Programs 1997-1998 Season

Spring 2-1998

Dance USM! Program [1998]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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The University of Southern Maine
Department of Theatre
presents

Dance USM!
directed by Emily Ojala

Main Stage, Russell Hall, USM Gorham
7:30 p.m. February 12 & 13, 1998
Director's Notes

Welcome to Dance USM. This year's program is made up of a wide variety of dance styles and forms. Each dance presented this evening is made by a different choreographer with specific training, ideas, style and intent unique from the others. The common theme that links them is the exploration of movement as an expressive art form. Some of the dances are pure entertainment, others are conceptual in nature, and still others are based on movement themes that speak for the choreographer.

Performing and choreographing in Dance USM! is a great learning opportunity for students. They have the chance to give form to ideas and feelings in an art medium that uses the human body as an instrument for communication. The people performing tonight have worked in various studios throughout Gorham and Portland. They represent a wide range of movement backgrounds; some are performing dance for the first time while others have extensive performance experience.

Dance USM! has been one of the Theatre Department's Mainstage Productions since 1985. This is my fourth year directing the show and it becomes more rewarding each year. It really has a life of its own; I just provide the deadlines! I would like to thank all of the people involved in the show for once again creating and presenting Dance USM!

Emily Ojala
Program

Improvisations
Director of Improvisations: Jolyn Arisman
Dancers:
Jae Bilideau
M.J. Emerson
Liz Foley
Wendy E. Getchell
Emily Hager
Aaron Lewis
Kelly Pontau
Nadia Shapiro
Gerry Shannon
Julie Smith
Alice Starr
Sherry Whittemore
Light Design: Veronica Ward
Music: Fiona Apple
Choreography: M.J. Emerson
Dancers:
Elizabeth Chambers
M.J. Emerson
Emily Hager
Julianna Lagin-Nasse
Kelly Pontau
Liz Chambers
Nadia Shapiro
Julie Smith
Light Design: Iain Odlin
Costume Design: Christenia Alden-Kinne

Solace
Music: Fiona Apple
Choreography: M.J. Emerson
Dancers:
Elizabeth Chambers
M.J. Emerson
Emily Hager
Julianna Lagin-Nasse
Kelly Pontau
Liz Chambers
Nadia Shapiro
Julie Smith
Light Design: Iain Odlin
Costume Design: Christenia Alden-Kinne

Out of Darkness
Music: Sarah McLaughlan
Choreography: Wendy E. Getchell
Dancers:
Danielle Estes
Wendy E. Getchell
Light Design: Amanda J. Poirier

I Can't Do it Alone
music: from "Chicago" by John Kander
Choreographer: Danielle Drouin
Dancer:
Danielle Drouin
Light Design: Amanda J. Poirier

Judo Dance
Music: Judo Music
Choreography: Sensei Fukuda and Takeuchi
Dancer:
Aaron Lewis
Light Design: Veronica Ward
Costume Design: Pamela Yuhas

Water's Way
Music: Philip Glass
Choreography: Emily Ojala
Dancers:
Jae Bilideau
Roxanne Kenerson
Kelly Pontau
Nadia Shapiro
Sherry Whittemore
Pamela Yuhas
Light Design: Thomas C. Vail
Costume Design: Susan E. Picinich

Thriller
Music: Michael Jackson
Choreography: Leslie Janel Guerin
Dancers:
Lyndsey Caufield
Kelly Caufield
Liz Chambers
Danielle Estes
Leslie Janel Guerin
Myan Kallweitt
Samantha Kinne
Alexandra Munier
Nadia Shapiro
Light Design: Scott Essency
Costume Design: Susan E. Picinich
INTERMISSION

Disco Mania
Music: "You Should be Dancing" by the Bee Gees
Choreographer: Lew-Ann Leen
  **Dancers:**
  Darcey Betit
  Destinie Boyd
  M.J. Emerson
  Liz Foley
  Emily Hager
  Lynne Leach
  Teresa Libby
  Kelly Pontau
  Gerry Shannon
  Nadia Shapiro
  Thomas C. Vail
Light Design: Thomas C. Vail
Costume Design: Christenia Alden-Kinne

