

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Students design cars of the future

Sarah Dixon thinks young, and that's exactly the type of designer Ford Motor Company is trying to attract to its ranks. As a fourth year Industrial Design student at Center for Creative Studies, Dixon, a Livonia resident, is frugal with her money while keeping one eye on the future. Those qualities were what she and the 13 other students in Mollie Fletcher's Color and Trim class kept in mind when re-inventing a Ford Focus wagon last semester.

Ford donated the car to the school and gave students a free hand in redesigning the color, trim, interior and exterior of the vehicle. In keeping with the theme of sophistication, students named the car, the Ford Focus FAZE. It will be on exhibit at the North American International Auto Show Saturday, Jan. 13, through Sunday, Jan. 21, at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

"We wanted it to be a car you would use when you first get out of college and then start a family, sort of like a mini van but more stylish," said Dixon. "We chose a brown exterior to go with the theme and for the interior went with a palette of dark brown, light blue with accents of copper. With interiors you can be a little more conceptual."

"We tried to bring in something you don't see. You don't see many brown colors anymore and you never see copper accents. You see a lot of brushed metal and shiny steel or chrome but not copper."

Dixon learned about more than color and trim in the class, though. She experienced what it was like to work with a client and suppliers in addition to a design team.

"We learned how to work with people to do one project," said Dixon, a graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia. "Now I know what it's going to be like in the business world. It's hard to get 14 to 15 people's opinions. The majority won after a lot of talk and pushing your ideas on other people like a salesperson."

Concept cars

Having experienced what it was like to work as a team, Dixon is excited about seeing what professional Motor City designers have come up with this year. She tries to never miss an auto show because she likes seeing the concept cars.

"It's amazing to see not only the cars but the lighting and graphics," said Dixon. "You get a sense of what's new in design and colorwise. They determine colors four years back. We used a color palette that would be used by a car company in 2004. There's a lot of deep chocolate brown like Godiva, not much gray, and a vibrant orange and yellow. People are opening up more to color. Before now people were afraid to put

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Sophistication: Sarah Dixon (right) and Cristin Richard go over color chips for the exterior of a Ford Focus wagon to be displayed at the North American International Auto Show Jan. 13-21.



Classic tale: Elena Andrienko plays the dual roles of Odette and the evil Odile in the Russian National Ballet's production of "Swan Lake."

Russian dancers turn to tradition for inspiration

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Romance never goes out of style. When the shimmering blue moonlight descends on the Russian National Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*, a hushed silence will follow as the classic love story unfolds. Ever since the ballet was first performed in St. Petersburg in 1895, audiences have packed theaters to see the choreography Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov created for Tchaikovsky's beautiful score.

"It's a romantic story," said artistic director Sergei Radchenko who brings the Russian National Ballet to the Fox Theatre for two performances Sunday, Jan. 14. "We need a romantic story in our technology century to soften it a little bit."

English audiences especially love *Swan Lake* because of their conservative nature, said Radchenko. The Russian National Ballet began its tour Nov. 12 with 56 performances in London. They arrived in Wilmington, Del., Jan. 2 for a four-month tour of the U.S.



Love story: Eugeny Kern is Siegfried, the young prince who falls in love with and rescues the swan Odette (Elena Andrienko).

"I watch the reaction of audiences in England," said Radchenko. "They love the classics *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Nutcracker* and invite us back every year. New works come and go but these they will stay for a long time."

Radchenko is not tamping down with success. He's returned to the original choreography for the company's second trip to America. The Russian National Ballet performed *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Carmen Suite* on a tour in spring 1999. Founded in Moscow in the late 1880s, the company focuses on "upholding the grand national tradition of the major Russian ballet works and developing new talents."

"Our *Swan Lake* is traditional and purified," said Radchenko. "It's the classical story, absolutely traditional, without anything modern. The only new in this version is by the technician."

"It opens with Prince Siegfried walking and meeting friends and then appears the evil Rothbart behind him. He is invisible to Siegfried then suddenly Siegfried sees Odette, one of the maidens Rothbart turned into a swan, and falls in love. I love everything about *Swan Lake*. The best is the second act and the third act. *Swan Lake* is one of my favorites next to *Carmen Suite*."

