

Meredith Dance Theatre shares talent, works

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Staff Writer

Meredith Dance Theatre will showcase its talent this week in a concert that will feature both professional and student choreography. MDT is the only area of Meredith's Dance program that requires auditions. The fourteen women chosen to perform have been working on the upcoming concert since their auditions on the first day of classes this semester.

According to dance professor and MDT Artistic Director Alyson Colwell-Waber, dance performances are very different from theatrical performances in the amount of work and creativity required of the performing company, so Meredith's dancers had to begin working on the upcoming program right away. While other theatrical performances have a script already written, the choreogra-

pher of a dance program must begin with a "blank slate," said Colwell-Waber.

One of the highlights of MDT is that every year the college provides funds for a professional dancer to visit Meredith and create or set existing pieces of choreography for the college's dancers. This year's guest artist was Doug Varone, whom Colwell-Waber called a "very prominent young contemporary dance choreographer."

Varone has his own theater company which has performed "Aperture," the piece that MDT will perform. Colwell-Waber said that Varone worked with the dancers for about a week. "Aperture" is a two-section piece usually performed by a trio of dancers; however, six Meredith women will be performing it as the final piece at the concert.

The two sections of "Aperture" have identical choreography, but one is set to a classical piece of music, while the other is set to a Janis Joplin song. Colwell-Waber said she wanted six students to work on the piece to give more students the opportunity to work with a professional in their field. Three of the women will perform the first section, while the other three perform the second.

In addition to Varone's work, the students will perform a work choreographed by Colwell-Waber. The piece, titled "Wilted Porches," is based on Charles Frazier's book *Cold Mountain*, according to Colwell-Waber. Though the book focuses on a Confederate soldier returning home to the mountains of North Carolina, Colwell-Waber said that she was interested in the women who were left behind and their

survival. These women were the inspiration for her dance piece set to Appalachian music.

The concert will also feature five pieces that were choreographed by students. According to Colwell-Waber, giving the students a chance to showcase what they have learned is "what it's all about." Each of the student pieces was choreographed by one student who was involved in the entire production of the piece. Each student directed her own piece, teaching the dancers, choosing the music, and deciding on the aesthetics of the stage.

The student pieces include "Moonlight Duet" choreographed and directed by Kim Clendenen, a business major, which is set to Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and is performed by two dancers. "Less," by senior Nancy Smith, is performed by a larger group of

dancers. This piece has more of a jazz theme that Colwell-Waber thinks students will connect with.

One of the most powerful pieces is called "Crossing the Line." Junior Krystal Tyndall choreographed and performs this solo piece about a woman who has been violated.

According to Colwell-Waber, dance falls in the same category that poetry does. She said, "It evokes feelings without dictating what those feelings should be." Dance can use the "symbolic or metaphorical" in its expression, she said.

The MDT concert will be in Jones Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 18, and Friday, Nov. 19 at 8p.m. There will also be a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. on Nov. 20, that will allow faculty with young children to come. The tickets are free for the Meredith community.

Operation Christmas Child needs your help

SAM CAROTHERS
Campus Minister

Mark your calendars for "Operation Christmas Child."

Katie Lambeth, MCA outreach co-chair, will answer many of your questions about the project (or call the office of the campus minister at 760-8346).

This annual event is your chance to share in the joy of giving. It also presents a wonderful opportunity for campus clubs or residence halls to adopt as a Christmas project.

A basic shoe box is filled with a variety of gifts for either a boy or girl from ages 2 through 14.

Through gift filled boxes, this unique project of Christian relief has touched millions of children's lives.

Shoe boxes may be turned in to Campus Ministry any time this week. However, all shoe boxes must be turned in by 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22.

The following is a list of suggestions for shoe-box fillers. In addition, there is a list of things not to put in the boxes.

Suggested Shoe Box Gifts:

- * Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, small Etch-A-Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

- * School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, etc.

- * Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

- * Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights with extra batteries, ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry sets, hair clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

Do not include the following items in the shoeboxes:

- * Used items
- * War-related items (toy guns, knives, etc.)
- * Perishable items (chocolate, canned foods, crackers, etc.)
- * Liquids (shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.)
- * Medicines (chewable vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.)
- * Breakable Items (mirrors, china dolls, glass items, etc.)

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