

## Curtain Call

Variety of dances presented at Dance Arts Society spring show

BY SCOTT HARRIS  
The Battalion

The Russian ballet graced the stage of Rudder Auditorium in February, bringing the classic "The Sleeping Beauty" to life. However, the art of dance did not leave camp when the troupe boarded the

This Sunday, the Dance Arts Society is presenting its semester show under Theater. The performance brings together several different styles of dance styles.

Kelly Whitted, a choreographer and a sophomore journalism major, said the show will be extremely diverse.

There will be a little bit of everything at all different levels and varieties, she said. "There is every kind of piece you could think of at all skill levels."

Tony Guerrero, public relations officer and a choreographer for the Dance Arts Society, said there are

several different types of pieces in the show.

"There is jazz, tap, modern, funk, swing and a 'Fame' finale," the sophomore speech communications major said. "There is a lot of flavor and energy in every piece."

Guerrero said the semester shows do not have themes because having a theme would restrict the diversity of the show.

"There are no theme shows, which leaves more room for variety," Guerrero said. "The pieces will go wherever the choreographers take it."

Guerrero said anybody in the society can choreograph a piece for the show.

"To get in the show, the choreographer does a piece, the dancers audition, then they practice for several weeks, then they audition for the show," Guerrero said. "The audition for the show is to make sure the piece is performance material, clean and cut and rehearsed."

There are different ways to choreograph a piece, but Traci Stephens, a choreographer and a freshman general studies major, said she likes to first establish a theme.

"I like to pick an idea or theme first," Stephens said, "then I pick the music and then I choreograph the moves. I think all pieces should be based on a theme. I also like to pick my moves at the spur of the moment, whatever comes to mind. Sometimes it's rough and hard, but it all comes together in the end."

Stephens said her piece is an upbeat, hip-hop dance using the Beastie Boys' song "Intergalactic."

"I've never been this confident in a piece before," Stephens said. "It is a very high-energy, upbeat, in-your-face dance. I am a crowd pleaser. I give them what they want."

Camille Hamlin, a dancer and a junior community health major, said the audience gives many of the dancers motivation.

"Our audience keeps growing, so obviously people like it," Hamlin said. "They even stand up and cheer during the show. After the show, people come out of the crowd and give us flowers and stick around to talk to us."

Whitted said seeing a packed house is what makes her want to dance better.

"The bigger the audience the better the show," Whitted said. "It is a great feeling. I love performing for people. I may not be the best dancer, but I'm having the best time. It makes me feel good — I just love it."

There are 17 pieces in the show. "Latin Rhythms," which took second place at the MSC Variety Show during Parent's Weekend, will be the show opener. Most of the pieces will last between three and seven minutes, but the "Fame" finale will last nine minutes.

Whitted said the "Fame" finale is

a take-off of the movie *Fame*.

"'Fame' is a longer piece," Whitted said. "It was really challenging to do. I had to watch old movies to see how they danced in the '80s. They danced really differently. Everything about this piece just screams 'Fame.' We wear leg warmers and everything. It is very '80s.'"

Hamlin said that along with the semester show, the Dance Arts Society provides many other benefits.

"It brought so many people into my life, and I got to know so many different people," Hamlin said. "Plus, it is an excellent way to relax and exercise. It is a good society to be in because you spend time with these people and grow with them. It is an ongoing loving society."

Guerrero said the Dance Arts Society is a great outlet for creativity.

"It is nice to have an outlet for creativity as a choreographer," Guerrero said. "Whatever idea you have, there is an outlet to make the vision come alive. It's cool to have a chance to express yourself on stage."

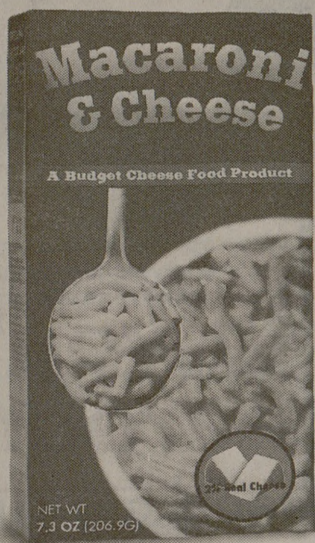
"It is a place where people are interested in dance and gives you an arena to do what you want. What you put into it is what you get out."



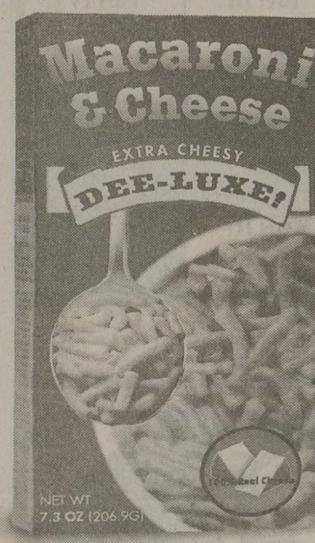
Dance Arts Society member rehearse "Fame" for "A Spring Curtain Call '99" show. Right: Leslie Malitz and Maddell Shepley practice for their "The Jungle" performance.



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION



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After.

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