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Annual Dance Concert Returns to IWU

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Annual Dance Concert Returns to IWU

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--After one year away from the season's schedule, the Illinois Wesleyan University School of Theatre Arts will offer new choreography and stories in dance in its presentation Dance Concert 2002.

The concert will take place at McPherson Theatre, 304 E. Graham St., Bloomington, from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2 at 8 p.m., with a final afternoon matinee on Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. Admission prices are \$1 for students with I.D., \$5 for general admission on Jan. 29, Jan. 30, and Feb. 3. All other performances carry a general admission of \$8.

The event is designed to challenge both students and faculty. Students will perform seven original pieces choreographed by faculty members and guest artists Li Chiao Ping and Jon Lehrer.

The event's director, Jean Kerr, associate professor of theatre arts/stage movement, is especially excited about the inclusion of Li Chiao Ping's work in the performance, who was voted by Dance Magazine as one of the top 25 choreographers in the country to watch. "It is an incredible honor that Li Chiao Ping came here to choreograph for us, and she has done beautiful work with the dancers," said Kerr.

The student participants have been rehearsing for this concert since mid-October, and have been extensively involved in every facet of the concert's production. "There are several students working on the production behind-the-scenes. From stage and lighting managers, to costume designers and publicity, this concert is a true collaboration of artists," Kerr said.

Kerr also commented on the universal appeal of dance, an art form that lasts only for the moment, yet is capable of connecting to an audience in a truly memorable fashion. "There is a lot of fabulous art on this campus, but only dance takes true advantage of the moment, and that moment is coming January 29," said Kerr.

About Li Chiao-Ping

As a choreographer/director, Li Chiao Ping was named by Dance Magazine as one of the 25 "we'll be watching in 2001 and for years to come!"

She has created, produced and performed over 50 works for the stage and screen throughout North and South America, in addition to receiving numerous awards, grants, honors, and fellowships. Li Chiao Ping Dance offers programs of emotionally charged and highly physical works with striking visual design and the music of contemporary composers. The company has an active touring schedule and recently traveled to Philadelphia and New York City for performances, festivals and workshops.

About Jon Lehrer

Jon Lehrer is currently a fifth year member, rehearsal director, and choreographer for Gus Giordano Jazz Dance in Chicago. Lehrer has danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, John Passafiume Dancers, and in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. He has performed throughout the United States and the world including France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, and Mexico. Lehrer's choreography has been shown at the University of Buffalo, East Central University, the American College Dance Festival, and the Kannon Dance Company in St. Petersburg, Russia. As a teacher, Lehrer has given master classes all over the world.