

THEARTS



[BEST BET]

Symphonic Summit

Florida West Coast Symphony teams with pianist Tzimon Barto. 8 p.m. today. Neel Performing Arts Center, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton. \$33-\$52. Also 8 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Van Wezel, Sarasota. \$31-\$75. 953-3434; fwcs.org.

Eclectic fusion

By BARBARA LEVERONE
CORRESPONDENT

This weekend will be a historic one for Fuzión Dance Company.

The troupe, Sarasota's first professional modern dance company, will perform its premiere concert at the Historic Asolo Theater.

Since founding Fuzión Dance in 2002, artistic directors Leymis Bolaños Wilmott and Rachael Inman have steadily nurtured a small troupe of 10 dancers, seasoning them with performances in Chicago and New York City, as well as at regional dance festivals and local social events.

Bolaños Wilmott and Inman have chosen a well-educated group of dancers, nearly all of whom have received bachelor's degrees in dance.

"They're all professional dancers," Bolaños Wilmott said. "All of them have trained in various forms, some of them maybe a little more contemporary ballet, but now have shift-

ed to modern. They all consider themselves modern dancers."

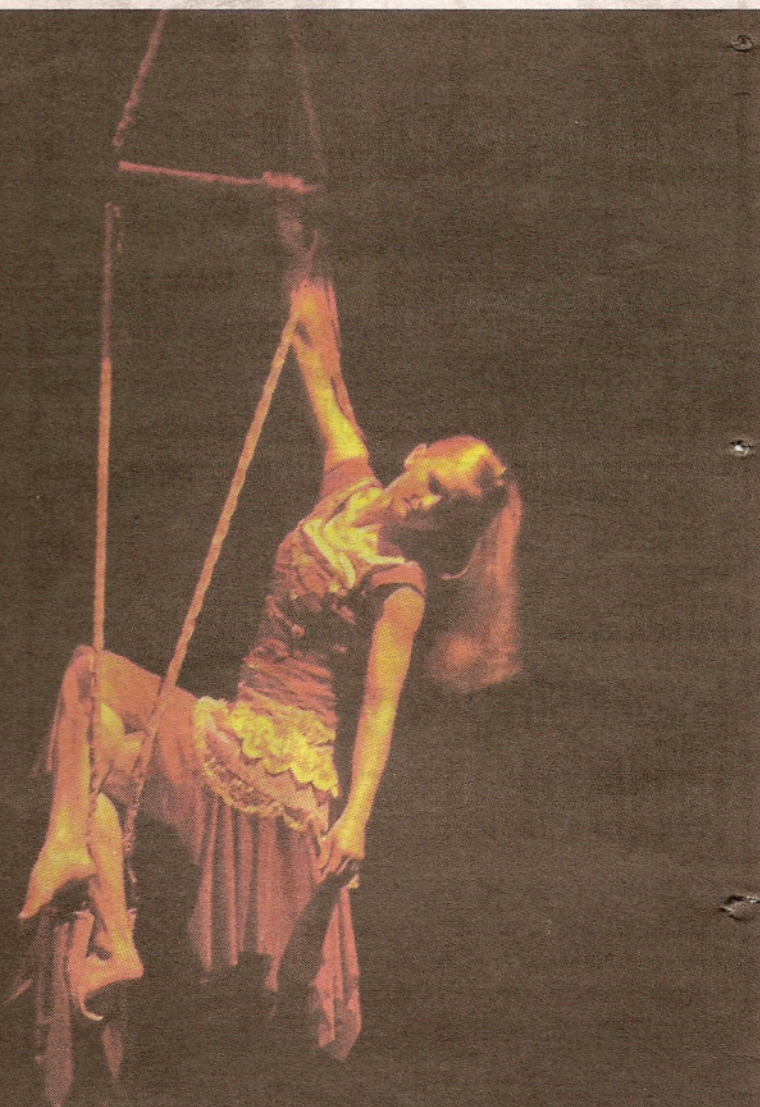
Several of the dancers, including Bolaños Wilmott herself, are teaching and directing dance programs within the local school systems.

Bolaños Wilmott has followed the tradition of many American modern dance choreographers who developed their artistic skills by setting their work on small, intimate ensembles.

She came to Sarasota several years ago as part of Florida State University's now-defunct endeavor, FSUdanceSarasota, and has developed several successful educational and community outreach programs.

Classes for the public held at the local YMCA remain popular, and a loyal following has developed for a weekly intermediate/advanced class for teens and adults. More

PLEASE SEE FUZIÓN ON 32



[DANCE]

Fuzión Dance Artists

8 p.m. today, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday. Historic Asolo Theater, Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota. Today: \$25 (\$15 students). Saturday: \$20 (\$10 students). 360-7399; ringling.org.

New moves for a new generation

FUZION FROM 31

than 45 people attended a recent dance festival at Lakewood Ranch High School.

Bolaños Wilmott describes her choreography style as "eclectic."

"My background started in Cuban social dances, and then I received training in contemporary dance and ballet as well as dances from the African diaspora," she said. "So I think it reflects all of that."

This weekend's premiere will present a piece by Inman — who is also ballet director at

Birmingham Dance Theatre — that explores her interest in aerial dance. The rest of the program will be a broad spectrum of Bolaños Wilmott's choreography.

"I really wanted to show a variety of styles that I do," she said. "I wanted it to be entertaining as well as impacting, so when the audience comes out of there, they feel they can take something with them home."

In addition to "Aftermath," which won Bolaños Wilmott Dance Magazine's Southeastern Best Choreographer Award in

2002, the program will include an untitled piece created in conjunction with local composer Edward Cosla, as well as a Middle Eastern solo she will perform herself.

Some pieces will incorporate Latin rhythms or lighthearted humor, while others develop relationships or tell a story through movement and gesture.

With solid ticket sales for the opening, Bolaños Wilmott feels their hard work has paid off.

"It just reaffirms that it's the right timing, the right place, the right dancers," she said. "I'm just ecstatic."