

Faculty, students choreograph, perform in eclectic dance concert

BY MELANIE HOOPER
Managing editor

The Dance Theatre Premiere Concert recently took place the weekend of Feb. 29 in the Dragonetti Auditorium.

Professional companies presented during each performance, including the Moetion Dance Company on Feb. 29, the Garden State Dance Project on Mar. 1, and Claire Porter and guests on Mar. 2.

The new works were performed by faculty, students, and guest artists of the AFA Dance Program.

There were six faculty and 21 student performers. Making guest appearances were Irving Burton, Claire Porter, Susan Thomasson, and alumni Jeff Foote, Elias Kababa, and Kimberly Pinto.

Drummers John Hummel and Chuck Wood contributed to the pieces.

Students, faculty members,

and guest dancers performed to music by Kronos Quartet, Imogen Heap, Satie, William Ackerman, George Winston, and Janet Jackson to name a few artists.



CCM DANCE DEPARTMENT

Dancer performs original choreography at CCM concert

"Eye Judge For Him," a routine featuring music by India Arie and Hans Zimmer and choreography by Lisa Peluso, is one of two works that has been chosen for the

Informal Concert at the American College Dance Festival.

For Kababa, "Eye Judge for Him" was his favorite routine because he has "a personal connection to this piece."

Featuring choreography by Jessica Cornish and music by Ezan, Ravi Shanker, Meredith Monk, and Perez Musharraf, the routine, "Who Then Am I" has also been chosen for the Informal Concert. The routine depicts the cultural experiences of an Indian individual.

"As I Die Sadly," featuring choreography by Jo Ann Staugaard-Jones and the song, "Woods" by George Winston, and the routine "Transcendance" featuring choreography by Jessica Admirand, Kristy Hall, and other dancers and the song, "Vehicle of Aliveness, Voice of Stillness," have been chosen to be adjudicated at the American College Dance Festival.

"Inside the 5" gave dancers

the opportunity to dress colorfully, dance mischievously, and toss balls around on stage. The piece includes choreography by Tammy Van-Koppen Klinck and music by an African Children's Choir.

The concert ended on a bubbly note through the performance of "Colonization of Neptune's Third Moon." Dancing to the sounds of Thomas Newman, the CCM Dance Theater ended the night with an "out-of-this-world" display of wobbly tutus and unique skipping.

Both faculty members and students choreographed their routines.

According to Artistic Director Pinto, the performance "was a really good mix of choreography and dancers. The pieces were intelligent."

Pinto leads the Garden State Dance Project, a collection of dedicated artists working together in instruction, education, performance, and outreach.

Mother daughter share college experience, reinforce relationship

DIEGO M. ORTIZ
Editor-in-chief

Amanda and Denise Stevens are both students at the County College of Morris. They share the same last name, they live in the same house and they both ride to school together. No, they are not sisters: they are mother and daughter.

The two have different majors and goals, but for now they are having fun sharing their college experience. Since many of their classes overlap, sharing is something they are getting accustomed to.

One example is their textbooks. Though the two do not have class, at the same time, they are both taking the same Algebra course and share the textbook-- in between class they literally hand-off the book.

That is just one example of how well the two get a long.

Mother Denise says she looks up to her daughter and

admires her daughter's work ethic. "She inspires me and motivates me," she said.

Denise decided to come back to college to further her education because she feels it will open new doors for her.

"I wish I had been able to do it sooner, to give my kids more," she said. "But they know it's not all about materialistic things and more about love."

While in high school, Amanda applied to colleges that were as far away as Florida and South Carolina, but she decided CCM would be the best decision for her major: Secondary Education with an emphasis in English.

"It's a good atmosphere here-- easy to work in. I love the library," Amanda said.

Amanda graduated from Hackettstown High School in the class of 2007. This is her second semester at the college.

Denise is in the

Radiography program, she would like to earn a degree in applied sciences. She has been working at the Hackettstown Regional Medical Center since 2000, both as a pharmacy technician and as a unit secretary for the pre-natal clinic.

She has had other jobs, most of them in the pharmaceutical field.

The two women have very different personalities. "My mom is the extrovert. I am the introvert," Amanda said. "I live vicariously through my mom."

"I am a people person, I think everyone is unique and I feed off of their energy," Denise

said. "Our roles are a little reversed and I look up to her."

But both women are diligent workers. Amanda is a full-student and has a part-time job, while Denise has two jobs and manages a nine-credit course load.

"She is driven and independent, while I lose focus sometimes," Denise says. "I am really lucky to have such a great kid."

During their free time they do what most college girls do: they study, go shopping or grab a bite to eat.

Denise is very happy to be at CCM with her daughter.

"I feel good, like I'm at the

right place. No one has treated me unfairly because of my age," Denise said.

To be fair, sometimes Amanda has to help her mother with the computer.

Mr. Stevens is a big part of how the two are able to succeed in college at the same time. He is very supportive and helps out at home a lot with cooking and house work, especially on those nights when Denise has to run from school to the hospital.

"It is really a team effort now," Denise said. "This experience has only helped to reinforce our bond."



DIEGO M. ORTIZ

Amanda and Denise Stevens, the mother-daughter team who attend CCM together.

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