

# Dance concert portrays panorama of womankind

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

Dancer/choreographer/teacher Alana Barker brings a new dimension to "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," the Women in Art exhibition in progress at Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

That dimension is dance. The Lakes Area resident will present a concert of mixed media dances — contemporary and traditional — at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23. It will include works choreographed by or for Barker based on African, Haitian and Brazilian folklore and jazz.

"I've attempted to create a panorama of female characters," Barker said, "of woman, of womankind — many different ways of looking at women."

"I see the concert as another element in the Women in Art exhibit and sale. I would like it to receive attention as an integral part of 'Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,' not

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— Alana Barker

just another concert."

Barker, who was part of the 18-woman volunteer committee which planned the art show, sees her performance as furthering the philosophy of "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." The event, now in its fourth year, has four goals:

- To promote participation of and opportunities for women artists in various stages of artistic development.

- To support artists in all media in all phases of development.

- To provide a vehicle through which women artists may measure

excellence.

- To provide exposure for established, new and emerging artists.

"We've worked well as a committee to promote women in art," Barker said.

This was the first year of involvement for Barker, a free-lance dancer and part-time Wayne State University instructor. She became aware of the OCC project through its founder Elaine Saltsman as both worked on a Detroit Festival of the Arts project.

"THEY WANTED to include dance," Barker said, "this is a beginning that we want to expand, to include many artists and at least two performances."

"What started off as a one-woman show has grown to include others," Barker said. The one-hour format has elements of interaction with music and poetry — simultaneously and sequentially, she said. "Sometimes dance is performed with music, sometimes with words, sometimes in silence." Tracey Lupo, a Wayne State University student, will read from the works of Marge Piercy in one segment. In another Barker will be accompanied by percussionists Modibo Keita and Sundiata Keita.

"And then there's the tape," Barker joked. "In the absence of an orchestra we rely on Memorex."

In addition to her special projects, Barker is now teaching or has taught Afro-Haitian dance, movement for actors and jazz and modern dance at Wayne State University, and a movement technique class at Heritage House of Detroit. She has also taught at Eastern Michigan University, Marygrove and the University of Michigan.

As part of ARTS QUEST, a non-profit organization she formed with a Michigan Council for the Arts grant, she provides workshops, master classes, lectures, consultations, residencies and performances.

"It's not a major organization," Barker said. "You don't make a living at this. If an independent artist had to live on what she makes . . . well, you don't make enough money as an independent artist to survive."

Barker's performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23 in Smith Theatre. Tickets are \$8, \$5 for seniors and students. For more information, call 471-7700.



## The gypsy in your soul

The Balalaika Orchestra of Detroit will play to bring out the gypsy in your soul when the 10-piece costumed group appears in concert 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4 in The Birmingham Temple, 28611 12 Mile Road.

The orchestra has been charming its audiences since 1920 with its Russian, Yiddish and gypsy melodies. Tickets are \$8, or \$7 for students and seniors available from the temple office, 477-1410.

## International Women's Day celebrated by Womencenter

The OCC Womencenter hosts its 16th annual celebration of International Women's Day beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. The celebration, which begins with an international buffet, will be in J Building, room 206, on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

Admission is by pre-registration only. Tickets are \$12 general public, \$10 students and seniors. People are encouraged to come in ethnic dress, prepared to share stories from ethnic roots. For tickets and further information, call the OCC Womencenter at 471-7602, Monday through

Thursday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The program will include a video from the 1985 International Decade of Women Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Women from different ethnic and racial backgrounds will share their personal experiences of growing up to become strong in today's world.

Presentors will be Marilyn Becker, psychotherapist, parent, peace activist, teacher and writer; Emirene Mendoza, lawyer, mother and political activist; Wayumi Umboto, OCC student, teacher and

mother; Dorothy Garner, corrections officer, community organizer, mother and grandmother.

International Women's Day is celebrated in commemoration of the thousands of women who marched on March 8, 1908, through the garment district in New York City demanding fair wages, childcare, the end of child labor and a safe work environment. Since that time, women around the world pay tribute to the continuing struggle of women for peace, justice and equality for all people.

## New fitness center open

The Physio Fitness Centre, at 32522 Northwestern Highway offers the latest in muscle toning, nutrition and exercise counseling, with a staff of professionals.

The body toning treatment is designed to improve muscle tone without sweat or fatigue. Body toning has been medically researched and proven effective and has become increasingly popular among everyone from doctors to Hollywood socialites.

The treatment is 45 minutes but the body has an equivalent of an hour and a half workout and is firmed exactly where it is most needed. A one to two inch loss is

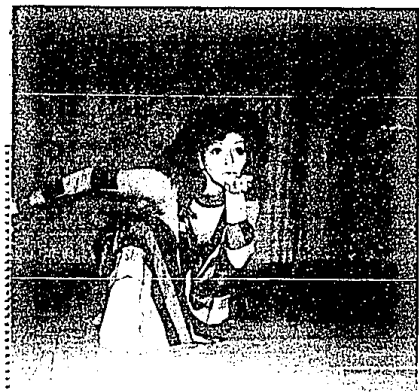
guaranteed after the first visit.

If done two times a week, it ensures an effective and regular exercise.

Through February, a 30 percent discount is offered for a package of unlimited visits.

The Physio Fitness Centre also offers several other comprehensive programs geared toward total fitness including facial toning, exercise programs, nutrition counseling and supplements, and a detoxification program.

The Physio Fitness Centre number is 737-5570.



Alana Barker depicts faces and phases of womanhood in her one-woman dance concert.

## Grieving parents invited to class

A "Resolve Through Sharing" program for parents who have suffered the loss of a child will take place in Detroit First Church of the Nazarene.

"Resolve Through Sharing" is a comprehensive perinatal bereavement program for families experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, newborn death or the death of any child regardless of age.

The program is designed to insure that consistent, sensitive care is given to each and every grieving parent and family from the moment the child dies throughout the period of grieving.

The "Resolve Through Sharing" program will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, and run for four consecutive Mondays. There is a \$10 fee for materials. The church is at 21260

Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile.

The series of classes will be presented by Sharon Pilat and Valerie Anibal, both certified Resolve Through Sharing instructors.

The series begins with "Grief and the Process," which helps participants work through the grieving process. The March 12 program is called "Relationships." The final program, "The Healing Process,"

deals with a broken heart and the steps to recovery.

At each session there will be a time of information and sharing in small groups led by trained Resolve Through Sharing core leaders. Men and women will be involved in sharing their own experience of hope with the group. For other information or advance registration, call Sharon Pilat at 348-7600.

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