## **Professionals** innovate with dance, poetry

For two days, Saturday and Sun-day, Sept. 15 and 16, West Bloom-field will replace New Haven as a

tryout town.

That's when Harriet Berg, director of dance at the Jewish Commu-

tor of dance at the Jewish Commu-nity Center, will give performances of a special dance and multi-media event ittled "Detroit is Coming Back, Are You?"

For a long lime, the energetic, in-novative Ms. Berg had been rolling the idea for this around in her mind. Finally when it began to jell, she in-vited professional performing art-ists for whom she has great respect to join her in this special salute to the city.

to join ner in this special the city.

"This is my out-of-town tryout," said Ms. Berg. "And that's what we should do — have community centers all over the suburbs where people could try out their ideas before the town critics of the suburbs with critics of the suburbs where people could try out their ideas before going on before the tough critics of

The company, gathered just for this special event, will face Detroit's tough critics at Grand Circus Ex-change Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and 2.

SEVERAL YEARS BACK at the

SEVERAL YEARS BACK at the suggestion of Detroit writer Esther Froncer, Ms. Berg began to keep a journal and it was from this that she drew the impressions and ideas which were put together for this multi-media event.

Detroit sculpture will form the backdrop when Evelyn Orbach recites the Walt Whitman poem, "I sing the Body Electric." Dancers will provide the sculptures that move to the poetry which Ms. Bergsaid, "seems to be about dancers." She said Ms. Orbach, a professional writer and television producer, agreed to read the Whitman work beautiful to the seems of the work o

Films from several off-stage per-formances by Ms. Berg's Festival dancers are woven into the script. These will include pieces done at the dedication of the Tony Smith sculp-ture at the Detroil Institute of Arts, on the Kern Block and during a war protest at the Detroit Public Library.

"ALL OF THESE pieces of my "ALL OF THESE pieces of my life in different places are being woven together — my interest in dance, my interest in poetry and my interest in film making," Ms. Berg said.

said.
Particularly pleasing to Ms. Berg is the opportunity to work with area dancers and dance teachers who are moving out from traditional bound-

moving out non-aries.

She commented on the way today's dance company members in the avant garde movement "work off each other's energies," and how their bodies work together "in a sup-

their bodies work together "in a sup-portive way."

"I miss not being able to see these experimental companies," she said, talking about a recent trip which gave her an opportunity to see what was happening to dance in other metropolitan areas.

DETROIT DANCER Christopher

DETROIT DANCER Christopher Pilafian will be in the Berg production via film. He's now principal dancer with the Jennifer Miller Company which Ms. Berg said "is the rage of Europe."

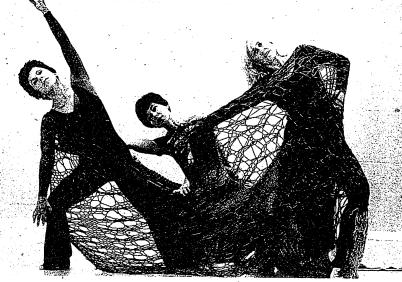
The Young Dancers of the Jewish Community Center will be in the finale of "Detroit is Coming Back, Are You?"

They are Allyson Schwartz, Ann Sheehy, Patti Bru-koff, Patty Reich and Karen Ten-nenbaum.

Dean Egnater is lighting designer and Ms. Berg said that in a produc-tion such as this "Lights become environmental, in fact, they are the

The Saturday, Sept. 15, performance will be at 8:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept. 16, it will be at 2:30 p.m. both will be in the Aaron DeRoy studio theater at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield.

General admission tickets are \$3, \$2.50 for members.



Dancers Jenifer Pethick-Noyes, Jean Raczkowski and Harriet Berg pose as dancers in a fog.



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