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UD Dance Ensemble Performance to Showcase Local Choreographers

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UD DANCE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE
TO SHOWCASE LOCAL CHOREOGRAPHERS

DAYTON, Ohio -- Nine works by University of Dayton faculty members, UD students and community choreographers will be featured in the UD Dance Ensemble's spring concert at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre on campus.

General admission tickets are $6 and are available at the Boll Theatre box office noon to 5 p.m. weekdays or by calling (513) 229-2545.

Jeni Engel-Conley, artistic director of the ensemble, has choreographed "Earth Speak," a topical yet upbeat modern work. Set to music by Brian Eno and Laurie Anderson, the piece looks at pollution of the planet, how various types of people are affected by the crisis and attempts to improve the global environment.

UD graduate Janet Slifka, currently a company member of Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater in Columbus, describes her new work for the concert as "an experiment in attempting to express the mixed feelings I have for my grandmother. I have feelings of deep love and, at the same time, fear for her declining physical state."

"Chorale," by community choreographer Jane Poley, is a modern jazz work that explores the element of chance in both the development of movement and in daily human encounters.

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UD graduate Sharon Austin-Edwards calls "Hold My Hand," her new piece, "an experiment in exaggerated thought." The media-dance work relies on the intensity and timelessness of thought to elicit the audience's response to stimuli.

"Brouhaha, Balderdash, Ballyhoo..." is the second piece that Susan Harris has created for the UD Dance Ensemble. Set to music by King Crimson, it's an upbeat post-modern piece that features pedestrian movements inspired by day-to-day life.

In his "Nothing Personal," Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's Cecil Slaughter explores a network of relationships that are underscored by feelings of aggressive manipulation and uncertain love.

Soloist Denise Melnick's "Dr. Coppelius' Doll" portrays the inner struggles of a dancer to shape and mold her limbs to move as "friends not foes," she says. With music by Samuel Barber, the dancer summons the magic of Dr. Coppelius to transform her into an "immortal Giselle."

In UD freshman Renata Master's "A Bridge to Peace," dancers recite readings by Martin Luther King Jr., John Donne and others while they perform to graphically demonstrate the idea that peace cannot be achieved by violent means.

Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Pie Jesu" is the musical accompaniment to UD senior Dan Simon's choreographic debut. In "Walk With Me," 13 dancers conceptualize the unification of body and soul.

For more information on the spring concert, call (513) 229-3950.

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