

By Charity Apple

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Event raises funds for Teen 2 Teen Theatre & Video

Dance interprets life.

In choreographer Natalie Marrone's "Thresh," she "meditates on wheat, its beauty and its purpose during a more agrarian time. Long before controversies over genetically modified wheat, the social and cultural roots of humans and the development of wheat have intertwined since before recorded history."

Marrone was inspired by historical photographs and interviews with farmers, from Italy to Iowa.

"'Thresh' evokes images of the harvesting of wheat internationally during the first half of the 20th century," she said.

"Thresh, Part 1" will be one of the dances performed Saturday during the Kearns Dance Project's 3rd Annual N.C. Triad Choreography Showcase at the Paramount Theater, 128 E. Front St., Burlington. Other featured choreographers include Virginia Dupont, Gerri Houlihan, The Kearns Dance Project, Emily Morgan and Brianna Taylor. Special guest choreographer is Ramya Sundaresan Kapadia and Jen Guy Metcalf's dance photography is on display and for sale in the lobby. Her dance film will be shown during the second act as well. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a silent auction, featuring artwork, gift certificates and more. The showcase will start at 7:30 p.m. and a wine and cheese reception will be held after the show. The event is a fundraiser for Teen 2 Teen Theatre & Video.

Robert and Lauren Kearns created the showcase "out of a need I saw in this area to provide professional dance performances and provide an opportunity for choreographers to showcase their work," Lauren said in a recent interview.

Lauren is a professor of dance at Elon University and holds two Master's degrees in dance. She has traveled throughout the world, promoting the importance of dance, including China, France and Belgium. Robert, a video choreographer, works with Teen 2 Teen Theatre & Video, an organization which explores issues affecting teenagers through video and artistic productions. When the Kearnses first moved to Alamance County from Los Angeles, Lauren recognized "a really big need in the community for high-level dance to be shown and performed."

The Kearns Dance Project was founded in 2012 and one of its core goals is to encourage community outreach.

"We really love providing educational outreach," Robert said.

Teen 2 Teen Theatre, he added, "is always lacking in funds. Proceeds from this event will go toward purchasing and repairing video equipment."

To the Kearnses' knowledge, this is the only event of this kind in Alamance County, which unites not only choreographers from the Piedmont-Triad, but provides audiences with an opportunity to see works they may not otherwise be able to view.

"Alamance Arts and Carol Plew, with Teen 2 Teen Theatre, have helped make this happen," Robert said.

Funds from last year's event went toward four videos that Teen 2 Teen Theatre & Video created during a summer film lab last year.

"The purpose is to encourage teens to make smart choices," he said. Four of the videos have been produced and eight more will be created throughout the next few years.

The Kearns believe that "in addition to what students receive in the Alamance-Burlington School Systems, which is doing a great job, we think, in educating dancers, this project and showcase are another step in that direction — to bring dance to the community."

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/nctriadchoreographyshowcase.

WHAT: 3rd annual N.C. Triad Choreography Showcase

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Paramount Theater, 128 E. Front St., Burlington

COST: \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students and \$5 for groups of 10 or more. This event is a fundraiser for Teen 2 Teen Theatre & Video.

FOR MORE DETAILS: www.facebook.com/nctriadchoreographyshowcase

FREE DANCE WORKSHOPS



PHOTO/ HAN KANG PHOTOGRAPHY

Choreographer Natalie Marrone's "Thresh" is shown in this photo. Marrone is one of seven choreographers participating in the 3rd annual N.C. Triad Choreography Showcase at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Paramount Theater, 128 E. Front St., Burlington. The event is a fundraiser for Teen 2 Teen Theatre & Video.

11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - Yoga with Triad Choreographer and certified yoga instructor Brianna Taylor

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. - West African Movement Workshop with past Triad choreographer and Elon Dance professor Jason Aryeh. Learn about West African traditional dance and culture as well as musicality and expression.

2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - Van Dyke Modern Technique with Triad choreographer, Van Dyke Dance Group Company member and trustee and BADA artistic director Virginia Dupont. Discover the challenging Cunningham-based style of Jan Van Dyke.

For more details, email info@thekearnsdanceproject.org

<http://www.thetimesnews.com/article/20160428/LIFESTYLE/160428963>

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