

The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief guide to weekend events. Please call venues for more information.

CONCERTS:

Duffy's, 1412 O St.
Sunday: Plum, Picknee

Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.
Friday: Lost Cozz
Saturday: No Halos

Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Friday: The Feds, Pho
Saturday: Deadbolt, Black Light Sunshine, Fullblown

The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Hwy.
Friday and Saturday: Rockin' Fossils

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.
Friday and Saturday: Baby Jason and the Spankers

THEATER:

Blue Barn Theatre, 614 S. 11th St., Omaha
All weekend: "Simpatico"

Howell Theater, Temple Building
Friday: Nebraska Masquers One-Act Play Festival

Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th and R streets
Friday: Danny Grossman Dance Co.

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets
Sunday: "The Inheritors"

GALLERIES:

Burkholder Project, 719 P St.
Friday and Saturday: "Collaborations," featuring textile art and photographs by Robert Hillestad and John Nollendorfs

Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: Works by Nebraska Art Council 1998 Artist Fellowship winners

Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St., Suite A
Friday and Saturday: Abstract paintings by Lana Miller

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., Omaha
All weekend: "Searching for Ancient Egypt"

Lentz Center, Morrill Hall Room 329
Saturday: Ikebana demonstration

Nebraska Union Gallery, 1400 R St.
Friday: MFA Thesis Exhibition I opening

Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.
Friday and Saturday: horse pins and paintings by Janna Harsch, metal sculpture by Michael Fluent, oil landscapes by Keith Lowry and blown glass by Ray Schultz

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
All weekend: "Fletcher Benton: New Constructivism," "New York School Installation"



Focus on the Festival

A week-long look at highlights of the Great Plains Music and Dance Festival and Symposium

the great plains music & dance festival



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES
THE LIED CENTER for Performing Arts has commissioned an original work from the **Danny Grossman Dance Company**, a professional modern dance troupe from Toronto. The group will be performing a piece from a Nebraska choreographer.

Toronto troupe graces stage with two Midwest dances

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

A Toronto dance troupe has become the repository for two Midwest-related dances.

The Danny Grossman Dance Company will present two works related to the Great Plains region during its performance at the Lied

Center for Performing Arts tonight.

The first work, "Chasing Bird," was commissioned by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Great Plains Studies as a part of the Great Plains Music and Dance Festival.

Organized by the center, the festival celebrates the culture of the Great Plains through a series of performances and scholarly discussions.

When preparation for the festival began two years ago, the planners knew they wanted to commission a new piece, said Randall Snyder, one of the festival's co-chairmen. For the planners, advocating new works was as important as preserving old ones.

The center was able to commission the piece with assistance from the UNL chancellor's office.

The center chose Grossman's company because it has a piece by a Nebraska choreographer in its repertoire.

After the company was chosen, Grossman and planners discussed which Midwestern musician's work he would use.

Charlie Parker, a Kansas City, Mo., jazz musician whom Grossman had choreographed to before, seemed an obvious choice to both the planners and Grossman.

"I always wanted to return to (his music) with a different idea," Grossman said.

In "Chasing Bird," Grossman turned his dancers into physical embodiments of Parker's music. Each dancer represents an instrument, such as the piano, bass and drum, and performs dance movements indicative of the instruments' musical phrases.

Pamela Grundy, a Grossman

Please see **TROUPE** on 12

Nebraska choreographer honored in weekend show

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

In 1919, a young man by the name of Charles Weidman witnessed the lynching of William Brown, a black man in Omaha.

Almost 20 years later, Weidman returned to his feelings of horror over the incident when choreographing a modern dance piece.

The piece, "Lynchtown," has become Weidman's most revived work. Tonight, the Danny Grossman Dance Company brings "Lynchtown" back to Nebraska in a performance at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Weidman will also be a topic of discussion at the Great Plains Music and Dance Symposium today.

The two events offer a chance to reflect on the contributions of Weidman, a Lincoln native and a pioneer in modern dance.

"After Ted Shawn, he was the first American male dancer in the 20th century to

achieve a stature of renown," said Lisa Fusillo, who will participate in the panel discussion on Weidman.

Charles Edward Weidman Jr. was born in Lincoln in 1904 and began his childhood dance studies here.

In 1920, he moved to Los Angeles to study at the Denishawn School with modern dance forerunners Ted Shawn and Ruth St. Denis.

There, he focused on the western interpretation of Asian and Latin dances and met his lifelong dance partner, Doris Humphrey.

Weidman and Humphrey went on to develop their own styles of movement, expanding on the burgeoning bud of modern dance.

"I find him rhythmically superior to the other choreographers of his era," said Carol Mezzacappa, who has mounted several revivals of Weidman's works. "His works are very sculpted."

Weidman also brought a sense of humor to

Please see **WEIDMAN** on 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEE HUGHES

NEBRASKA CHOREOGRAPHER Charles Weidman made a name for himself with the creation of the piece "Lynchtown," based on the 1919 Omaha lynching. Weidman (left) appears here with sculptor Mikhail Sautoro in the modern dance piece "To Make a Form to Give it Life."