> > Kyle Brent, John Donehey, Anaa Hunter, and Lauren Williams perform "Per Adua Ad Astra."

> Leaping into the air, John Donehey performs "Sirenas" with fellow Orchesis members Caitie Finley, Jordan Gehley, Morgan Gelinas, and Allyson Kveselis.

> Dressed as Chef Caprice, Meghan Cavanaugh performs "Eat Your Heart Out" with Meg Barton and Elizabeth Foss who portray Marietta Marinara.

human or dancer?

Orchesis production showcases student choreography

Every spring, Orchesis, the modern dance company on campus, showcased the work of student choreographers through the production entitled "An Evening of Dance." In this production, dancers performed pieces that had been choreographed by students selected from within the dance company.

Through their dances, the choreographers were able to portray aspects of life through a unique artistic perspective. Each dance was about a different topic, often something that was meaningful to the choreographer.

"My piece, '3≠3,' was inspired while I was taking a philosophy of science course in Florence, Italy last spring," Jordan Gehley said. "I wanted to combine my philosophy major and my dance minor to create a cohesive project about mathematics, patterns, and the organization of the universe. The first section is based on Leonardo da Vinci's view of the abacus; the choreography is linear, mechanical, and restricted by certain rules I created to reflect the structure of the abacus. The second section expands to a look at the structure of the world, as seen by the religious philosopher Giordano Bruno. Spirals, concentric circles, and the equivalency of God and Man were the primary motives of this section's movement. Finally, the piece expands past boundaries to an Einsteinian relativity; everything is happening at once, moments are both delayed and sped up. The overall sense of the piece is that structure is being broken as time and space are explored," Gehley concluded.

Although the inspiration for many of the dances was personal, the topic was often something with which the general audience could relate.

"'Per Ardua Ad Astra' was about the two sides of relationships," Sydney Tafuri said. "The first part of the dance is about how there are relationships that have a lot of trials, and don't work out in the end; the second half is about how there are the other kinds of relationships between couples, sisters, brothers, etc. that do work out and are happy. The second part was meant to show that everything works out in the end and that everything will be okay despite tough times," Tafuri said.

In contrast, other dances focused more on mythical subjects; one that was well known to much of the audience, but to which they could relate only on a deeper level.

"My piece was called "Sirenas" and was inspired by the mythological story of Odysseus and his journey home to Ithaca," Meghan Cavanaugh said. "It portrays the struggle between sailor and sirens as the sea creatures try to lure him off of his ship with their powerful voices," Cavanaugh said.

Instead of creating a piece that directly forged a connection to the audience, some choreographers used their dances to explore deeper human truths.

"'Zambullete" is about giving up what you are for what you could become, breaking down the individual for the creation of a whole and still grappling with the truth that the individual is not just the individual," choreographer Casey Shaw said.

Whether the dances baffled or amazed the audience, or both, it was clear that they represented something unique for each choreographer and performer.

>Judi Sclafani

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dances

Catie Finley	"And a new day dawns..."
Meghan Cavanaugh	"Sirenas"
Elizabeth Foss	"Intrinsic Thirst"
Lauren Williams	"Eat Your Heart Out"
Jordan Gehley	"3≠3
Sydeney Tafuri	"Per Ardua ad Astra"
Casey Shaw	"Zambullete"