

Meredith Dance Theater prepared for year

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Staff Writer

Vigorous auditions, hours of weekly practice, creative performances and new friendships are what being a member of Meredith Dance Theatre is all about.

After three days of auditions, MDT selected seven new students to become a part of their group.

According to Alyson Colwell-Waber, the artistic director of MDT, 22 students attended the information session on Wednesday, Aug. 18, and 15 students auditioned on Friday, Aug. 20 and Monday, Aug. 23. Colwell-Waber has been the artistic director of MDT for the past 15 years, with the exception of taking last year off.

During this time, David Beadle served as the artistic direc-

tor. Beadle has been a part of the Meredith community for three and a half years and has choreographed routines for MDT since his arrival.

What are the requirements for auditioning for MDT? "MDT is open to all students," said Colwell-Waber. She also says that students who want to become a member should have an adequate amount of training. "We are interested in seeing people as individuals...we need more than technique, we need someone with spark. Desire and commitment are also important," she said.

When asked what auditions were like for students trying out, Beadle said, "We have classes for students to learn movements and combinations."

Beadle said that faculty members also use techniques

of improvisation in order to give students a chance to improvise and interact with other students. "We want to see how well they work as performers and express themselves as dancers," said Beadle.

The members of MDT for 1999-2000 are: Brianne Barrow, Katie Dunn, Lilly Robertson, Judy Soltys, Nancy Smith, Crystal Turnage, Anna Wheeler and Kim Clendenen, president. New members of the group are: Meredith Berryhill, Missy Blackburn, Bridget Rawls, Amber Turner, Krystal Tyndall, Meghan Wrest and Karen Ziegler.

Students do not have to re-audition once they become a member of MDT.

Meredith Dance Theatre is comprised of one artistic director and student dancers. Rou-

tines are choreographed by both students and faculty. Members are expected to commit to a certain standard of excellence in class, rehearsal, and on stage.

Sophomore Karen Ziegler is beginning her first year with MDT. Ziegler says she was encouraged to audition for MDT because she has danced all her life. She also had the opportunity to perform last year with MDT. Ziegler's favorite part of being a member of MDT is "performing and in spending time in class and rehearsals with people who have the same desire to dance."

Crystal Turnage, junior, has been working with MDT for three years. She was an apprentice her freshman year and has been a member the past two years. "I love to perform,

and my major is dance education so I figured I should take every opportunity to perform," Turnage said. Turnage plans to perform for a while and eventually teach in the public school system.

Highlights for MDT this year include a guest visit by Doug Varone--dancer, choreographer and artistic director of Doug Varone and Dancers. Varone will be visiting Meredith College in October.

Other highlights include the group's traveling to Duke University to attend the NC Dance Alliance Event and attending the American College Dance Festival Regional Workshop at James Madison University in Virginia.

Performances are given in the spring and fall of each year and are held in Jones Auditorium.

Meredith to get new email system this month

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Staff Writer

Email is one of the best ways for college students to stay in touch with friends and family, whether back home, at other schools, in other states or even in other countries.

Many teachers and students also rely on email to communicate about class activities and projects.

Most freshman are in the process of taking the required email training session and having their computers connected to Meredith's Intranet so that they can begin using their Meredith email accounts.

However, many upper-classmen and faculty returned this year to discover that they were having difficulty getting into their email accounts.

According to Ruth Ann Balla, manager of the Office of Technology Services, students were supposed to change their passwords each year. Many students, she said, did not know how to do so, and when they did not change their passwords, they were denied access to their email accounts.

Most area colleges and universities, according to Balla, require their students

to change their passwords every semester, and Meredith is going to be doing this as well. Changing passwords each semester, said Balla, should help keep the email more secure.

Technology Services offered sessions at their offices, which have been moved from Johnson Hall to Noel House, to help students change their passwords and obtain access to their email accounts.

In addition to concern over passwords, students have been discussing the rumors that Meredith may be switching to a

new email program. Students have expressed concerns that they will lose their address books and mailing lists in the transition.

Balla addressed these rumors and explained that Meredith is indeed in the process of changing to a new email program. She explained that the current program, Microsoft Mail, is not Y2K (Year 2000) compliant, so Meredith had to change to a new program. Balla explained that Technology Services looked for a product that is easy to use to make the transi-

tion easier.

The new program, imail, does not have a global address book—as is the case with most new email programs. However, Balla noted that it is very easy to build an address book in this new program. When a student checks her email, she can add the address of anyone who sends her a message to her address book by clicking on the "save address" bar on the screen.

Balla said that in mid-September, students will be notified that they must attend a 20 to 30 minute class which will introduce them to the new email program. In response to the concern of losing personal address books and mailing groups, Balla suggested that students could write down the addresses and transfer them to their new accounts or simply forward email from their old accounts to their new accounts, save the addresses and then delete the messages.

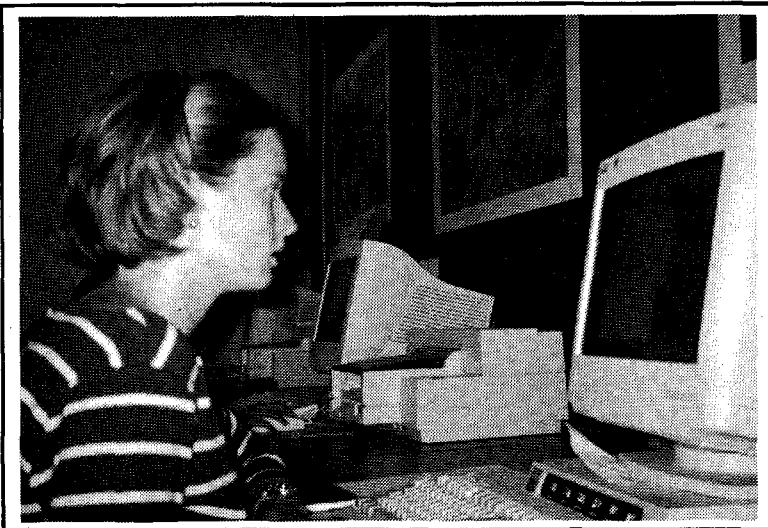
According to Balla, there are some trade-offs involved in this transition; however, there are many benefits to be gained with this new program. Balla explained that logging in is no longer necessary. Students simply double

click on Netscape and type in <whiterabbit.meredith>, a character chosen from the play *Alice in Wonderland* that will be performed at Meredith in February 2000. Once she accesses this site, a student enters her name and then her account.

According to Ruth Balla, "The big advantage is that you can be anywhere in the world, and if you have access to a computer with the Internet, you can check your email." One of the best benefits of this new program is that students can use their Meredith accounts during the summer no matter where they are.

Upon hearing about the new email program, sophomore Jodi Hayes commented, "I am really excited about the features of the new email program—especially the ability to check my email from anywhere and the ability to access my email account during breaks from school."

Students should expect to hear more about the new email program in the coming weeks. Students who are still having trouble accessing their email accounts should contact Technology Services.



Senior Heather Quinn checks her email on Meredith's current system.

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