

DATEBOOK

Worlds of WONDER

"Images of the Ancients," an exhibit of photographs of ancient Mediterranean ruins, will be on display at the Newport Beach Central Library through June 30. All are welcome at a reception for the artist from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The Newport Beach Central Library is at 1000 Avocado Ave. Free. (949) 717-3801.

Daily Pilot

Saturday, June 1, 2002 A11

Dancing with the inner light

Members of Saint Joseph Ballet will perform three pieces this weekend as part of 'Light, Within' at the Irvine Barclay Theatre

Young Chang
DAILY PILOT

Choreographer Melanie Rios created "The Music Came Last" for 107 dancers. The dance is about an individual in a large group, about how one can become many and about how there is joy in the idea of growth.

Rios understands this sentiment because when she works with the dancers in the Saint Joseph Ballet, she witnesses how her instructions ripple through the massive class of 9-

to 18-year-olds and result in something unexpected.

"You are one person and they are many," she said of working with the inner city ballet company. "You put out some part of yourself and you get a return a hundred times plus. It multiplies. By the end of it, you feel overwhelmingly fulfilled."

Rios' dance will be featured along with Mark Haim's "Los Angeles" and Beth Burns' "listen look" for Saint Joseph Ballet's concert at the Irvine Barclay Theatre today and Sunday.

The Santa Ana-based company's mission is to help low-income children gain self esteem, discipline and ambition through dance and other programs.

Burns, formerly a nun at St. Joseph of Orange, started the group in 1983.

"I think dance can make a big difference in people's lives," she said. "I do believe that young people, if they're given the opportunity to develop their talent and to use all their energy in constructive ways, that we can avoid a lot of stereotypical problems in crowded, urban areas."

LIGHT

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The concert, titled "Light, Within," will showcase 137 dance students. Burns said the show's name refers to the resource everyone can always draw upon.

"We have lots of strength within us and hope... and sometimes we just need to be reminded of what's within us," she said.

Her abstract dance, "listen look," emphasizes the challenge of improvised work and features jazz pianist Geoffrey Koeser. The work encourages audiences to look at different shapes and forms, as the dancers are sometimes in the light and sometimes not.

"That idea of really looking is what I'm asking [of] the audience as well," Burns said.

- FYI**
- **WHAT:** "Light, within"
 - **WHEN:** 2:30 and 8 p.m. today, 2:30 p.m. Sunday
 - **WHERE:** Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine
 - **COST:** \$15 or \$35
 - **CALL:** (949) 854-6646

Haim's describes his dance "Los Angeles" as a collection of poetic images that reflect on situations that call for angels.

"And then also what I imagine an angelic life is like," said the choreographer, whose credits include a work inspired by Bach's "Goldberg Variations," which was part of the American Dance Festival in the late '90s. "I was inspired by the purity and the innocence of the children I was working with."

Citing a passage in the Bible that mentions "on

Earth as it is in Heaven," Haim said there are moments of the dance that combine the two worlds using dancers as "connectors."

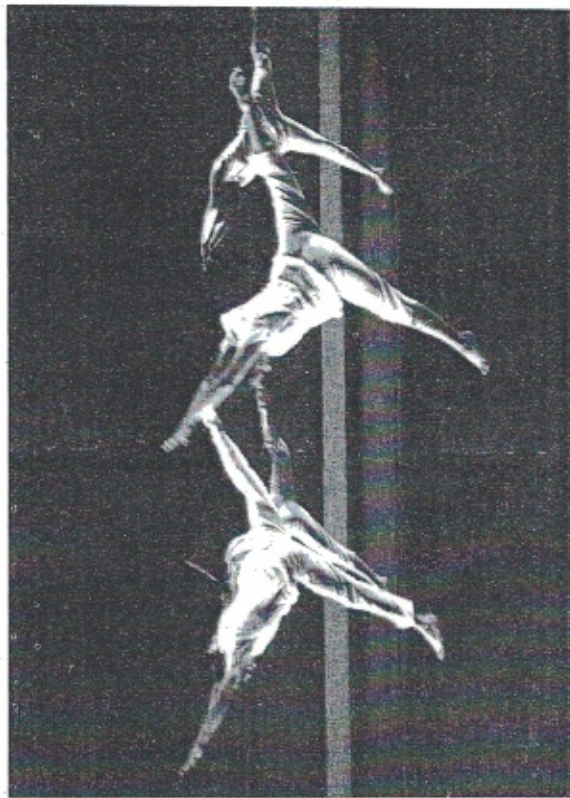
"I approach them in the same manner that I approach a professional company," said Haim, who has choreographed for ballets including Ballet Frankfurt and the Jeffrey II Dancers. "They rose to the occasion."

Rios, a Guatemalan choreographer who has created works for the Contemporary Dance Company of the Ballet de Cali and the National Modern Dance Company, said her joy comes from watching her students be graceful as a group.

"It's just kind of astounding to see so many people on stage move together to create something beautiful together," she said.



SEE LIGHT PAGE A16 The Saint Joseph Ballet will perform tonight at The Barclay.



Among the pieces to be performed tonight at the Irvine Barclay Theatre is "listen look."