

Celebrate

STRENGTH

Passion

Unity



The USC Dance Company will present *Visions of the American Spirit* starting tonight at Drayton Hall. PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

BY CARRIE PHILLIPS
THE GAMECOCK

The emotions created by the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks have inspired music, movements and literature. Now, those emotions are finding an outlet through dance. Starting tonight, the USC Dance Company will present *Visions of the American Spirit*, a series of dance pieces dedicated to the American people's unity, strength and passion. The USC Ballroom Dance Club will also contribute pieces.

The USC Dance Company was founded 26 years ago by Professor Susan Anderson, the program's artistic director. From its first performance in 1975 without costumes, the program has grown to encompass 45 members, who rehearse more than 10 hours a week in addition to required ballet classes four days a week.

USDC performs on campus biannually and travels the state performing at festivals, including Charleston's Spoleto Festival every spring, and has traveled as far away as Spain to share its talents in classical ballet and contemporary, modern and jazz dance.

This year, USDC has a new concert director and faculty member, Kris Cangelosi, an international award-winning choreographer whose work has been featured in the American College Dance Festival, the Jazz World Congress and throughout Europe. She says she's enjoying her work at USC. "It's been a wonderful challenge. We've had a very positive beginning, and I see lots of potential here."

Cangelosi has built this concert around pieces reflecting on the destruction and aftermath of the terrorist attacks. For her, and for

many in the dance community, the attacks on New York made a personal and professional connection that extends beyond the devastation. "New York City is the dance capitol of the world, so September 11 was a personal attack on dancers themselves," she said. "It's been a team effort and very emotional for all of us."

Cangelosi choreographed two of the concert's pieces, including "Water, Land and Spirit." "The piece is about the beauty that is

around us on an everyday basis and that we shouldn't lose sight of that beauty," she said. "As Americans, we have a lot, and when tragedy hits us, we remember that beauty, but it shouldn't be that way. We should remember it all the time."

Choreography from three senior members will also be featured. Jen Marshall, Jake Alderson and Harley Brunson each will showcase pieces in the concert. Graduate student Terrance Hen-

derson has also contributed a piece. "Gathering" reflects the power of a tragedy to bring people together. "I think that my piece is unique because it uses each person's individual energy; so as well as being unified, they can express who they are through the music," Henderson said.

Artistic director Anderson's "The Gans Jam" is an 18-minute number with musical selections by Gershwin, Bollin and Rampal. "This is very difficult choreogra-

Visions of the American Spirit

USC Dance
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Drayton Hall Theater, \$5

phy," Anderson said. "I have done the piece with professional companies; so I decided to put it stage here, and the girls have really risen to the occasion."