

T.I.D.E. preview dazzles

By ANGELA LAWRENCE

In a gesture to compensate for the lack of lighting effects at last week's *Making Waves* preview performance, the audience was politely asked to improvise theatrical blackouts by closing their eyes at the appropriate times. Yet with the strong dance performances of the Toronto Independent Dance Enterprise (TIDE), the absence of the proper lighting didn't prove to be much of a problem.

As the preview performances were still enjoyable without complimentary lighting, the showcase performances on November 13-15, which will have the proper lighting effects, are sure to please audiences.

The showcase presentation of *Making Waves* is an opportunity for TIDE artists to perform their works in progress in order to gauge audience response and receive creative suggestions.

The performances will allow the dancers to make any needed changes before the full work is premiered at the start of TIDE's spring season in April. "It is important to show work in mid-term to see whether or not it's worth developing," explained co-artistic director Denise Fujiwara.

In 1978, two York students, Fujiwara and Paula Ravitz, started TIDE. Naive and inexperienced at the time, they were totally unaware of what they were really getting themselves into. "If we had known how hard it was to start a company we wouldn't have done it," Fujiwara said. Recently, York fine arts graduate Sallie Lyons replaced the retiring Paula Ravitz as TIDE co-artistic director. The dance company's present critical and financial success (the company is deficit-free), shows TIDE's promising future. Co-founder

Fujiwara said she is delighted and encouraged by TIDE's progression. "I feel our work is growing artistically."

As a developmental dance company, TIDE is renowned for its innovative choreography and exciting performances. The company is unique because all its dancers are also contributing choreographers. TIDE also collaborates with other Canadian artists: musical scores, sets, costumes and lighting designs are specifically created for new works, adding to TIDE's continually fresh artistic spirit.

TIDE is an appropriate acronym for the fluid style of modern dance the company displayed at the preview. The dancers floated, rolled, jumped and slid, all the while maintaining constant communication.

The TIDE works that were previewed are abstract and symbolic, easily inspiring a personal interpretation. With a bizarre combination of dance, theatrics and dialogue, "Mere Mortals" is one such work. The piece depicts a conflict between life and death, with the recurring questions asked by a man and a woman dressed in black: "Are you bad? Are you good? Are you an Angel?"

The other characters in this "spooky musical" are Patience, a little girl who is "here to explore the moment of death," and a woman who speaks to her dead son. The characters are brought together with a funky reggae song appropriately titled "What is Life?" "Mere Mortals" is performed by company members Darcey Callison and Kathryn Ricketts along with TIDE artistic directors Sallie Lyons and Denise Fujiwara.

Fujiwara performed "Egg," a solo piece that will be included in the

showcase repertoire. A one time member of the Canadian gymnastics team, Fujiwara recently spent time in New York City working with the choreographer of "Egg," Muna Tseng.

"Egg" features Fujiwara in a sun-burst coloured "Spiderman" bodysuit. Her movements in the piece are distinct and lyrical, and like a small animal, she moves slowly, smoothly and deliberately. "Egg" is a combination of acrobatic stretching and flowing body motions and is sure to be the delight of TIDE's showcase performances.

Joining TIDE members in *Making Waves* are guest artists Kim Frank, Lisa Eisler and Tatiana Alexandrova, who appears courtesy of Dancemakers. Original music is provided by composers Kirk Elliot, John Oswald and Mark Douglas.

With the proper finishing touches added—lighting design, music and sets—*Making Waves* will be a treat to watch. There are many surprises awaiting those who attend the showcases, for TIDE's performances are more than just a watching experience.

ERRATA

In last week's review of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, "Phantod Productions" was incorrectly identified as "Phantom Productions." Also, the caption for the photo incorrectly identified Jeffrey Creighton as Robert Devry. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by these errors.



PETER PAN, STEP ASIDE: Allan Ridsill (in flight) and Denise Fujiwara in TIDE production *Life Lines*. Showcase presentation *Making Waves* starts tonight at their St. Matthias Church studio, 45 Bellwoods Ave.

CYNTHIA ROBERTS

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★ An open letter to the York University Community ★

The CYSF-sponsored Third Annual Multicultural Festival has just ended and by all accounts was an unqualified success, and the most successful.

The week-long Festival took the form of displays in Central Square during the days (Monday to Friday) and culminated with a splash of dance, music and other artistic forms; together with an International Dinner that featured over forty different dishes, and a dance after.

It was exhilarating to look up into a

packed Burton Auditorium, and then Founders and Vanier Dining Halls.

The fact that the outside community participated hand-in-hand with our own gives me great pleasure.

My congratulations go out to all the groups who worked so hard, and sincere thanks to the others who supported us.

The following groups, and other listed, deserve much praise.

I hope that next year's Festival gets even bigger and better and UP YORK!

..... Thanks:

Cultural Clubs

Caribbean Students' Association
Croatian Students' Federation
Federation of Indian Students
Filipino Students' Association
Hellenic Students' Association
Hispanic Students' Association
Iranian Students' Association
Italian-Canadian Students' Association
Jewish Student Federation
Le Cercle Francais
Malaysian-Singaporean Students' Association
Pakistani Students' Association
Portuguese Students' Association
Ukrainian Students' Association

Special thanks to
Vicky Fusca for invaluable
assistance and advice.

Others who helped, in no particular order

CYSF Executive Members
A & A Engraving
PANZ Computer Warehouse
Randy Lander / DIAR
Paul Kerr / Conference Centre
Sylvia Stanley
Alex Gebbie
Brian Davidson (LMA) & Staff
Cora Dusk, Office of Student Affairs
Provost Tom Meininger
Lerrick Starr / Tachyon Graphics
Grant Smith
Dwight (from the Anthropology Students' Assoc.)
Moses Mohamed (of Rill Foods)
Lucy Grossi

Sincerely,
Michael Latchana
Director of Social & Cultural Affairs

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