

Meredith to host North Carolina Dance Festival this weekend

Festival will include performances and lessons and present a wide variety of artists and styles.

TIFFANY ADAMS
Managing Editor

Meredith will host the annual North Carolina Dance Festival in Jones Auditorium on Jan. 30-Feb. 1. The event features several touring artists as well as local artists, including Meredith Dance Theatre Director Carol Finley. Tickets cost \$10 for the general public and \$6 for senior citizens, but tickets are free for children 12 years and under and Meredith faculty, staff and students.

Jan Van Dyke of the North Carolina Dance Project in Greensboro, N.C., organizes the tour each year. She chooses up to eight choreographers from the state to show work at four or five festival

sites.

The sites for this year's tour are Appalachian State University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the Diana Wortham Theatre in Asheville, N.C., and Meredith College.

Finley organizes the Meredith site and chooses the local artists for the festival. She is responsible for marketing, choosing guest artists, setting the program order, setting up the technical schedule in the theatre, creating work to be featured in the event and planning the masters classes that accompany the NC Dance Festival. She produces the event with help from her dance students and the Jones Auditorium technical staff.

The three-day festival showcases the work and talents of several local and touring artists and choreographers throughout North Carolina. Touring artists featured this year are Martha Connerton, Gerri

Houlihan and NC Dance Theatre II from Charlotte; Two Near the Edge from Durham; John Gamble and Jan Van Dyke from Greensboro; Paige Whitely Baugess from New Bern; and Caroline Williford from Chapel Hill.

"Hosting the festival is great for the profile of the dance program at Meredith. Many dance professionals in the community come to the Meredith campus for this event," Finley said.

She said faculty, students and staff at the college will be exposed to quality choreography from regions in our state that they might not have seen otherwise.

The first concert for the Meredith site will be held on Thurs., Jan. 30 in Jones Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Touring artist Gerri Houlihan will present a duet entitled "In Your Dreams," performed by dancers Sean and B.J. Sullivan to the music of Robert Schumann. In addition, Two Near the Edge,

L.D. Burris and Carol Childs, will also perform a duet they directed and choreographed called "Zoots." This duet is set to music from the Greg Gelb Swing Band.

Also on Thursday, Amy Chavasse will present "The Fruit Axiom," which will be performed by dancers Allison Waddell and Thaddeus Bennett. Finley will present her "Settling Part I and II."

The show on Friday, which also begins at 8 p.m. includes presentations from the Jan Van Dyke Dance Group, Caroline Williford, NC Dance Theatre II, the junior company of the North Carolina Dance Theatre and Allison Waddell.

The Jan Van Dyke Dance Group will present "Watching as I Go," a quartet set to the music of Franz Schubert that Van Dyke choreographed in collaboration with the dancers. Williford will present "Via Negativa: Elegy for the living," which is set to music from Tortoise, Andrew Bird and Radiohead. The NC Dance Theatre II will present "Subtle Perspective," which is choreographed by dancer Mary Hudetz. In addition, they will also perform "Widow," choreographed by Mark Diamond.

Waddell will present an excerpt from her larger work "To Once Upon and Ever After" entitled "I Often Imagine Myself." She will also perform "Residue," a solo. Finally, ChoreoCollective will present a reprise of "The Firm Believer".

Saturday is the final evening of the festival at Meredith College. The John Gamble Dance Theater is to present excerpts from "Virtual

Lies." The work is directed and choreographed by John Gamble in collaboration with Byron Woods on dance and dramaturgy, as well as dancers with movement invention.

Also on Saturday, Baugess will perform "Guardian Angel," a dance solo that is set to violin by Heinrich Biber, and will be played by live violinist Annie Loud. Martha Connerton with Kinetic Works will present "Duet for Four." She will also perform her solo entitled "Basically." Monique Newton and Jennifer Sommers will also present works that will be set to music from various artists such as Rokia Trore and Beethoven.

In addition to hosting the North Carolina Dance Festival, Meredith will also hold a Master Artist Series with artists performing in the festival. The Master Artist Series will be held on Saturday prior to the evening concert.

L.D. Burris of Two Near the Edge will teach an African dance class from 1 until 2:30 p.m. During the same session, Beth Newsome will teach a Pilates mat class as well.

Carol Childs of Two Near the Edge, will teach an intermediate modern dance class from 3-4:30 p.m. Carlota Santana will also teach a Flamenco dance class during this time. All classes in the Master Artist Series will be held in Weatherspoon Gym.

Finley said the event is an opportunity for people to see a wide variety of excellent dancing. She said the festival will be intellectually challenging and entertaining for the audience.

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