

Guest choreographer teaches energetic stiletto dance routine



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On Sept. 10, guest choreographer and producer Robin Dunn taught an hour-long master class for Orchestis, Geneseo's student-run dance organization.

Dunn has worked with a number of famous talents including Missy Elliott, Chris Brown and U2. She is also teaching a four-rehearsal intensive class for the Geneseo Dance Ensemble, in which students are learning the choreography to a six-minute routine entitled "Bécollage" that will be featured in the group's spring semester concert.

While waiting outside the studio for Dunn to arrive, all of the girls were in various combinations of leggings, sweatpants, tank tops and—most interestingly—a pair of high heels.

As each girl changed into her heels, the studio doors burst open. Wearing a vibrant smile, Dunn stepped out with associate professor of dance studies Mark Broomfield; an energetic man dressed in all black. Broomfield introduced the girls to Dunn who then went into the office to prepare while the girls warmed up.

Dunn's passion for hip-hop is evident in the confidence with which she carries herself. "[Hip-hop] is liberation and the freedom to explore and let your energy explode," she said. "[It's] the journey ... the before and after where a person might come in feeling one way and they walk out feeling joyful."

Along with performing, Dunn's love for teaching comes from her own philosophy. This is her "F.A.C.E." philosophy, which stands for "focus," "attitude," "confidence," "energy" and "eye" contact. "[F.A.C.E. is] the

sum total of my life's work," she said. She uses this idea to guide others through their personal and professional journeys to self-improvement.

Dunn hopes to motivate the dancers in the four sessions. "[I want to] create an artistic piece that they will perform, threaded by the tools that will provide life lessons to aid them with being not only better performers, but better people," she said.

I was able to sit in and watch as Dunn taught the hip-hop routine. The dance is set to a medley of different Beyoncé songs, each with the signature throbbing bass and positive messages of girl power. Each dancer picked up the moves effortlessly, running fluidly through the motions in a way that made it almost look easy.

The dance began slowly, with each girl strutting almost in slow motion toward the audience. As the beat kicked in the dance became much more intense and powerful, with series of brief poses accentuated with powerful stomps, hair flips and near-acrobatic movements.

Each dancer exuded enthusiasm and sensuality that was matched by Broomfield and Dunn in their teaching. The community of dancers and professors in GDE is one of exuberance, confidence and undeniable talent.

GDE will be performing "Bécollage" among other pieces in its spring semester performance "47Live: Breaking New Ground," beginning on Feb. 26. ♦



SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

Guest choreographer Robin Dunn visited campus on Sept. 10 to teach a series of workshops alongside associate professor of dance Mark Broomfield involving her own hip-hop choreography. Dunn has previously worked at the Apollo Theater, Broadway Dance Center and The Alley School in New York City.

What is your shower jam?

LAMRON LISTENINGS;

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	SUBMITTED BY
"Purple Rain"	Prince & the Revolution	Kevin Frankel
"Leave (Get Out)"	Jolo	Allyson Pereyra
"Shake It Off"	Taylor Swift	Maya Lucyshyn
"Oops! I Did It Again"	Britney Spears	Nicole Smith
"On My Own"	Les Misérables	Jes Hepler
"She Doesn't Mind"	Sean Paul	Taylor Frank
"Light my Candle"	Rent	Chelsea Burkowski

