

MAY 2006—SPRING'S A BUZZIN'!

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Connecting Your World to the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation  
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# World Dance Theatre

**Hawaiian hula,  
Irish step dancing,**

Spanish flamenco, the Mexican Hat Dance, and good old American clogging... Where would you possibly see all of these dance styles in one show? Right in Hawley, PA.

World Dance Theatre, a New York City-based company sponsored by CENTURY 21 Select Group ([www.century21selectgroup.com](http://www.century21selectgroup.com)), is dedicated to uniting the world on one stage through dance and music. This May, that stage is at the historic Ritz Theatre in Hawley. From May 12-14, World Dance Theatre will perform their full-length production, "Journeys: A Cultural Celebration," a distinguished performance that builds bonds of cultural appreciation, respect, and unity among people of all ages, ethnicities, and nations.

The artists of World Dance Theatre share a passion to use the medium of dance to transcend racial and national barriers, collectively studying, performing, and sharing over thirty different ethnic dance styles. The troupe has danced on Broadway and off-Broadway, around the world and "around the block," as two of the featured dancers, Michele and Doug Kolp, are local Hamlin residents. Associate Artistic Director Suzi Myers explains, "Our company is made up of dancers from incredibly rich and diverse ethnic and dance backgrounds. These artists have come together to share their cultures through their art, trading traditions, dance styles, and cultures in the process."

The result is "a fast feast of round-the-world dance," "something magical," and "a powerful and playful presentation," according to past audiences. Presenting over thirty dances from twenty countries, "Journeys" is a voyage around the world, a world united through the rhythms of international dances. From Italy to Azerbaijan, from China to Bulgaria, audiences have first class seats on a tour of the beauty of ethnic dance.

In addition to this two-act production, World Dance Theatre is bringing their arts-in-education programming to the Hawley area. From May 9-11, area schools will be treated to performances of "International Express: Next Stop...Adventure!" an exciting introduction to a world of dance. In this performance designed specifically for younger audiences, a ride on the New York City subway turns from mundane to marvelous when the next stop on this train isn't Times Square, but Tahiti or Tibet!

Passionate about arts-in-education programming, World Dance Theatre is currently conducting several residencies at New York City public schools. These teaching sessions draw parallels among the many diverse dance styles of the world while celebrating their differences, thereby encouraging a cross-cultural dialogue. Explaining their educational philosophy, Ms. Myers states, "In a world that is being made increasingly smaller through technology, it is imperative for today's students to have a familiarity with and appreciation of foreign traditions and cultural diversity. Globally literate students will have an advantage in the world marketplace and be more competent members of the world community."

**Performances of "Journeys" at the Ritz Theatre,** located on Route 6 in Hawley, will be on May 12 and 13 at 8 PM, and on May 14 at 3 PM. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 570-226-9752, or by visiting [www.worlddancetheatre.com](http://www.worlddancetheatre.com). For more information regarding "Journeys" or the arts-in-education program, "International Express: Next Stop...Adventure!" please contact Suzi Myers at 646-330-5152, or by email at [suzi@worlddancetheatre.com](mailto:suzi@worlddancetheatre.com).

