

Suburban Life

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(F)18

Harbinger

Concert showcases dancers at their best

By Loraine McClellan
staff writer

HARBINGER DANCE Company, known for its wide range of styles, will display that array during its winter season this weekend in Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

"This concert will showcase the Harbinger dancers at their best," said Gayle Eubanks, the company's interim artistic director.

"This is our strongest company in years," said Jessie Stern, a Harbinger trustee. "The season features new works; two world premieres and one Music Hall premiere. It is a dance vocabulary which reflects the many choreographers that have contributed to the repertoire."

Harbinger is Michigan's premier professional dance company, now in its 18th season. The company is governed by a 16-member board of trustees and is in residence on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College.

One of the company's traditions is invitations to guest choreographers for five-week residencies.

"The choreographer adds another flair, another style, a stimulation to the company and its repertoire. Each piece is entirely different from another," Stern said.

"I think that's what's kept us going for 18 years. In the art world that is good indeed."

THE GUEST choreographers for this season are Diann Sichel from New York and Beth Corning from Sweden.

Sichel's work is "Detroit Personals." A man and a woman are heard reading from the personal ads while

a soundscore layers "Some Day My Prince Will Come" with Elvis Presley's "Are You Lonesome Tonight." The dancers' movement hints at both sexuality and isolation. Sensual duets almost make contact. Tries split into solos. A moment of social dancing is crystallized.

Corning's "Fanfare for a Paper Moon" gives a powerful ending to the concert. It has a distinct Oriental flavor. The music and colors visually and audibly set the mood. It is a movement without a story line which expresses the differing emotions that a full moon, throughout time, has provoked.

"The Pull of Calgary," also on the concert bill, is the work of Phillip Mills of Detroit. Mills is a figure skater as well as dancer and choreographer. He will not be seeing his work performed in the Music Hall this weekend because he will be watching the Olympic figure skaters in Calgary, Alberta.

The concert is rounded out with a 1982 piece Novak did that has been restaged for the season.

Sichel and Corning will be the guests of honor at an afterglow following the Saturday concert, when guests can meet the choreographers as well as the dancers.

HARBINGER'S board of trustees is on the countdown now in readiness to name its new artistic director, which is expected to be one of its recent guest choreographers.

"Gayle (Eubanks) took over in a pinch," Stern said. "She was the assistant artistic director for a long while. She worked in all the company's operations, knew the history of the company and understands the Detroit dance scene very well. She

has done a very good job of strengthening the company."

"But she wants to dance. She wants to concentrate exclusively on her dancing."

Eubanks will be dancing in the performances that begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in Detroit's Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave.

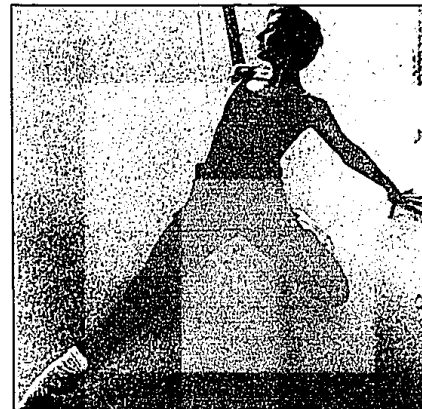
Ticket prices range from \$12-\$20. Reduced ticket prices are available to groups of 10 or more. The Music Hall box office number is 963-7622.

The Saturday afterglow is chaired by Linda Finder. Tickets for the party are \$10. Reservations are taken by calling Finder at 974-1023.



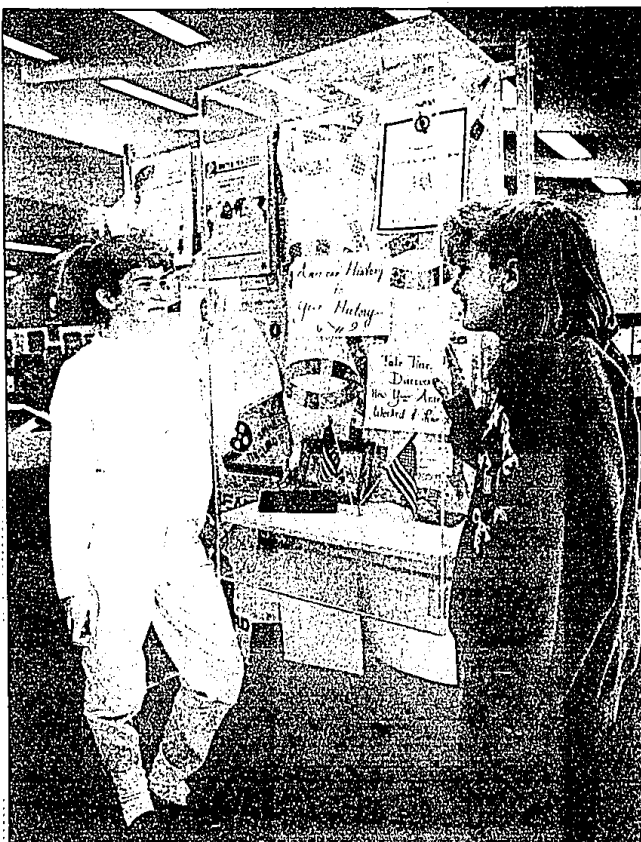
RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Harbinger dancers Marie Aversa and Joe Neal perform in "Detroit Personals," which will be premiered in Music Hall Center this weekend. The work was choreographed for the company.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Maria Buonaccorsi, a resident of Westland, is a soloist in one of the works prepared for the company's 18th concert season.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

American History Month

Daughters of the American Revolution across the nation celebrate American History Month by honoring the teens who are named "Good Citizens," the youngsters who write essays on American history for the contest they sponsor and reminders to citizens to appreciate their country. Quaker-

town Chapter adds to the reminders with a display case in the Farmington Hills Branch Library which catches the eye of Kathy Mistravich and Debbie Dziekan. Both are 11 years old and both students at Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School.

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