Dance program highlights form

Modern dance inspired by Japanese tradition was the focal point of a demonstration by Saeko Ichinohe, a former member of the Iskii Baku Dance Company, who performed and lectured Monday in Walsh Lecture Hall.

Ichinohe, who has studied at Julliard and currently works in New York, performed six dances including one tradition Japanese dance.

“I am mixing my cultural background with Western dance forms,” Ichinohe said. “I take out the elements from both sides and put them together. It is modern dance inspired by Japanese tradition.”

During her presentation Ichinohe, with the assistance of Elizabeth Nelson, a member of Creighton’s A Company of Dancers, compared Western classical and modern dance forms with traditional Japanese dance.

“To work with American dancers, I am required to analyze and explain,” she said, “to dig into why, and what is the root. Oriental dancers understand my movements naturally.”

Ichinohe said her style of dance emphasizes a different concept, point of view and movement. “To make it work requires a giving of effort and they are putting forth the effort.”

A Company of Dancers will perform Ichinohe’s pieces April 18-19 at 8 p.m. and April 20th at 3 p.m. in the Joslyn Witherspoon Concert Hall.

Photo by Holly Herman

Ichinohe, a former member of the Iskii Baku Dance Company, demonstrates modern dance in Walsh Lecture Hall mixing her Japanese cultural background with Western dance.