



Winter 1-18-1992

Dance Concert Opens Jan. 20 at Illinois Wesleyan

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Dance Concert Opens Jan. 20 at Illinois Wesleyan" (1992). *News and Events*. 6091.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6091>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

January 18, 1992

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3203

Dance Concert Opens Jan. 20 at Illinois Wesleyan

*Local
Cent. Ill.*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Discipline, thinking, dreams and the pain of watching a beloved mother die are among the human traits and emotions explored in the 1993 Faculty Dance Concert, which opens Wednesday, Jan. 20 at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The dance concert--directed by Jean Millian, an IWU assistant professor of dance/theatre arts--features about 20 Wesleyan students who will perform in seven dance compositions.

Dance Concert performances are scheduled for Jan. 20, 21, 22, and 23 at 8 p.m. in IWU's McPherson Theatre. General admission tickets are \$5; student tickets are \$1.

Students performing in the Dance Concert are freshmen through seniors and most are majoring in music theatre and drama.

The Dance Concert program includes:

- "We're Dance Later Bob," a country music hoe-down piece choreographed by Sheri Mae Bates, the concert's assistant director, who teaches ballet, modern dance, jazz, and tap dancing at IWU. Nine dancers perform in the piece.
- "Vigil," a composition exploring the memories of its composer, Liz Story, in connection with her mother's death, will be performed by five dancers. The piece was choreographed by Elizabeth Gibbons, who is the dance program coordinator at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. "Vigil was created," Story wrote, "out of memories of waiting for my mother to die, and subsequent readings on the grief process and dealing with the loss."
- "Think-A-Thought," choreographed by Millian, deals with the notion of how nice it would be "if we could put each one of our thoughts on a single card and file them away. Then we could pull them out later at random and deal with them one at a time." Seven dancers will perform in the piece.
- "Cross Currents," choreographed by Millian and featuring nine dancers, explores the characteristics of wind. "The wind is a gossip," the Dance Concert program note says. "Not in a malicious way. She just likes to move around and stir things up. She runs through the fire barefoot and has no fear of heights. She

carries big blue bowls of rain with her. She plays the flute and loves all kinds of sounds. Her laughter fills the sky. The wind is a wonderful storyteller . . . "

- "Critical Mass," a piece examining the sometimes elusive human quality of discipline, was choreographed by Millian and will be performed by nine dancers. A program note describes the piece this way: "Discipline does not disappear forever, but she does take vacations from time to time."

- "ex ' i gen cy: a pressing lack of something essential," a composition choreographed by Bates, will be performed by seven dancers.

- "Beau Woes," a composition honoring those with the courage to make their dreams realities, was choreographed by Millian and will be performed by five dancers.

Megan Smith, an IWU freshman from Flushing, Mich., and a member of the Dance Concert company, said, "As a freshman it's an honor to be in the Dance Concert. It means that I have to push myself--to discipline myself--since I've never been in anything like this before. It's very intense."

Smith, who will perform in three Dance Concert pieces, has studied dance for a dozen years and voice for two years. She has appeared in high school productions of several Broadway smash-hit musicals, including "The Music Man," "Hello Dolly!," "Camelot," and "My Fair Lady."

Smith and other members of the Dance Concert company have been rehearsing since October. "In January," Smith added, "we've been rehearsing five hours a day including classes."

Millian, who earned a master's degree in dance from Ohio State University, is the director and choreographer of the Jean Millian Dance Company. She has choreographed numerous productions, including "Man of La Mancha" and "Anything Goes".

Bates began her training at Fresno State University and studied at Illinois State University. She choreographed "1940's Radio Hour" and is a member of the Jean Millian Dance Company.

Gibbons, the Dance Concert's guest choreographer, received a doctorate in dance from Texas Woman's University in 1989. She earned bachelor and master's of fine arts degrees from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She has performed in and choreographed pieces for university and professional dance companies in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Kansas.

Students performing in the Dance Concert are: Claire Baxter, a senior from Davenport, Iowa; Kelli Boutelle, a senior from St. Louis; Kelly Brerton, a

sophomore from Palatine, Ill.; Tesha Buss, a freshman from Augusta, Ill.; Mary DeLano, a freshman from Montgomery, Ill.; Dawn Hamelberg, a junior from Champaign, Ill.; Delana Hubscher, a senior from Fairless Hills, Pa.; William Ingraham, a sophomore from Huntington, Mass.; Eli McAfee, a senior from Brighton, Ill.; Amy McInerney, a freshman from St. Louis; Christine Moore, a sophomore from Palatine, Ill.; Deborah Obalil, a sophomore from Elk Grove Village, Ill.; Catherine O'Connor, a sophomore from Munster, Ind.; Matthew Raftery, a sophomore from Park Forest, Ill.; Elizabeth Sammon, a sophomore from Springfield, Mo.; Megan Smith, a freshman from Flushing, Mich.; Holly Stauder, a junior from Burbank, Ill.; Brian Taylor, a sophomore from Indianapolis, Ind.; Keely Vasquez, a junior from Highland, Ill.; Rachael Warren, a freshman from Hanover, Kan.; and Valerie Yonan, a junior from Northbrook, Ill.

IWU Theatre Marquee—Watch for these upcoming productions at IWU . . . "The Sea Gull," a classic drama by Russian author Anton Chekhov, March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 . . . "Baby with the Bathwater," a comedy by Christopher Durang, April 29, 30, May 1, 6, 7, 8 . . . and in the Lab Theatre . . . "Alice in Wonderland," created by the Manhattan Project (a mature interpretation of the Lewis Carroll classic), Feb. 25, 26, 27 . . . "The Conduct of Life" by Maria Irene Fornes, April 8, 9 . . .