

Ballet

NEBRASKA

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BALLET NEBRASKA GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY WITH 'DANCE OMAHA' CONCERT

OMAHA -- It's said that what goes around, comes around. Ballet Nebraska will put that saying into action on Saturday, January 25, when it hosts more than a dozen area dance groups for Dance Omaha, a collective concert celebrating community dance.

"The first Dance Omaha concert was in March 2010, when Ballet Nebraska was just getting started," said Erika Overturff, the company's founder and artistic director. "The dance community came together to help introduce us to the public with a performance at the IWCC Arts Center.

"Now that we're in our fourth season as a professional dance company, we wanted to 'give back' by inviting community dance groups to be part of another collective concert, with us as the hosts."

For Dance Omaha, Ballet Nebraska will perform Overturff's 2012 ballet *Sweet and Low-Down*. Set to a montage of George Gershwin tunes, the ballet features a jazzy neoclassic style, elegant costumes, and lively interactions among the performers, Overturff said.

Other groups scheduled to perform on the Dance Omaha program (as of press time) are: Ballet Nebraska II; the Ballet Nebraska/Motion41 Repertory Ensemble and Junior Repertory Ensemble; the UNO Moving Company; the Lotus Dancers; The Rose; the Jewish Community Center Dance Training Company; Troupe Udjat; NE Method Dance Theater; Craoi Na Tire; La Fuerza; the University of Nebraska-Lincoln dance department; Bedouin Star; and Chrysalis Studio.

The 7 pm concert will be the first public event at The Encore, a new casual performance space at 2819 S. 125th Avenue in Westwood Plaza. Developed by the Motion41 dance studio, The Encore was created specifically to host informal, intimate performances, Overturff said.

"It should be perfect both for dance fans and for people looking for a new nightlife experience," she said. "It's a great space with a stage, seating for about 200 people, and plenty of room to mix and mingle before and after the performance."

Tickets for *Dance Omaha* are \$10. Reservations are available online at web.tututix.com.

Ballet Nebraska is the region's only resident professional dance company. General operating support for Ballet Nebraska is provided through generous grants from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Union Pacific Foundation, and the Sherwood Foundation. More information is available from the company's website at balletnebraska.org.

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