Moving South Dance, Inc.

Moving South opens dance studio

This is the year of change and rapid growth for Moving South Dance Inc. as they move into their own dance studio on Jefferson Street, becoming another addition to the downtown renovation. Company members are eager to open their doors and begin teaching a full schedule of dance classes to children through adults, as well as begin rehearsals on the expansive wood floors of the old Woodman of the World building.

Moving South, now in its fourth year, has functioned primarily as a repertory company performing their original choreography to audiences in Lafayette as well as throughout Louisiana. Opening their own studio and offering classes and workshops, however, has always been a top priority. At present, nearly all company members hold either a masters degree or a bachelors degree in dance and choreography and are experienced teachers who have been teaching in universities, at dance studios and in secondary and primary schools. Now the company can pool their teaching experience to offer top-notch dance training to both the advanced and beginning dancer.

Besides a new studio, new choreography is in store for Lafayette audiences in Moving South's 1984-85 performing season. Company choreographers have worked intensely this summer on creating new dances and designing new costumes and sets to be premiered either in fall or spring concerts that are scheduled.

The fall performance schedule will feature choreography by Kathy Burk and Kathy Castille. Castille's dance moves quickly to the continuous sound of Herbie Hancock in a jazzy style but focuses on the linear designs of the arms and changing rhythm patterns of the feet. Castille has designed an interestingly-shaped tunic that costumes the dancers.

Burk's new dance, Sashay There, is an ensemble of six individual characters which focuses on the Southern woman. The piece is very theatrical with use of acting, lyrical movement and dramatic staging. The soundtrack is a tape collage by Jerritt Burk with songs by John Lennon, Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin, to name a few. The six women wear individually designed dresses by Burk.

Other Moving South choreographers who have begun work on new dances to be presented in spring concerts are Artie Simon, Becky Valls, Cissy Whipp and Marlene Ziegler.

The company's fall performance calendar includes five lecture-demonstrations for students in Lafayette parish schools (sponsored by a Partnership Award program grant from the Acadiana Arts Council) and the following events:

- September 9 Designer Fair.
- September 15 Acadian Music Festival (on the grounds of the University Art Museum).
- September 30 Franklin Arts Festival.

- October 18 Sneak Preview of new choreography at the home of Ted Landry.
- October 23 Louisiana Retired Teachers Convention, Holiday Inn.
- October 26 Holiday Festival, Bellemead Hotel, Baton Rouge.

Members of Moving South Dance Inc. are Toni Brown, Bonnie Baker Brooks, Kathy Burk, Kathy Castille, Alyssia Daspit, Dianne Jackson, Loraine Liebert, Julie Mitchell, Artie Simon, Jan Spazzali, Becky Valls, Cissy Whipp and Marlene Ziegler.