

LUMINA NEWS

Alban elved new resident dance company at UNCW

by Elisabeth Hoyson

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As part of UNCW's ongoing campaign to strengthen its cultural arts program, the university has partnered with internationally acclaimed modern dance company, alban elved, the second resident dance company at UNCW. In July 2007, the Carolina Ballet became UNCW's summer resident dance company. Alban elved will be in residence at UNCW year-round, offering performances and classes to UNCW students as well as other members of the community.

Alban elved is led by artistic director, dancer and choreographer Karola Luttringhaus. The company began in Berlin and has bases in New York and now in North Carolina.

UNCW director of cultural arts Norman Bemelmans invited alban elved to become the university's resident dance company after meeting Luttringhaus while planning Sarus, a dance festival in August.

Alban elved is the Celtic name for the fall equinox. Luttringhaus chose the name because she "always liked the fall season. The way it makes you feel the clarity, and the air is refreshing, it's like a new start."

"I was impressed by the level of artistry and dynamic energy that Karola and her company are well known for," Bemelmans said.

Alban elved's repertoire includes a wide variety of pieces that explore relationships, motivation, mental illness, humor and technology. Luttringhaus investigates the relationship between technology and creativity in pieces like "MiDi," in which dancers move through a laser-grid on stage. Each time a dancer breaks a beam, a sound is triggered, allowing the dancers to create the score with their movement.

Another point of exploration in alban elved's work is female strength and power. For example, a part of their current repertoire, called "At Arm's Length," is a duet with two female dancers who lift each other during the sequence.

Luttringhaus describes her pieces as "athletic ... an emotional, expressive contemporary dance theatre. It's often very visual."

Luttringhaus will bring her innovative ideas and choreography to UNCW students and the community as part of her residency. She plans to teach UNCW students and offer master classes to local dancers.

UNCW dance coordinator Nancy Carson is excited about what Luttringhaus has to teach students "She has no fear. That's what is going to be wonderful for our students, to experience what it's like to just go for it and let your body do what it's going to do," Carson said.

UNCW is excited to have both a traditional ballet company and a contemporary modern dance company for students to work with.

"Now we have two completely different perspectives on the art of dance," Bemelmans said. "It's great to have them work with us and our students."