

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Carolina Ballet Presents Halloween Repertoire

Lyn Triplett, Staff Writer

With Raleigh based Carolina Ballet dancing to the music composed by J. Mark Scarce, Head of the music department at NC State University, Dracula has moved into Raleigh and can be welcomed into his new home at A.J. Fletcher Theater of the Progress Energy Center of the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh.

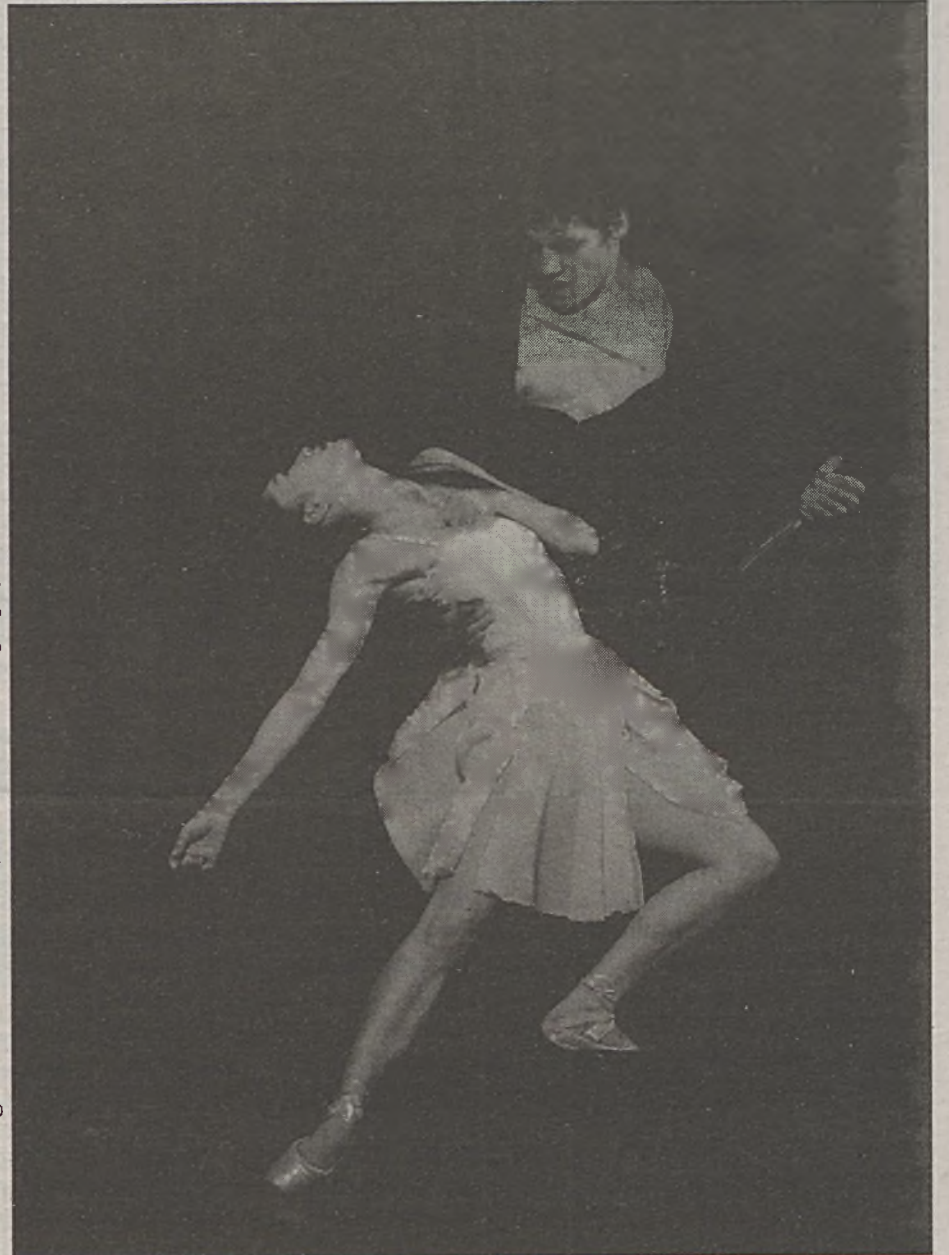
Carolina Ballet premiered two spine-chilling ballets – Dracula (Bram Stoker) and The Masque of the Red Death (Edgar Allen Poe) on Thursday, October 14. The dramatic ballet, complete with a costumed audience and a narrator, is not the usual type of classical ballet. Artistic Director Robert Weiss admits that he had been thinking of presenting a new Dracula for several years but the current interest in vampire lore sweeping the country is what ultimately led him to begin plans for creating a new production for the Carolina Ballet dancers. To compliment Dracula, Robert Weiss choreographed a new ballet to Edgar Allen Poe's macabre tale The Masque of the Red Death to open the program. Weiss explains that since the program leads up to Halloween he

felt that the Poe short story added its own eerie drama to the evening.

The music for both short ballets was specially commissioned by J. Mark Scarce, who is head of the music department at NCSU. Scarce has collaborated several times with Carolina Ballet and is an accomplished composer in various areas of musical entertainment. Both ballets on the Dracula program will be accompanied by live music conducted by Alfred E. Sturgis.

In the spirit of Halloween, patrons are encouraged to wear costumes to the production the final weekend – October 30 and 31. Student tickets are only \$10.00 with a student ID. For show times and further information regarding the Dracula program may be obtained by calling the Carolina Ballet box office at 919 719-0090 or visiting www.carolinaballet.com.

photo courtesy of Carolina Ballet; Dracula Mask 21811 : Marcelo Martinez and Margaret Severin-Hansen; Chris Walt Photography



Ask Gigi

Dear Gigi,

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine committed suicide after his parents turned on him when he told them he was gay. I'm still shaken up about it, yet after 20 years, I'm finally ready to tell my parents that I'm a lesbian. Like my friend's parents, mine are very conservative, and I'm afraid they'll disown me when I tell them. How can I make this discussion go as smoothly as possible?

Sincerely,
Nervous Wreck

Dear Nervous Wreck,

I'm very sorry to hear the tragic news about your friend, and I can imagine that your stress over this issue is compounded in light of that terrible event. I suggest you pick a time to talk when your parents are tranquil. Choose a quiet place free of distractions. Approach the topic with an attitude that shows open confidence in their ability to accept your orientation, even if your feelings don't reflect that optimism. If you begin the conversation with an angry tone and defensive attitude, your parents are more likely to act defensive in response. Ask them to allow you a few uninterrupted minutes to say everything you need to say, and then deliver the message using a lot of "I" language in a calm, level tone of voice. Then, regardless of their responses, let them get all their words out in the open. Validate their feelings by saying that you understand their difficulty in accepting your sexual orientation and that it is okay if they need some time to reflect on it. Then leave them be for awhile. It might be necessary to physically leave the discussion site, even if it's your house. Need on-campus support? Confide in anyone who has a "SafeZone" sticker on his or her office door. Good luck!

Yours truly,
Gigi

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