

## New York Dance Company in Utica until June 12

UTICA — Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute is hosting the New York City-based Buglisi Dance Theatre in a three-week, NYSCA-supported creative residency through June 12, 2010.

Non-dancers and aspiring professional dancers will have the opportunity to learn from these dancers in a series of classes both at the MWPAI dance studio and the Parkway Recreation Center.

Pre-professional and intermediate dancers 12 and up can attend the 12-day modern dance classes that will meet daily 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the dance studios. Area youths ages 7-12 and 13-17 can attend classes at the recreation center on June 8. The dance studio will also be open to the public on select days throughout the residency.



Photo by Kristin Lodoen Linder The Buglisi Dance Theatre will be in residence at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute through June 12.

The purpose of the residency is to provide a space for Artistic Director Jacquelyn Buglisi to choreograph a new work for her company of 10 dancers and to build new dance audiences around New York State.

Nancy Long, professor of dance, facilitates the event. “It has long been my mission to share the wealth of dance experiences beyond ‘The Nutcracker,’ so I am delighted to foster the growth and awareness of this art form by bringing a world-class modern dance company to the Utica area,” she said.

Like jazz, modern dance is a uniquely American art form that grew out of the influences of many cultures in an environment of freedom of expression and experimentation. While dance is already hugely popular in the area, modern dance traditionally has had a small, yet strong and dedicated following. MWPAI Performing Arts Director Bob Mortis said, “One of the beauties of this art form is that it can be whatever and wherever it needs to be to reach audiences beyond the bounds of a traditional performing space.”

Buglisi Dance Theatre will make several appearances in non-traditional dance spaces throughout the Utica area, including site-specific works at the Union Station, a performance at the opening ceremony for the Special Olympics on June 4 at Utica College and the premiere of the new work in progress is to be presented in the Museum of Art Sculpture Court 2 p.m. June 12.

Speaking about the dance happening at Union Station on Thursday, June 10 at noon, County Legislator and Committee Chair for Economic Development and Tourism Ed Welsh said, “It’s a wonderful idea to use the Union Station for this purpose. Our community has an eye for talent in a cultural program even if it’s of a discipline that they are not used to seeing.”

Buglisi hopes this creative residency “galvanizes its energies and reaches out to the widest audience ever within a community,” adding that “the goal is to develop creative minds and imagination. It is the pollination of new ideas which yield innovation and vision.”