Radchenko danced *Carmen Suite* and *Swan Lake* when he was a member of the Bolshoi Ballet, Russia's premiere dance company. The spirit of the Bolshoi Ballet will no doubt be felt when the Russian National Ballet performs in Detroit. Several members of the Russian National Ballet come from the Bolshoi School. For more than 25 years, Radchenko danced with the passion and spirit for which the Bolshoi company is known. For the Detroit performances, he is flying in principal dancers Elena Andrienko and Eugeny Kern from the Bolshoi Ballet. Andrienko, who dances the role of Odette/Odile, joined the Bolshoi in 1991. An award-winning dancer, Andrienko was born in Kiev, Ukraine and is a graduate of the Moscow State Academy of Choreography and the Moscow State Institute of Choreography. Kern (Prince Siegfried) joined the Bolshoi Ballet in 1993 as a soloist. He is known for his breathtaking technique, powerful elevation and daring stage presence.



Lakeside scene: The shimmering blue moonlight descends on the dancers as they wait to be rescued from the evil sorcerer in Act II of "Swan Lake."

What: The Russian National Ballet performs the classic *Swan Lake*.
When: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14.
Where: Fox Theatre, Detroit.
Tickets: \$27.50, \$37.50, \$45 and \$75, call (248) 433-1515

"I miss dancing and sometimes dreams (I'm still dancing) but now I'm dancing in my pupil," said Radchenko.

"Since (Perestroika) dancers are migrating from one company to another. Half the company has changed since it was founded. Dancers

like to emigrate looking for a better life. I have better wages so I get the best dancers."

Radchenko also attracted the best coach as a secondary artistic director - his wife Elena Radchenko. Working together helps the Radchenkos ease the loneliness and longing they feel for their home in Moscow while on the road. The couple, who were married more than 20 years ago, first worked together at the Bolshoi Ballet.

"We completely know the details of each other so we know what the other is thinking," said Radchenko.

Their closeness also shortens the long days spent in rehearsals which began six months ago in Moscow. Dancers practice from 4-10 p.m. Each new city brings a rehearsal to learn the stage. Performances follow 45-minutes later.

"We always rehearse before performing," said Radchenko. "Each stage is different. Some are deeper. We must adjust dancers for this type of change. I try my very best to bring the best *Swan Lake* to the stage."

CONCERT

The Three Doctors perform classical music to benefit kids

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Drs. Joseph Kaufman and Tor Shwayder seem totally at home as they rehearse Beethoven's "Sonata" for a Jan. 14 concert to benefit the kids at Camp Discovery.

Their dedication to the music and children, attending the northern Minnesota camp, is matched only by their talent on piano and violin. Shwayder believes so strongly in the camp that helps children with serious skin diseases overcome the rejection they feel on a daily basis that he's volunteered his time for the last four years. He jokes, music lovers won't want to miss the afternoon concert of music by Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt because it's an opportunity "to hear local talent at reasonable prices, and see physicians do something besides give you shot."

But a seriousness takes over as Shwayder begins to show slides of the children attending Camp Discovery. He's seen first hand the joy the week-long getaway brings to the children who are scared and suffering from epider-



Afternoon sonata: Drs. Joseph Kaufman (left) and Tor Shwayder prepare to rehearse for a concert to benefit Camp Discovery.

dermatologic hyperkeratosis and epidermolysis bullosa.

On daily rounds as director of pediatric dermatology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Shwayder deals with the children disfigured by diseases that cause their skin to blister, turn into scales or cost them their fingers and toes. He relayed the story about his experiences at the camp and as a doctor in *Call of the Loon*, which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in October 1998.

"The camp is a time for being touchy, feely and just being accepted for themselves and not what their skin looks like," said Shwayder, a Farmington Hills resident. "There's arts and crafts, campfires, archery, and a skit night which gives them the opportunity to participate in activities like normal kids. A teen camp run the last three years is in jeopardy. Whether it continues this summer all depends on funding."

Which brings the doctors back to the subject of the Jan. 14 concert at Madonna University in Livonia. Joining them on stage will be Dr. Thomas Hornyak, a pianist and dermatologist

What: Drs. Joseph Kaufman, Tor Shwayder and Thomas Hornyak perform a concert of Beethoven, Franck, Chopin and Liszt.
When: 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14.
Where: Kresge Hall at Madonna University, 36500 Schoolcraft at Livonia.
Tickets: \$20, suggested adult donation. All proceeds go to the kids at Camp Discovery. Call (248) 788-1500

at Henry Ford Hospital. Please no jokes about The Three Doctors becoming as famous as The Three Tenors. If all goes well though the concert could become an annual event that would more than make all their practicing worth it. Kaufman and Shwayder began playing classical music together a few years ago and except for infrequent performances before family and friends, they play for the pure pleasure of hearing Beethoven.

Both have studied their particular instruments for many years. Kaufman began playing piano at age 10 and took private lessons. He's been a guest pianist with the Redford Civic Symphony and the Novi Concert Band.

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