

## **Dancers/choreographers visit Alfred University for Miller Dance Residency**

10/01/02

Ursula Payne and Wayne Smith, dancers and choreographers, will be teaching and performing as part of the Marlin Miller Dance Residency Program Thursday and Friday (Oct. 3-4.) Payne, who is described by critics as a "knock-out dancerspectacular and powerful," will be teaching the improvisation/composition class and a master class at 10 a.m. Friday in the Miller Performing Arts Center on the AU campus. The master class will be a modern dance class open to the community as well as AU students and faculty. Smith, whose improvisational skills and mercurial movement style have received national attention, will be teaching the AU students modern dance and will be co-teaching a partnering class with Payne. They will perform at 8 p.m. Friday in the C.D. Smith Theater, Miller Performing Arts Center, with a question-and-answer session scheduled for after the performance. The artists will perform two solos each and a duet. Payne's work is "dedicated to portraying heartfelt, intelligent and powerful images of Black women. While abstract in nature, (her dances) speak to the strength and resiliency of a woman's spirit." Smith uses text, improvisation and dynamic movement to "create wildly innovative solos" that sometimes involve audience participation. The 8 p.m. Friday performance is open to the public, free of charge. The dance residency program for the Alfred University Division of Performing Arts was created through a gift from Dr. Marlin Miller, a member and chairman emeritus of the Alfred University Board of Trustees. #####