

Newsletter of the The Ohio State University

Department Of Dance

# Dance

AUTUMN 2003



## Exposing Schools to OSU Dance

*"I liked the Migration dance. It made me feel like I was a butterfly dancing right along with them."*

*"when I was watching the dance it made me want to get up and dance too!"*  
—quotes from students of Duxberry Park Arts IMPACT School

Our "Dancers in the Schools" program has been bringing original and reconstructed faculty and student work to area schools for the past four years. Each Spring Quarter approximately six schools are visited exposing these young students to the world of dance. We offer a performance to the whole school followed by a workshop for a selected group of children. Our programs have featured works by Brenda Daniels, Lisa Race, and Paul Taylor, faculty members Rosalind Pierson and Susan Hadley, as well as original choreography by graduate and undergraduate students. All dance styles have been performed (tap, hip hop, jazz, modern, ballet, and even some gymnastics) and have been inspired by quite a range of topics. Some of those inspirations include: nature (Butterfly migration patterns), sports (baseball), and children's literature ("Where the Wild Things Are" was a great hit in the Elementary Schools).

Organizing for our Spring Quarter tours during Autumn and Winter Quarters with a graduate Teaching Associate assigned the task of creating a piece for the program with other volunteer choreographers adding to it for an amazing performance. Everybody wins with these performances: the schools have a very sophisticated product delivered to their door, and the OSU students are revitalized by taking their choreography out to their greatest fans. We have even given out autographs on occasion!

Many thanks go out to the faculty and students who have made the "Dancers in the Schools" program such a success. The Department of Dance is extremely fortunate to have such talented and giving students who are willing to reach out to the community.

## HEEL TALK takes a New Turn

For the past ten years, using text, contemporary and vernacular movement, collaborators Karen Bell and Vickie Blaine have explored personal and professional life issues through the creation of live performance work designed for the proscenium stage. In September 2002 they toured an evening-length movement theater work HEEL TALK to Memphis, Tennessee, Brockport, New York and central Ohio, including performances at the Davis Discovery Center in Columbus. HEEL TALK broadly covered the themes of self-image, motherhood, the workplace and finding just the right shoe. Currently, however, their work is taking a new turn.

Joining the collaboration in 2003, and providing new leadership, was dance video artist Victoria Uris. Using HEEL TALK as a point of departure, she re-conceptualized the content and specifically formatted it for video. Over this past summer, scenes were shot in multiple locations: houses, gardens, stores, offices, conference rooms, etc. Through the richly textured medium of video where nuance is more easily revealed, Uris, assisted by Robbie Shaw, captured a more intimate and detailed view of the relationship between the two women, each facing aging issues at different points in their lives. The project, HEEL TALK- THE MOVIE, is currently in its post-production editing stage and is expected to be completed summer of 2004.

