

## Spotlight on UNLV Dance Department

OPUS Dance Ensemble has found a new home at UNLV.

Dance instructor Dolly Kelepecz, who is also OPUS's artistic director, brought the troupe to UNLV with the intention of evolving OPUS from a local dance ensemble into a full-fledged dance company.

Members include dancers from the university, the Performing Arts High School, and local production shows. Professional dancers and guest artists provide direction for the troupe members.

OPUS began more than a decade ago with the goal of providing Las Vegas Strip production show dancers a creative outlet to showcase their talents. Kelepecz has been with the company since its inception, and her credits include the Los Angeles Ballet, the Zurich Opera Ballet, the Houston Ballet, and principal dancer at the famed Lido show at the Stardust Hotel.

In its early days, OPUS consisted of a handful of professional dancers who performed after hours in a local club. Through the years, it has been featured at the Tropicana Hotel, where two concerts a year were performed. The performances

were sponsored in part by donations from the showroom and technicians of the Tropicana.

With its new home at UNLV, OPUS now has its own floor and lighting designers. All per-

formances of OPUS will be showcased in the Judy Bayley Theatre.

A scholarship fund under the OPUS name has also been established in the dance arts department.

"Part of the whole idea is to have a student from UNLV or a different university to create a piece of choreography for OPUS, and work with the members of the company. This is the first time we've ever tried this, and it's exciting to see how it will turn out," Kelepecz said.

Kirk Offerle, associate director, is leading the 16-member cast in rehearsals for its first performance, "OPUS 19: A Tribute To Ginger Rogers." Offerle spent nine years working in dance, television and choreography in Italy. He has lived in Las Vegas for two months, and said "Las Vegas, UNLV and OPUS are great outlets for me. This is the best place to be in the United States for dancers."

*"This is the best place to be in the United States for dancers."*

Kirk Offerle



UNLV dance instructor Dolly Kelepecz rehearses a scene with her partner Clem Zeleski in Opus Dance Ensemble's upcoming tribute to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

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