

Dance of the Spider, “Tarantella, Tarantula” at SMC

By Jennifer Wake

According to legend, in the Middle Ages an epidemic of tarantula poisonings spread through the town of Taranto, Italy. Victims (tarantata) would dance while villagers played mandolins or tambourines, trying different rhythms while the vigorous dancing ensued until one of the rhythms worked, curing the tarantata.

Since then, the dance and its music have become well-known elements of Italian culture. This centuries-old art form will be celebrated in a performance by the Artship Ensemble as part of a special event on Tuesday, May 1 in front of the Saint Mary’s College Chapel.

The performance will not only embody the ancient dance, but will weave verbal and non-verbal narratives in which the ensemble’s actor/dancers perform many roles.

According to director Slobodan Dan Baich, the performance “is about the age-old yearning to cure ‘The Dark Night of the Soul.’”

The free performance will be followed by the “Piazza Santa Maria di Notte” (Square of Santa Maria at Night) – a candle lit Euro-

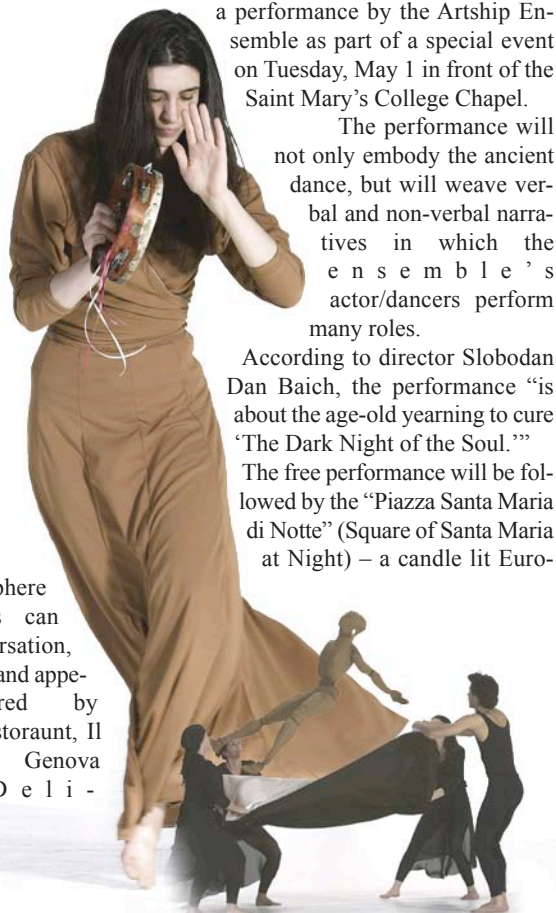
pean atmosphere where guests can enjoy conversation, music, coffee, and appetizers catered by Amoroma Restoraunt, Il Fornaio, and Genova Deli-

catessen from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel Plaza.

Italian professor Maria Grazia De Angelis brought “Tarantella, Tarantula” and the “Piazza Santa Maria di Notte” event to Saint Mary’s as an entrée for her students to learn the culture of Southern Italy. In June, eleven students will travel to the town of Sorrento, where they will participate in a month-long course designed to immerse them in the unique culture of the region, staying in people’s homes, visiting churches and galleries as well as learning the language.

Much like her work within the Lamorinda community, De Angelis wants her students to gain a greater appreciation for the arts as a living expression of a specific culture. She feels the Tarantella embodies this. On their trip, students will view authentic performances such as the famed “Sorrento Musical” – a unique representation of local Sorrentine customs and way of life – at the Tasso Theatre in Southern Italy.

The event is sponsored by the Saint Mary’s Modern Languages Department with professor Maria Grazia De Angelis, Father Sal Ragusa with Campus Ministry, the students of Dante Club, and co-sponsored by the Anthropology/Sociology Department, the Art History Department, the Communications Department, the School of Liberal Arts, and the Academic Advising Office.



Summer 2007 Youth Art Classes Hearst Art Gallery, Saint Mary’s College

June 25 – 29, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.



PRINTMAKING:
Gel, Foamboard, Monoprinting & Silkscreen

Workshop fee: \$110; Materials fee: \$ 95

July 9 – 13, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

DRAWING & PAINTING:
Still Life, Landscape & Portraiture



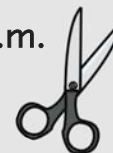
Workshop fee: \$110; Materials Fee: \$80

Both courses are team-taught by returning Hearst summer arts program instructors and OUSD art teachers, Hillery Patterson and Susan Zib.

Each workshop is limited to 15 students; recommended ages are 9 - 14.

FAMILY DAY: PAPER ARTS WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 15, Noon - 3 p.m.
Soda Activity Center



On view in the Gallery through April 29 -
“Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper”
“William Keith: The 1870s Paintings”

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 631-4379

Web site: <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>
Accredited by the American Association of Museums



- Free Boxes !
- Access Hours 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Complete Moving & Packing Supplies
- Major Credit Cards Accepted
- State of the Art Video Surveillance
- All Doors Alarmed
- Individualized Elevator Access

\$tudent \$avings\$!



CENTRAL SELF STORAGE

3333 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

(925) 962-1940

Please Call for Details

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!