

## Arts & entertainment

### At pli , Brazil to Brahms



Curtis Lehmkohl/The Daily Iowan

Dancers perform during a dress rehearsal for Duarte Dance Work's *Ten* on Wednesday. The first public performance will be today at 9 p.m. in the Space-Place Theatre, North Hall.

By Joanna Waggoner  
The Daily Iowan

Once a work of art is performed, it no longer belongs to the artist — it becomes a part of the audience. For Armando Duarte, a UI associate professor of dance, it is important that the impact be profound.

Houston Ballet stars, professional guests, and UI students form the 12-member company that will help Duarte celebrate a decade of working at the university by performing in his work *Ten*. The performance will also mark the debut of Duarte Dance Works, a project to form a professional contemporary dance company.

The show will be performed today and Saturday at 9 p.m. in the Space/Place Theatre, North Hall.

The program includes the premiere of "Here, in this time," a solo created this summer for Houston Ballet soloist Fernando Moraga, and an ensemble piece "Baque" set to traditional Brazilian music. Other pieces are set to the music of a wide variety of artists.

"It's a good, diverse program that works with many different qualities of being spirits in the human body. It's also a good representation of [Duarte's] varied works," said Houston Ballet principal dancer Dominic Walsh.

No apparent theme runs through *Ten*. What ties the pieces together is Duarte's movement vocabulary, which is a choreographer's personal language of dance, much like a signature.

The project originated when he decided to take some of his choreographies from the past nine years and bring them to the level of professional dancers and also more actively involve the community beyond the UI.

Duarte toured the world for 14 years as a founding member of Cisne Negro (Black Swan) Dance Company in S o Paulo, Brazil. Then, at the UI, he has choreographed more than 25 works and has received various awards and grants. Most recently, he received a grant for the "Dance and Music of the America's Project," created with dance department colleague Charlotte Adams and flutist Tadeu Coelho of the UI School of Music.

"We always look for not only things that inspire us but also look for challenges," Duarte said.

It was through a series of coincidences that Duarte came to work with the Houston Ballet. Moraga and Walsh had demonstrated interest in his work, and Duarte had gained the support and dedication of the dancers involved in the project, some of whom are taking time out of the eight-week vacation for the year to help launch the project.

"Doing something different helps to build your career and movement. It's always good to do different things," Moraga said.

Walsh, who also has a small company in Houston, saw Duarte's work on video and decided to help get the project off the ground by offering him the Houston Ballet name.

"It is important to support your own. [This helps] the city become more culturally rich," Walsh said.

The project includes UI dance alumna and S o Paulo native Alessandra Herszkowicz and Chilean dancer Paola Georgudis, and UI students Nicole Wong, Megan O'Connor, Erin Huismann, Kate Hirstein, and Rebecca Evans. Three students have professional credentials: Marina Fukushima, Emily Price, and Tamara Schreiber.

"It is important for the university that students have the opportunity to perform such works with wonderful dancers," Herszkowicz said. "They learn so much by watching."

Georgudis said she has been very impressed by the student dancers because they are so well-rounded and mature.

One of Duarte's goals is to help establish Iowa City as a viable location for professional dancers to live and work by exploring the feasibility of having an on-going professional company in the area. He also hopes to gain supporters who sympathize with what he is doing and what he will do.

The show will feature costumes by Margaret Wenk and Erin Howell-Gritsch and lighting by Gary Holmquist of the dance department staff.

Tickets for Duarte Dance Works are \$12 (\$6 for UI stu-

dents) and may be purchased in advance from the University Box Office, 319-335-3041, or toll-free 1-800-346-4401. Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the door.

"I want the audience to have a positive experience, for [the show] to touch them," Duarte said. "I want them to leave with joy."

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