Electric Blue
Music: The Cranberries
Choreography: Roxanne Kenerson and Johnathon Pina
  **Dancers:**
  Roxanne Kenerson
  Johnathon Pina
Light Design: Jason Bannister
Costume Design: Susan Picinich

Underworld
Music: Underworld
Choreography: M.J. Emerson
  **Dancers:**
  Kelly Pontau
  Elizabeth Chambers
  M.J. Emerson
  Emily Hager
  Kelly Pontau
  Nadia Shapiro
Light Design: Iain Odlin
Costume Design: Christenia Alden-Kinne

Window
Music: Various artists mixed by Rodney Nason
Choreography: Alice Starr
  **Dancers:**
  Emily Hager
  Alexandra Munier
  Julie Smith
Light Design: Scott Essency
Costume Design: Alexandra Munier

Forever
Music: Infinity Christmas by Thanks to Gravity
Choreography: Emily Hager
  **Dancer:**
  Emily Hager
Light Design: Veronica Ward
Costume Design: Alexandra Munier

Out of Arm's Reach
Music: Ashley MacIsaac
Choreography: Harold Philbrook
  **Dancers:**
  Darcey Betit
  Destinie Boyd
  Tiffany Crocker
  Wendy E. Getchell
  Alice Starr
Light Design: Thomas C. Vail
Costumes: Harold Philbrook and Christenia Alden-Kinne

Thank You!

Special thanks to Lisa Hicks of New Dance Studio for her generous contribution of studio space and special thanks to Jim Anderson.
Biographies

Jolyn Arisman escaped from NYC where she performed with Hatian dancer, Arianne Pierre. She studied modern technique, choreography, African, and improvisation at Cornell University. Jolyn performs locally with the jazz improvisation group; Chat Noir, Eduardo Mariscal and she will be premiering in the fall with Ram Island Dance company. She teaches her unique blend of styles at New Dance Studio. To the dancers: "Take the moment, it is yours!"

Danielle Drouin, from Westbrook, is a junior communications major. She is assistant teacher with The Dance Studio of Maine, assistant choreographer for The Dance Studio of Maine Competition Team, and dancer and choreographer for the University of Maine Dance Company. She danced in the Gorham Community Ballet Company and the Dirigo Dance Troupe. Danielle has received numerous awards at the Showstopper American Dance Championships, Rhee Gold Dance Awards, and Starlight Dance Championships. She has studied with the Virginia Door School of Dance and Maine State School for the Performing Arts and currently studies with The Dance Studio of Maine.

Marcia J. Emerson (MJ), originally from Norway, Maine, is a theatre major in her fourth year of study. Having most recently choreographed for and performed in USM's production of As You Like It, she has been involved technically with several other USM productions and was in last year's Dance Festival. This past summer MJ completed an internship at Maine State Music Theatre, crewing shows such as The Who's Tommy and A Chorus Line. MJ is a 1996 graduate of the University of the Arts, earning a Certificate in Dance, and currently teaches at the Konservatoriet in Alfred. "Many thanks to my dancers and all my teachers...in dance and in life."

Wendy E. Getchell is a senior theatre major from Portland. She was most recently seen in the role of Allie in the one act, Family Values, and will be directing The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds in March. Wendy has danced for the USM dance festival for four years, choreographing A Dream of Canaries, Rokujo Lady's Passion, and As Is. She has recently choreographed a dance story called Greed with students at Cape Elizabeth High School. She has also received the Chris Meander Dance Scholarship for her efforts. "Special thanks to all my friends who have helped me keep my head above murky waters and allowed me to look past the clouds every now and then. You know who you are."

Leslie Janel Guerin is a junior theatre major from Gorham. She has had extensive dance experience including competing in high school at The Dance Studio of Maine, where she won first place in jazz. She teaches hip hop and street funk at The Schoolhouse Dance Center in Sebago Lake. Leslie has performed at USM as Jackie in The Boys Next Door and most recently as a tree in As You Like It.

