

Focus

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Some of MoMing's 300 students take part in special classes on technique recently. Leading the line is Jacque Jones, a work-study student at MoMing. The classes were presented by Mark Morris, a critically acclaimed modern dance choreographer visiting from Seattle.



Mark Morris [center], a guest artist, conducts a class at MoMing prior to a performance at the center.

Innovation on the stage

Tribune photos by Val Mazzenga

To many, the MoMing Dance & Arts Center is appropriately named: Taken from a Chinese legend, the word MoMing means "too beautiful to be named."

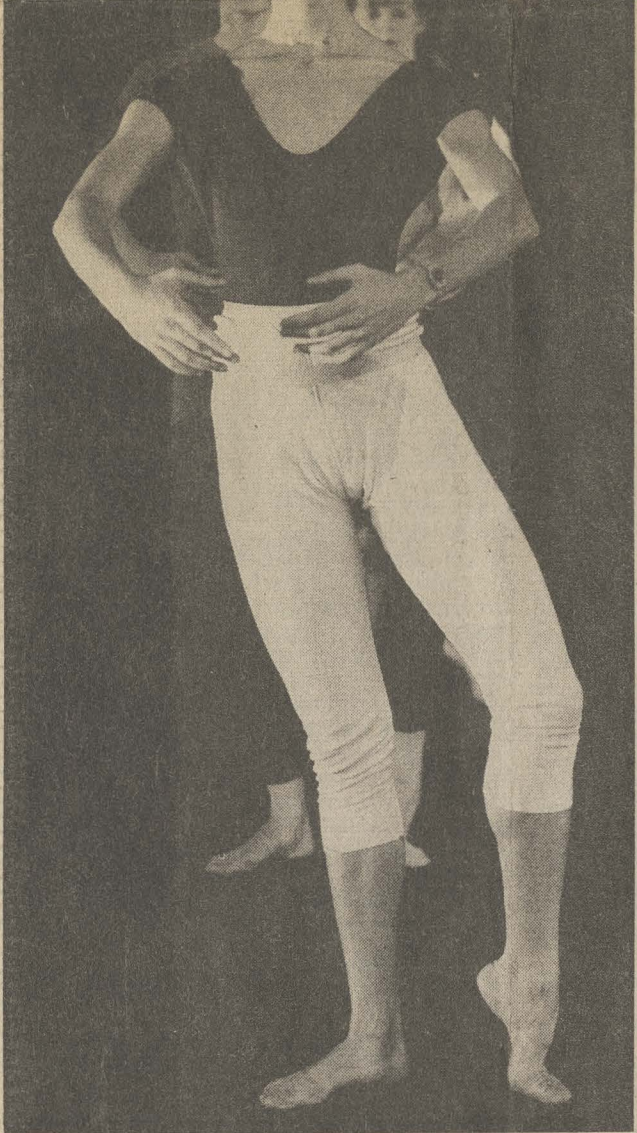
Specializing in modern dance, classes are offered to some 300 students, people who are professional dancers as well as those simply wanting a good workout. Guest artists also teach workshops and master classes at the center, located at 1034 W. Barry.

But MoMing also sponsors productions each week for public viewing. The programs often feature some of the most innovative artists in the country. Student concerts also are offered.

MoMing was formed in 1974 by seven artists. The center has been chosen to be one of 14 sponsors across the country for the National Performance Network, a project supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ford Foundation. This has enabled the center to present performances in dance, music and theater by many avant-garde artists from across the nation.



Faculty member Amy Osgood takes part in a special class.



Cecily Sommers, a member of the Jan Erkert and Dancers dance company, heads up a line of performers working with Mark Morris.



Gigi Buffington, who teaches jazz dancing at MoMing, strikes a pose in the center's ballet room.