‘Happiness’ theme permeates Sac State dance concert

Credit: Sacramento State/Craig Koscho

This season’s Dance Sites 2014/Faculty Dance Concert at Sacramento State features six faculty choreographers and two special guest artists creating works for student dancers.

Many of the choreographers are using the University’s One World Initiative topic of “Happiness” as their theme in works that feature music ranging from gospel to Mexican folklorico ballet, hip-hop and original student compositions.

The dance concert is part of the Arts Experience at Sac State. Performances are at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11, 8 p.m. Dec. 12 and 13, and 2 p.m. Dec. 14 on the University Theatre’s main stage.

Directed by Theatre and Dance Vice Chair Lorelei Bayne, this year’s Dance Sites once again features last year’s popular short documentaries by film student Kaely Mullins about the dances, interspersed between works.

Sac State’s One World Initiative presents a theme each year for the campus to discuss, debate and celebrate. Dance Professor Philip Flickinger is one of the choreographers using this year’s “Happiness” theme in his work featuring 12 dancers with music composed by Sac State student Nick Micheels.

“I consider myself to be a pluviophile, a person who finds joy or pleasure in rainy days,” Flickinger says. The piece, “Pluviophile,” recognizes the happiness he experiences in the midst of the rain, as well as the importance of rain of our lives. It’s part of a student-faculty research grant project on the rejuvenating and healing powers of rain.

One special guest artist, Pepper Von, has created a hip-hop piece about finding happiness through personal expression and collective interaction. “The dance teaches us clarity, so we can better see the opportunities to be happy,” Von says. “Dance allows us to better experience the effects of happiness by sharing it with others.”

Other choreographers are faculty members Bayne, Linda Goodrich, Nolan T’Sani, Lisa Ross and Osvaldo Ramirez, and special Bay Area guest Nhan Ho.

Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. performances are $8 general, $5 for children under 12. All other performances are $12 general, $10 for students and seniors, and $5 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the University Ticket Office, (916) 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/hornettickets.

For more information, call the Theatre and Dance Department at www.csus.edu/dram or (916) 278-6368. For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Craig Koscho