Emily Hager is a sophomore from Wells, Maine. She has had eleven years of ballet and jazz training at First Class Dance Studio in Wells. She also took part in last year's Dance Festival at USM.

Roxanne Kenerson is a junior art major with a concentration in photography from Fryeburg, Maine. She has studied modern, ballet, pointe, jazz, and tap for twelve years. She spent three years as a member of the Axis Dance Company from North Conway, New Hampshire, dancing in The Nutcracker, The King and I, and many others. Roxanne has received two silver medals for her performances at the American Dance Spectrum Competition in Manchester, New Hampshire, and two gold medals at the Gold American Dance Competition.

Lew-Ann Leen teaches jazz dance for Casco Bay Movers; jazz, tap, ballet, and acting at The Kittery Recreation Department; ballet for Stepping Out in Saco; and musical theatre dance for the University of Southern Maine. Besides helping with the dance for the summer theatre camp at USM, she has choreographed several pieces for the USM Dance Festival and Die Fledermaus and for the music department. She has choreographed pieces for Madhorse, The School House Arts, Portland Players, and Cape Elizabeth High School. After studying acting and dancing in NYC, she moved back to Maine where she founded Shenanigans Productions in Ogunquit. Tony N' Tina's Wedding is her latest production.

Aaron K. Lewis is a junior double major in theatre and criminology at USM. She went to the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY to learn this Judo Dance from Keiko Fukuda, a seventh degree black belt Judo instructor and Kuniko Takeuchi, a sixth degree Judo instructor. "Seiryoku Zenyo," the maximum efficient use of one's mind and body, is the principle underlying this Judo Dance. Every movement illustrates a throw, a strangle, an armbar, etc. She has worked with people across the country to experience Judo in its purest form and would like to share this dance with all of you. "Special thanks to my family and friends. Dad, Mom, Rebecca, Isaac: You have given me so much -- Sarah, you're in my heart forever."
Emily Ojala is a dancer, choreographer and dance educator. She danced with Ram Island Dance Company from 1986-1993. She has a B.F.A. in modern dance from the University of Utah and an M.F.A. in dance movement therapy/counseling psychology from Antioch New England. She teaches contemporary dance at the University of Southern Maine, creative movement for young children, and dance improvisation and composition classes for adults at New Dance Studio. Emily is also a registered dance movement therapist specializing in work with emotionally-at-risk children. She is a Maine Touring Artist/Arts-in-Education artist and has conducted residencies in school throughout Maine since 1987. Emily will be performing a new collaborative dance with Lisa Hicks and 'BLINK' in March.

Harold Philbrook (guest artist), performer, teacher, and choreographer, received a BFA from the Maine College of Art. He was the Dance Portland Showcase winner in 1995 and 1997. He has done solo and collaborative work with Debi Irons and Art Moves Dance Studio and with Lisa Hicks at New Dance Studio. He has served as guest choreographer at The Theatre Project, dance instructor at Summer Festival of the Arts 1991-1997, and guest artist/choreographer at Davenport Center, University of Vermont, and College of the Atlantic. His stage work includes working with Ken Stack in The Wizard of OZ and The Pajama Game.

Johnathan Pina began dancing at the age of 17. He has been dancing with the Axis Dance Company in North Conway, New Hampshire for three years. He has also danced with The Studio of Fine Arts in Fryeburg for a year. A member of the Maine State Ballet Company for two years now, Johnathan danced the role of Chinese in their recent production of The Nutcracker. He won two awards at the 1997 American Dance Awards in Concord, NH with Axis Dance Company; a gold medal in Sr. Duet Modern as a dancer and choreographer, and a silver medal in Sr. Group Modern as a dancer.

Alice Starr is a senior theatre major. She has danced and choreographed for Dance USM in previous years. She is a recipient of the Grannia Theatre Scholarship award for 1997. "We were haunted by the marvelous tales we could not tell...because he would not let us make a fusion of sexuality and feeling, sensuality and emotion." Anais Nin.