

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Mailed March 22, 1988

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - The Modern Dance Ensemble at Youngstown State University is rehearsing a program which will be offered free to a number of area schools beginning in April.

The 45-minute performance is designed for kindergarten through sixth grade and will include a lecture-demonstration about the art of dance plus a modern dance mini-concert.

The program is directed by Joan S. Wagman of Liberty, an instructor in the YSU Department of Health and Physical Education and artistic director of the Dance Ensemble. Guest choreographers who contributed to the program are Kathy Short-Gracenin of Sharon, Pa., and Roberta Kjelgaard of Hubbard.

Ms. Wagman said the young audiences will learn about the training of a dancer as the ensemble demonstrates their "warm-up" process. They will also learn about the basic elements of dance--time, space and movement quality--through observation, discussion and participation.

The dances to be performed cover themes the children can identify with, such as blue jeans, monkeys, Indians and forms of transportation.

The touring company will include eight dancers, most of them YSU students. They are Monica Armentrout of Columbiana, Kay Cook of Austintown, Michelle Lenson of Chagrin Falls, Ruth Smrek of Boardman, Betsy Bryan of Andover, and Kenneth Hernandez, Joyce Kacar and Paula Mays, all of Youngstown.

Wagman said the program can be performed in a variety of facilities, including gymnasias and multi-purpose rooms.

MORE

ADD ONE

Performing dates are available on Friday afternoons from late April until early June. There is no fee, but donations to help cover expenses will be accepted.

Interested schools should contact Ms. Wagman at 742-3658, or Dr. Susan DeBlois of Boardman, assistant professor in YSU's Foundations of Education, at 742-7150.

Wagman, who combines her expertise as a choreographer and educator, taught children's dance in the Boston area before coming to YSU as a dance teacher.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Four members of the YSU Modern Dance Ensemble make their jeans dance in this number, which they are rehearsing as part of a program the ensemble will present this spring to area elementary schools. From left are Monica Armentrout of Columbiana, Michelle Lenson of Chagrin Falls, Ruth Smrek of Boardman, and Betsy Bryan of Andover.

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Performing a tug-of-war with blue jeans are four members of the YSU Modern Dance Ensemble, which will present programs to area elementary schools this spring. From left are Betsy Bryan of Andover, Monica Armentrout of Columbiana, Ruth Smrek of Boardman, and Michell Lenson of Chagrin Falls.

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87-355

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PHOTO CAPTION

Four members of the YSU Modern Dance Ensemble rehearse a number with their feet in the bottom of blue jeans. The eight-member ensemble will present a program on modern dance to area elementary schools this spring. From left are Monica Armentrout of Columbiana; Michelle Lenson, Chagrin Falls; Ruth Smrek, Boardman; and Betsy Bryan, Andover.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Dancing while wrapped in five pair of blue jeans is a good trick, and Betsy Bryan of Andover does it with a smile. She's one of the members of the YSU Modern Dance Ensemble which will present a program for area elementary schools this spring.

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