New season opens, enthusiasm given in shows

“A Company of Dancers,” Creighton’s resident dance company, opens its fall season tonight at 8 p.m. in the Witherspoon Concert Hall at the Joslyn Art Museum.

Performers in the company are faculty members, college students, and high school students.

One student, Arts junior Mary Martin, lends her enthusiasm, hard work and ability to the company.

‘Air of tension’

Martin, a dance major, is quite excited about the performance. Although this is her first public appearance with the company, she was stage manager last year, and recalls the feelings prevalent on opening night. She said it is difficult to label the atmosphere with one word. “There is an air of tension,” she said, “everyone’s nervous, of course, that’s what makes a performance.”

“Reverence,” choreographed for the company by guest artist Bess Saylor, will be performed to music by Bach. Saylor is the associate director of the Dayton, Ohio Ballet Company.

Valerie Roche, company director, will present her restaging of Coppelia Act II, a Romantic ballet, and her “Symphonic,” a modern ballet. Joellen Meglin, instructor in Fine Arts, will premiere “Diary of the Plains” tonight. Tom Mazur created the lighting and set design for the performances.

Olson will solo in “Diary of the Plains.” “I just hope that I can make as much of it as she (Meglin) wanted it to be,” she said. She will also perform in the corps de ballet in “Reverence”.

More than is visible

One of Martin’s goals is to obtain her Master of Arts degree in Dance Therapy. She spoke highly of Creighton’s dance program. She said there is a much better student-teacher ratio than in other departments which leads to a more personal relationship between the two. “There is more to dance than what is visible from the audience,” she said, “and the programs here are very instrumental in promoting this aspect.”

There are a number of new classes which bring a wider perspective to the department. The innovative classes include Dance Notation, Dance History, and Teaching Dance to Children.

Martin said “A Company of Dancers” is a growing company with growing enthusiasm. In her words, the fall season’s opening performance “promises to be a different kind of show with something for everyone!”

Performances will also be at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 for students, and $2 for senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased at all Brades ticket offices and at the Student Board of Governors office.

Photo by George Jones

“Antique Theater” choreographed by Joellen Meglin.