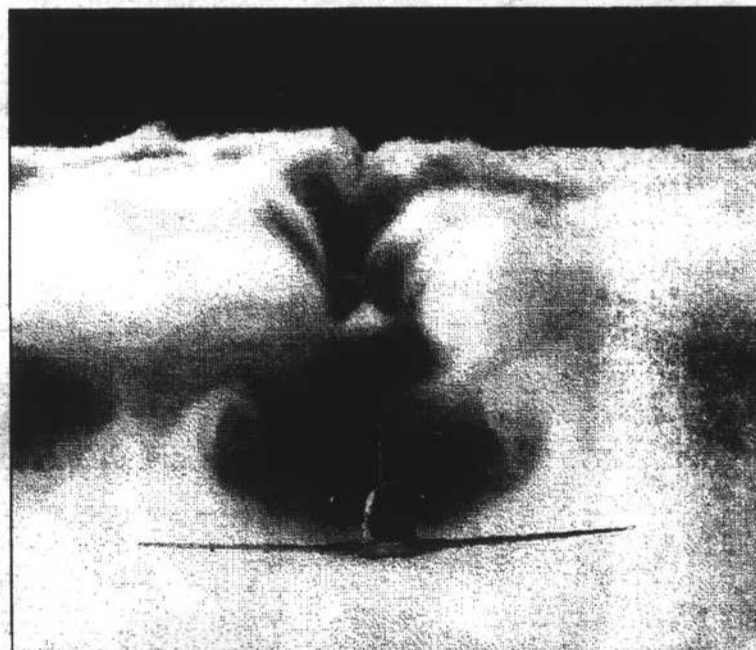
January 28, 1999
NE Union Ballroom
8:00 p.m.
Free Admission

Biography

Jabali Afrika originates from East Africa's Kenya. They have toured Japan and Europe extensively and recently have made their way to the United States. They've played in such acts as African Heritage Festival Tour, Horde Festival, and Marley Magic Tour in honor of the late Bob Marley. They've also appeared on Good Morning America and BBC broadcasts. Jabali Afrika is definitely on a journey to success, using their sounds to hopefully influence future generations of musicians. The band has released two CD's in Europe and most recently, a third CD entitled Journey in the United States.



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