

Spring into Dance 2014

Concordia to host 2nd annual dance show

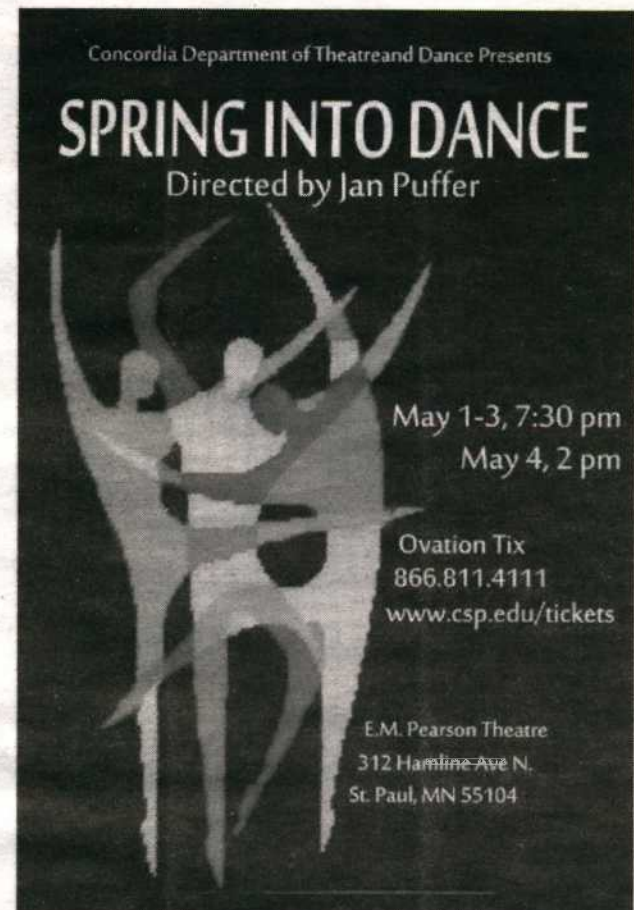
By Meredith Wagner

The Concordia Theatre and Dance department will soon host their second annual "Spring into Dance" production. It will consist of several different dance pieces, showcasing both student and faculty choreography. Professor of Dance Jan Puffer is the main organizer and creator of the Spring into Dance show. "I initially got the inspiration for Spring into Dance four years ago with the installment of a dance minor option into the departments curriculum," said Puffer. "My choreographer classes were so wonderful, so I wanted to give them a chance to really showcase their dances."

Thus, the production of the Spring into Dance show starts with student choreographers auditioning their pieces to Puffer, who then decides who will be able to have actual dancers audition in their piece. "I make the decision after I have watched the choreographer dance through a short example of their dance and listened to the music they have chosen," she said. However, choreographers are not only chosen because of their dance moves. "I also ask them about their plans for teaching the piece, the mood or theme they want for the piece, and dancing experience. The choreography class is not required, but it is always helpful to have taken it."

Once the choreographers are chosen, they hold their own open auditions to find dancers. The dancers are put through an eight count section of the dance they are auditioning, first following along with the choreographer in front of them, and then once or twice by themselves. Post auditions, all of the choreographers gather in the dance studio and hash out who wants whom in which piece. It is always a struggle to schedule rehearsal times that have to incorporate many different busy schedules. "This is definitely the most trying part of the entire show, even the rehearsals," lamented Puffer. "All of the students are so busy."

This year, the dance show choreographers include Elisabeth Coats, Quang Nguyen, Christina Miller, Jordyn Joens, Corey Ledin, Kristina Van Duesen, and of course, Jan Puffer. "The choreographers are wonderful. They are great at what they do, and are so dedicated and happy to see their hard work and planning come to life," said Puffer. Each piece is an original creation, and a wide range of dance genres will be showcased throughout the production: jazz, modern, hip-hop, ballet, tap, and musical theater-esque will all be given a go. "I am really proud



of how diverse our production is going to be. It makes it more enjoyable for the choreographers, dancers, and audience alike," said Puffer.

The show will be put on May 1-4, with 7:30 P.M. shows on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 2:00 P.M. on Sunday. "The amount of commitment and self-expression the dancers and choreographers have put into the show is wonderful and satisfying for me to see," concluded Puffer.

