

# Innovative dance at the Union

## Anna Nassif Dance Theatre to perform at Union Theatre

by Colin Camaron  
of the Cardinal staff

Anna Nassif Dance Theatre is presenting an ambitious concert tonight at 8 p.m. in the Union Theatre – an artistic collaboration involving eight numbers, some being premiers with new choreography, music, costumes and design.

Nassif, a long-term faculty member of Dance, will lead her program off with "Prokofieff Pieces Premier," which will feature five dancers in four numbers. "Agave" is from 1992 and will include the performing of Heather Breach and Karen Cowan.

Lisa Andrea Thurrell, who received her master's here, is the dancer for "Solos 1963" with music by Webern. The soundless but electrifying "Paper Ghost Dance" is being performed in this venue by

Holly Abing. It was first seen locally in 1991. Karen Cowan is the dancer for "Rice Goddess," with narration by Sybil Robinson.

Alcine Wiltz, who is Chairman of Dance at the University of Maryland at College Park, will be the featured performer in "Point Omega." Nassif came to the east last summer where the 13-minute work was configured with choreographer and dancer. The score is by Joseph Koykkar, and Wiltz describes it as "wonderful – all percussion ... moments are quite primitive and rhythmical." Wiltz states that in feeling it is expressionistic, and that the roots of some of its image flow have been countenanced by Nassif on her sabbatical in Bali. The idea of a god creature, and the imagery which flows therefrom, features Shiva-like positions with lifted leg and flexed arm movements.

Wiltz feels that it is almost a trilogy-completer, following Nassif's earlier "Cave" and "Demon."

Nassif herself will appear in "Widow II" from 1993, a work first shown in Tokyo at Jade '93, an international dance conference.

"Crossing Borders" is to be the evening's final work. It is a virtual montage of varying artistic forms coalescing in a thirty-minute length. Nassif has taken motifs and styles from the Oriental and Aztec styles, and has drawn musically from idioms associated with the blues, gospel music and the Charleston, amongst many others. The work has scenic design by Edward Taylor, who comes from Santa Barbara for this occasion, while the composer is James Latimer of the Music faculty.