Company to feature ballet learned in Denmark

By Diana Cullen
Feature Editor

"In the summer of 1980, Valerie Roche (artistic director of A Company of Dancers) and I went to Denmark and learned the pas de six dance and returned to teach it to the company, which is just one of the pieces on the program this weekend," says Sophomore Mary Beth Quinn.

"This is the sixth year I have been dancing with the company," Quinn said. "I enjoy dancing a lot, but it's hard to fit in with school demands since I have class everyday for an hour and a half plus rehearsal."

Quinn, a native of Omaha, said although she looked into a number of schools before choosing Creighton, "Creighton has what I need. It has a great dance department and also a good academic program." But she said she doesn't think she'll dance professionally or teach.

"Ballet is definitely a visual experience because of the background, costumes, sets and lighting," Quinn said. "Ballet has no words. Movement is the language."

Quinn said she considers ballet a sport and definitely a challenge. "I have to condition myself and build up my stamina for each performance," she said.

"There are four pieces in this weekend's program and I am in the last three," Quinn said.

A modern interpretation of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, based on Renaissance dances will be performed by Joellen Meglin, the dance company's assistant artistic director.

The Bournville Pas de Six from act three of the ballet "Napoli" will be repeated. "There are six dancers in this and everybody has a solo and then we all dance together," Quinn said.

"A Gift from Japan," a work created for the company by choreographer Saeko Ichinohe will also be performed. "She uses Western dance forms and combines them with Eastern cultural background," Quinn said. "People portray birds, puppets, dolls and kites. It's kind of sporty, fast-paced and abstract."

A premier performance of a ballet by guest choreographer Tibor Zana will be presented to music by Claude Bolling for jazz-piano and flute. The dance blends classical ballet with rhythms of jazz. "It's more jazzy, with short skirts, and it will be performed on point," said Quinn.

Costumes for the program were designed by Georgian Regan. Sets and lighting were created by Tom Mazur, assistant professor of fine arts and performing arts.

Performances will be Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. General admission is $4.50 for adults, $3 for students, and $2.50 for senior citizens. Group rates for 10 or more are $2.25.

Tickets are available at Brandeis Ticket offices or at the Student Board of Governors office. Group rates and ticket information can be obtained by calling 280-2636 or 280-3047.

Quinn ... in rehearsal.