‘Language of the Soul’: Dance by students, alumni and guests

Video: [http://youtu.be/g79s9AWhGzo](http://youtu.be/g79s9AWhGzo)


Dance students with Sacramento State’s Choreographers Collective have been rehearsing through the summer for the Theatre and Dance Department’s first presentation of the fall season – “Language of the Soul” – at Solano Hall’s Dancespace.

Performances of the contemporary dance concert will be at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 10 and 11; 8 p.m. Sept. 12 and 13; and 2 p.m. Sept. 14.

The concert features pieces by eight dance students and two returning alumni, as well as two works by Sacramento’s DIG/Dancers Investigation Group. The 25 dancers include dance majors and minors, general ed students and alumni.

The music runs the gamut from Tchaikovsky to Brazilian Girls to electronic music, trip hop and jazz.

Alumna Danielle Johnson is using This Will Destroy You’s “They Move on Tracks of Never Ending Light” for her work, “In a Moment.”

The piece features two dancers and is symbolic of the relationship between Johnson and a longtime friend. A small table used in the number represents obstacles that can come up in any relationship.

“My two dancers have been friends for many years, so having them know each other that well and be able to perform what I’m asking has been really nice,” Johnson says.

Senior dance student Jessica Rae Aliganga is working with seven dancers for “Knight Light.” The theme is the internal battle everyone faces between lightness and darkness, whether it is symbolic or more based in reality. “I wanted to leave it to the interpretation of the audience, because everyone has a different relationship with being enlightened or being lost somewhere,” Aliganga says.

“Language of the Soul” is directed by Dance Professor Lorelei Bayne. The title was voted on by the choreographers and is part of a quote by legendary contemporary dance choreographer Martha Graham, who described dance as “the hidden language of the soul.”

Bayne and Professor Philip Flickinger also will present a quartet piece and a solo as part of their DIG/Dancers Investigation Group.

The choreographers and dancers are a dedicated bunch. Rehearsals started in mid-July, and many of the students also were taking classes twice a week through the University’s Black Dance Collective as well as the Dance Alliance. “The students have been involved
in those classes, as well as their rehearsals, as well as working to save up for the school year, so they’ve been busy,” Bayne says.

Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. performances are $8 general, $5 for children under 12 years of age. All other performances are $12 general, $10 for seniors and students, and $8 for children. Tickets are available at the University Ticket Office, (916) 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/hornettickets. For more information, visit www.csus.edu/dram or call (916) 278-6368. For media assistance, call Sac State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Craig Koscho