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University of Southern Maine
Department ot Theatre

Dance Festival

Moving Ideas

directed by Nancy Salmon

7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday
February 17 and 18, 1994
Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus

PROGRAM

"Unbalanced Load"
Music by J.S. Bach
Choreographer: *Mary Ellen Schaper*
Dancers:
Phoebe Parker, Christopher Sias, Ryan McNally, Hope Matthews, Orion Cooper, Mary Ellen Schaper, Elaine McCarthy, Katy Tighe, Dena Kostka, Sara Cashman, Jenn Basford, Ada Jean Hendren Ivy Wilkinson-Ryan, Will Kilroy
Lighting Designer: *John P. Gagnon*

"Who's Paying Attention?"
Music by Suzanne Vega
Choreographer/Dancer: *Jo Coty*
Lighting and Costume Designer: *Rene Renner*

"Ritual"
Choreographer: *Will Kilroy*
Dancers:
Celeste Dutil, Jen Boisard Alison Lowe, Courtney Porter
Lighting Designer: *John P. Gagnon*

"Part of Loving is Letting Go"
Music by George Crumb
Choreographers/Dancers:
Mary Evans, Jennifer Evans
Lighting Designer: *Patrick Kelly*

" "
Music by Harold Budd
Choreographer/Dancer: *David Pearson*
Lighting Designer: *Patrick Kelly*

INTERMISSION

"Reunion"
Music by The Waverly Consort,
The Bulgarian Women's Ensemble and Gloria Levy
Choreographer: *Josie Conte*
Dancers:
Laurel Piccone, Tanya Hyssong, Celeste Dutil, Josie Conte, Lucille Dionne, Elaine O'Reilly, Mary Ellen Schaper, Jo Coty
Lighting Designer: *Jamie Grant*
Costume Designer: *Josie Conte*

"Clear Distortions"
Music by The Doors
Choreographer/Dancer: *Melissa Endo*
Lighting Designer: *Patrick Kelly*

"Sisters of the Sun"
Music by Hugh Masakela
Poem by Naomi Madgett
Choreographer/Dancer: *Odette Versailles*
Lighting Designer: *John P. Gagnon*

"Dances with Chairs"
Music by Jean-Luc Ponty, Bobby McFerrin and Yo Yo Ma
Choreographer: *Nancy Salmon*
Dancers:
Melissa Endo, Fred Fauver, Christenia Kinne, Gina Martini, Christopher Sias, Nancy Salmon
Lighting Designer: *John P. Gagnon*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Dance is a part of every human society. In many cultures birth, death, weddings, and coming of age are celebrated with dance. Everywhere dance is a social activity, an expression of popular culture, a definition of community, a celebration of life. Dances on tonight's program are choreographed and performed by both students and professionals. They are based in several cultural traditions including African, Middle Eastern and Western European yet all have in common an American modern dance heritage. This heritage is now 100 years old and has as its foundation the notion of individual creative spirit. The dances may bring you joy, make you giggle, change your perspective, touch sadness in your memory. A particular dance may be inspired by music, an idea, sense of community, or emotional conflict. Each is the vision of its choreographer(s). In tonight's program each dance is complete and does not build on the previous offering. However, taken together, these dances demonstrate the rich cultural heritage of USM and Maine, the United States and our world.

Technical/Design/Crew

Artistic Director: *Nancy Salmon*
Assistant to Director: *Judith Sands*
Technical Director: *Patrick Kelly*
Lighting Coordinator: *John P. Gagnon*
Costume Coordinator: *Katherine Rodman*
Light Board Operators: *John P. Gagnon, Guy Durichek*
Sound Board Operator: *Artur Kaptelinin*
Assistant Stage Managers: *Carey Stokes, Cindy Roberts*
Wardrobe Coordinators: *Madigan McGillicuddy, Allen Thomas*
Running Crew: *Ken Knight*
Theatre Department Costumiere: *Christenia Kinne*
Publicity/Box office: *Mary Snell, Sarah Fortin*
Poster design: *Camille Buch, USM Publications*
Theatre Department Administrative Assistant: *Marjorie Novel*

Biographies of the Choreographers

Odette Versailles is a sophomore and a theatre major. Her dance is in celebration of African womanhood and of Black History month. Though we are of many different cultures and races, we are all sisters and brothers of the sun.

Mary Ellen Schaper teachers dance and movement in MSAD #6, at the University School for Gifted, Talented, and Creative Youth, and at the Bates Dance and Movement Institute. She was an assistant to New York choreographer, Stephan Koplowitz, during his Portland residency which culminated in a large site specific performance piece at the Portland Museum of Art. Mary Ellen has had extensive laundromat experience.

Melissa Endo, originally from California, has been living in Portland for the past 18 months. She takes classes at Ram Island Dance Center and danced with the Stephan Koplowitz ensemble at the Portland Museum of Art last fall. This is her second year performing in the USM Dance Festival. She plans to attend the Bates Dance Festival this summer.

Jo Coty is an art education major at USM. She has danced for the past 15 years, concentrating her studies mostly in ballet.

Mary Evans is a sophomore at USM with a double major in English and theatre. She appreciates this opportunity to explore her relationship with her daughter, Jennifer, through dance.

Josie Conte has been studying and performing world dance since age 4. She holds a B. A. in Dance from SUNY, Brockport. After 10 years of concert performances in NYC she moved to Maine 15 months ago. Josie performs with Perennial Effects Dance Collective and is Artistic Director of The Eternal Crescent, a women's belly dance collaborative.

Will Kilroy, assistant professor of theater at USM, previously taught at Santa Monica College in California, and was a member of the Michael Chekhov Drama Group and the Hollywood Directors Lab. Active in summer theatre for the past 15 years, Will has directed productions ranging from Nunsense at Maine's Strawflower Theatre to Look Back in Anger in Venice, CA. He has performed at New York's West Bank Theatre, in the Hollywood premiere of Hotel Universe, in commercials, in the daytime serials All My Children and As the World Turns, and locally with Mad Horse Theatre and Shenanigans Productions, where he's also directed. Will received a faculty scholarship to the Kennedy Center in Washington, has studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art and National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York, and holds theatre degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Illinois.

Director **Nancy Salmon** is a dancer/choreographer/dance educator who has lived in Maine since 1979. She has a MFA from the Tisch School of Performing Arts at NYU and danced in NYC for the 10 years previous to moving to Maine. Ms. Salmon has directed the dance program in the Theatre Department at USM for 11 years where she teaches part time, choreographs musical theater productions and directs the annual USM Dance Festival. She administers the Arts in Education Program at the Maine Arts Commision. She lives in South Freeport with her husband, David Webster, and cat, Shekeepa.