

# Arts & Entertainment

## Modern Dance Critics meet to consider future

By Terry Bauroth  
Kansan staff writer

This year's Mid-America Dance Network Annual Conference will be a conference within a conference, said Rose Rousseau, an official in the department of continuing education.

"Not only will the conference attract dancers and those affiliated with dance companies, but it will attract people who are interested in learning about dance criticism," Rousseau said.

The University of Kansas is hosting the ninth annual conference today through Sunday. The Mid-America

Dance Network was formed in 1979 to promote dance in the region including Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Dance critics who will speak at the conference include the New York Times' Jack Anderson, Dance Magazine's Joan Acocella and Mindy Aloff, the Village Voice's Deborah Jowitt and free-lance writer Roger Copeland who will discuss dance criticism and the future of U.S. dance.

Rousseau said that dance conferences were a rarity, especially in the Midwest.

Janet Hamburg, chairman of dance, said that the conference would provide something for everybody.

"Anyone who is at all interested in dance will find something for them," Hamburg said.

The conference also will include master classes, a performance by dancers David Gordon and his Pick Up Company and the MADN Showcase Dance Concert.

Friday's Showcase Dance Concert will provide an opportunity for people in Lawrence to see what's happening in dance, Hamburg said.

## Unifying chairs, dance

By Terry Bauroth  
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David Gordon's imaginative use of chairs along with speaking dancers, combine for a different interpretation of everyday events that appeals to a broad number of people, said Janet Hamburg, chairman of dance.

Gordon and his 10-member Pick Up Company will perform at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the Crafton-Preyer Theatre as the opening event in the KU New Directions Series. The concert is also part of the Mid-America Dance Network annual convention.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for people in the Lawrence community and students," Hamburg said. "You don't have to have seen dance to enjoy it."

Hamburg first saw Gordon perform when she was a student. Her first impression was one of freshness, she said.

"It seemed honest and it was fun," she said. "I felt involved."

A sense of openness also made her feel that the dancers were communicating with her.

"You usually feel good when you're watching it," Hamburg said.

Jacqueline Davis, director of the concert series, said that the intent of the series was to provide an opportunity for Lawrence and neighboring communities to see some new work.

"This particular event is exciting and interesting because for the first time, a number of presenters of performing arts from around the country came together to commission the work," Davis said.

The company will perform "San Francisco" and "Minnesota," she said, which are portions of Gordon's "United States," an ongoing work being commissioned by 27 performing arts presenters from 16 states.

Using movement, music and words, Gordon is constructing "United States" from his own perspective, using the distinct

qualities of the people and places found in the various regions, Davis said.

"I've seen those works and they're wonderful," Davis said. "It will be exciting for people to see."

She said that the audience could expect to see chairs used in a way it never thought of before.

In order to attract more students, the Concert and Chamber Music Series added the New Directions Series last year.

Charla Jenkins, director of public relations for the theater department, said that the series had been well accepted last year and that student attendance was high.

Tickets for the concert are on sale in the Murphy Hall box office. All seats are reserved, and reservations can be made by calling 913/864-3982. Ticket prices are \$12 and \$10 for the public; \$6 and \$5 for KU and K-12 students; and \$11 and \$9 for senior citizens and other students.