

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, January 26, 1989 O&E

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STEPHEN GANTRELL/staff photographer

Lori McMacken choreographed musicals when she was a student at Athens High School in Troy. Now she's appearing in one — "Can-Can" at Detroit's Fisher Theatre.



In the Cole Porter musical hit, McMechan (center) is one of the Laundresses, who dance the daring Can-Can that is forbidden by law in Paris in 1893. The musical, starring Broadway's Chita

Rivers as the dance hall owner, features the precision-line Radio City Music Hall Rockettes.

It's a kick Dancer from Troy in 'Can-Can'

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

Dancer Lori McMacken, a graduate of Troy Athens High School, is kicking up her heels, not to mention flipping up her ruffled petticoats to expose her garters and underpants, as one of the Rockettes appearing in "Can-Can" with Chita Rivera.

The touring production at Detroit's Fisher Theatre opened last week and continues through Sunday, Feb. 5. Besides sizzling Broadway star Rivera, the cast is highlighted

by 13 of New York City's famed precision dancers, the Rockettes.

McMacken arrived earlier than usual before a matinee performance, last Wednesday, so she could be interviewed at the Fisher. Seated in a chair in the center of the spacious lobby, she talked in relaxed fashion about her family, her fiancé and her career.

The 1979 graduate of Athens High School said she owed a lot to the school's drama teacher, Krista Manfredi. "She's a friend of mine, and

she has been very influential in my career."

McMacken choreographed Athens' productions of such musical hits as "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Guys and Dolls." In high school, she also studied dance at Oakland University in Rochester Hills and, during the summer, at Marygrove College in Detroit.

FAMILY TIES ARE still in the Detroit area. Her father and sister both live in Royal Oak. McMacken's fiancé, Jimmy Ziegler, lives in New Jersey.

"His family owns a couple of restaurants, and he is in the business and also is a manufacturer's representative," she said.

Although McMacken is dancing as one of the Rockettes, she never

appeared with the troupe at Radio City Music Hall. She explained that when "Can-Can" was being cast with the Rockettes, not enough of them wanted to go on tour. There were a couple of openings, and she auditioned successfully.

The tour started last February. She said, generally, they have visited one city each week. The show spent five weeks in Los Angeles and about the same amount of time in San Francisco.

She enjoys the touring and ticked off her favorite places so far: "Seattle, Oregon, Orlando, New Orleans" — and Cincinnati, which surprised me.

Before appearing in "Can-Can," McMacken worked as part of an

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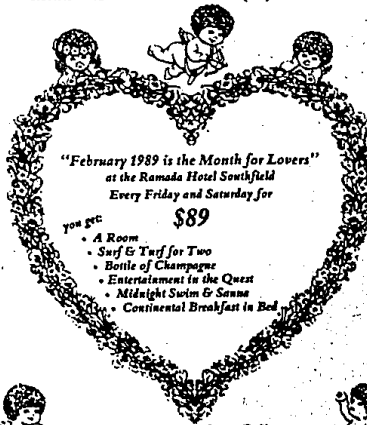
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