

# Lathrop gala honors dancer

By Colin Cameron

OF THE CARDINAL STAFF

This weekend is a big one at Lathrop Hall's new space—and an impressive spectacle it all is, with an attractive new setting and energetic program. The event honors Professor Anna Nassif in a fine retrospective dance concert.

It's rather hard to believe she's put creation into three decades of teaching here, as her output is so continuously prolific and her energy so unceasing.

Nassif's "Gala Retrospective: A Lifetime of Dance Revisited" is, at times, an historic repetition of group dances. At other moments, it appears as exquisitely danced solos, complete with their vitally, throbbing individualized themes.

There is in this three-day event an imposing array of guest artists with Wisconsin connection—obviously, this is no time to import strangers, since the Dance Department has traditionally produced any number of key exponents of the art of modern dance.

Margaret H'Doubler, for whom the auditorium is named, is the subject of the piece "Distance Covered, Time Consumed, Energy Expended." Nassif tells the story of a multi-talented woman who started a notable dance department. Nassif tells H'Doubler's story in the overlays of dance, ensemble movement,



COLIN CAMERON/THE DAILY CARDINAL

"The Creation: Dancing into the New Millennium" concludes the show.

background video and music genres of the periods—all depicted in a successful blending of storytelling and media.

Among the solo works presented, dancer Beth Soll's, was of special merit. Her dance, "Camille" is based upon a character from Tennessee Williams' "Camino Real." The willowy, beautifully supple Soll lent an intelligent, energy to this study of a character repressed and torn, yet free and strong.

"Paper Ghost Dance," performed by Peggy Choy, is an eternal, yet shivery, delight. Lisa Thurrell's "Alienation" was intense and charismatic, with constant

movement and fine stage use.

Filmic montage by James Heddle provided Elizabeth Walton LeBlanc with a compelling, almost sci-fi background for "Theater Piece #1." Yet Alcine Wiltz, in "Point Omega,"—originally performed with Nassif, outdid everyone.

Wiltz was only surpassed by Nassif, the dance world's master collagist in the show's overall sweep of her raging, almost troubling imagination.

"Gala Retrospective: A Lifetime of Dance Revisited" will show at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday at Lathrop Hall, 1050 University Ave.