

AU students to audition for performance with NYC dance company

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Selected Alfred University students, as well as members of the community, will have an opportunity to dance with a professional dance company when Avila/Weeks, a New York City-based troupe, spends a week on campus, Sunday, Jan. 21, through Saturday, Jan. 27. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our students and other dancers in the community to interact with professional dancers in the production of 'Seat of Dreams'," said Susan Roebuck, associate professor of dance at Alfred University. Auditions are scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, in the dance studio at the Miller Performing Arts Center on the AU campus. "Seat of Dreams," which Roebuck describes as a "signature piece" for Avila/Weeks, is based on "dreams and childhood" in which the performers "travel through an imaginary landscape, both glimmering and dark, where reality and the absurd collide. Springing from 10 bright orange kindergarten chairs, the dancers peer into a world where the joy and cruelty of children's games, the neurosis of nightmares, and the exhilaration of flying come together." Performances of "Seat of Dreams" are scheduled for 8 p.m. Jan. 26, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in the C.D. Smith Theater, Miller Performing Arts Center. Ticket information is available by calling the Alfred University Division of Performing Arts at 607 871 2828. From 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, Homer Avila and Edisa Weeks, the artistic directors of the company that bears their names, will conduct a partnering workshop in the dance studio at the Miller Performing Arts Center. The workshop is open to the public, said Roebuck, but Alfred University students will be given priority in participating in the workshop. The workshop will be repeated at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, and at 11:20 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, also in the dance studio. Avila and Weeks will conduct a panel discussion on the role of minorities in the arts at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in the dance studio, and will also present a lecture on multiculturalism in dance at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in Harder Hall auditorium. Both are open to the public, free of charge. The rest of the company will arrive Tuesday, Jan. 23, and will be greeted at a reception, open to the campus and the community, at 9 p.m. in Howell Hall. On Wednesday, Jan. 24, the full company will present a lecture/demonstration at 4:30 p.m. in Harder Hall auditorium. "Who's on Top" "discusses gender politics in American dance, looking at the relationship between men and women from the first dance marathons, to Martha Graham's work, from the fantasy of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to contemporary dance," said Roebuck. The company will present a lecture and demonstration on the making of "Seat of Dreams" to students at Alfred-Almond Central School at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25. The Avila/Weeks' residency is the inaugural offering in the Marlin Miller Dance Series, made possible through a leadership gift from Trustee Marlin Miller '54. Other support for this year's residency comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alfred University Student Senate and the Division of Performing Arts.