

'The Mousetrap' opens April 2 at Barn Theater

by April Woods

The butler did it.

Well ... maybe. Those who attend the BC Players' performance of "The Mousetrap" will have to decide for themselves whodunit. Sam Cope, the play's director, is not disclosing this vital information.

The play is based on an Agatha Christie novel and according to Jeff Rice, who has a key role in the play, "It's typical Agatha Christie—full of twists and turns."

Cope says the play is set in the late 1940s in the English countryside. A young couple, played by Kellye Price and Jeff Rice, inherit an old house and convert it into an inn. The plot thickens when several guests are stuck there in an unexpected blizzard. Then, of course, there is a murder.

Although it is the young couple who serve to bring the other characters together, according to Rice, "there isn't really a lead character as such. Everybody has a decent part."

Other cast members include Dario Garcia, Tamiko Harrison, Philip Constable, Tracy McKie, Robert McRoberts, and Shawn Jacobsen.

Rice says that practice is going well, but he wishes they had a little more time. But he says, "If we really dig in, I think it's going to be a really good show."

The show opens tomorrow evening, April 2, in the Barn Theater. Performances will continue on April 3, 9, 10, and 11. The April 4 performance has been cancelled because of the spring formal.

Tickets for "The Mousetrap" are on sale for \$3 each at the college receptionist's of-



The Brevard College Drama Department's production of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" opens Thursday, April 2 and runs through April 2, 9, 10 and 11 at the Barn Theater. Here, Sgt. Trotter (Shawn Jacobsen) grills Major Metcalf (Philip Constable) and Mr. Paravicini (Robert McRoberts) while Molly and Giles Ralston (Kellye Price and Keff Rice) look on. (BC photo by Jock Lauterer)

fice in Beam Administration Building.

Cope urges students to get tickets as soon as possible. Tickets are free to students and seating in the Barn is limited. The production is a Life & Culture Series event.

Ballet teacher Ballinger loves to dance and teach

by Celia Alves

"I always wanted to dance," said Nancy Ballinger, the ballet teacher of Brevard College. "When I was little, I could not dance because my father was in the Air Force."

Ballinger said she started to love dancing at the age of five. She danced for three years while in Raleigh. However, after that period of time she went to France, England, and most of Europe. But Ballinger did not dance professionally any more until she went to college in South Florida (Tampa). After graduation she worked with emotionally disturbed children for three years.

Ballinger chose ballet "because of the discipline of it," she said. "It's very technical—very difficult." Although Ballinger's favorite dance is ballet, but she does not like the real classical dances. "I think TV ought to show more contemporary ballet," she said. "I like more freedom of movement." Swan Lake and Nutcracker are far away from Ballinger's preferences.

Since Ballinger started teaching at Brevard College, she has noticed that students have gotten more interest in dancing. "I have a lot of men in my classes," she said. "It's half and half in my ballet

class."

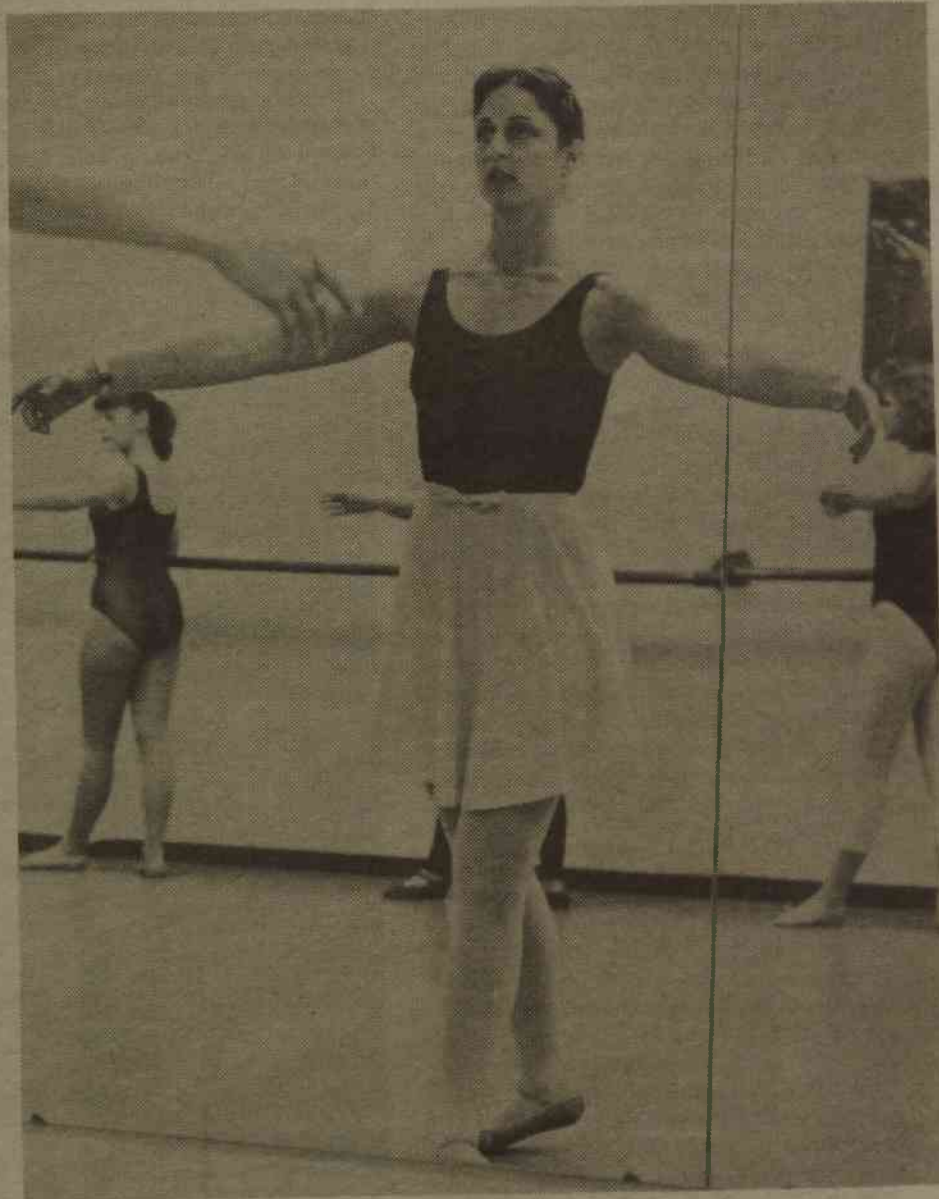
For instance, Ballinger teaches ballet to male soccer players, drama students and basketball players.

She thinks that men are losing their shyness about ballet. She said, "They act a little embarrassed at first, but they like it!" She added that the men are going to perform in the spring.

"I choreographed all the dances and pick up all the movements," Ballinger said. But everything depends upon the way the music makes her feel and also, on the ability of the dancer. Ballinger likes working at Brevard College because here she has the freedom to teach the way she wants to. "I want a bigger studio so I can have more people," she said.

Ballinger classified herself as more of a teacher than as a performer. "I think that the ability to perform is something you're born with," she said. Because performers are not always able to perfect a piece, Ballinger gets more satisfaction as a teacher. As a performer, "You always feel like you could have done better," she said.

Ballinger affirmed that everyone should give dancing a try. "I just love to dance," she said. "And I want people to love it too. I wish that more people would come down and see what we're doing."



Brevard College dance instructor Nancy Ballinger at work. (BC photo by B.R. Orrell)