

bring artists to work in residence for six weeks, living in the community, sharing their cultural background and learning about others, and crafting a work with ADF dancers.

"It's very informal, much like a laboratory," says Co-Director Charles Reinhart of the residency program. The

generated varies wildly, ranging from thoroughly novel inventions to compositions steeped in endemic customs.

"They [the choreographers] often build on traditions and expand them," says Charles. "In essence, they're making a modern dance of whatever land they're coming from. In other times, it may not

appear that different [from what we're

used to] but it is because of cultural foundations." A piece that looks to be entirely modern in its execution, for example, may find its impetus in an ancient folk tale. The

Reinharts are as surprised by the results as the rest of the viewers; while they occasionally peek into the rehearsals, they remain essentially hands-off, allowing the practice to be a unrelentingly independent one.

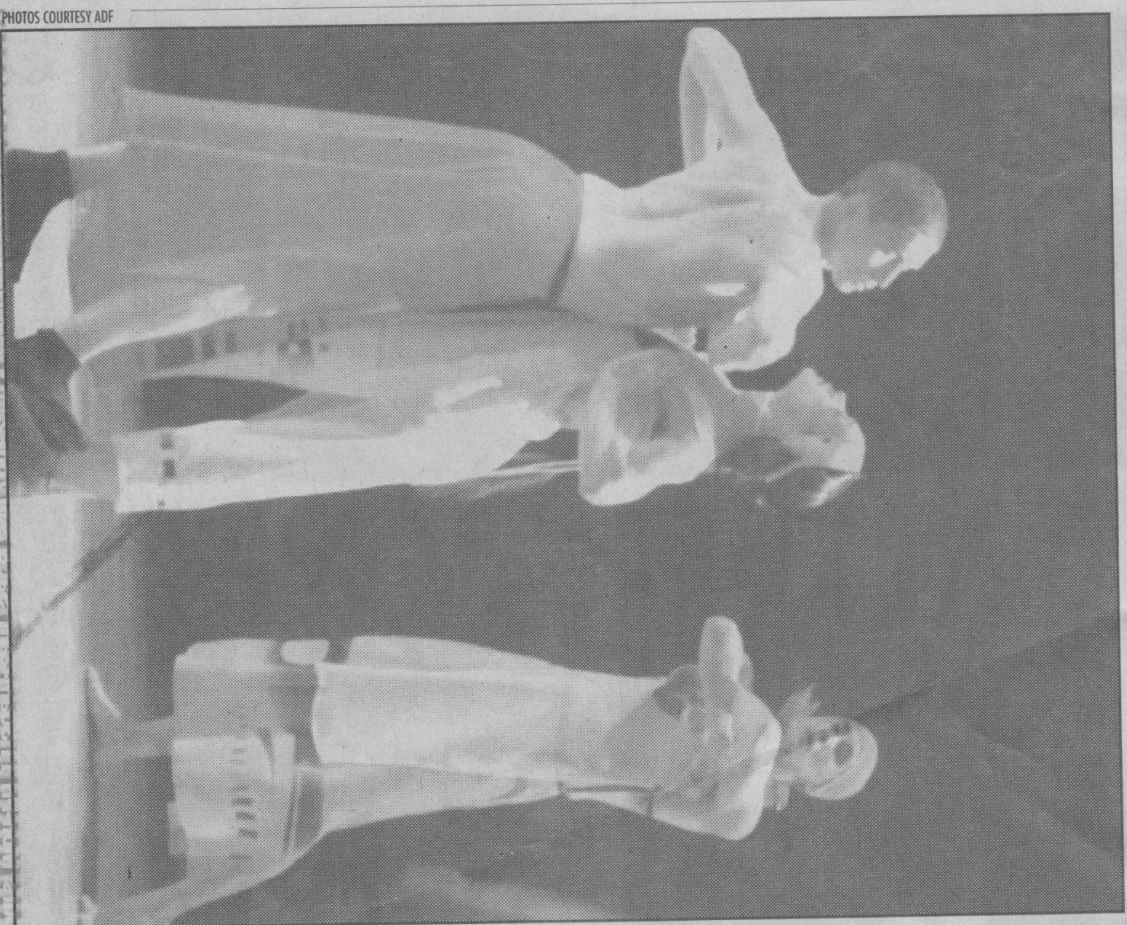
The encouragement tendered to the artists is not confined to their creative work. Programs, workshops, picnics and other social events introduce them to the world outside of the rehearsal studio, with the Reinharts making all efforts conceivable to make their sojourns to North Carolina satisfying from both a professional and personal perspective.

"We met with a group of our Russians recently and asked them if there was anything we could do while they were here,"



as to their pet international artists since the origins of the program — Charles claims that "It would be too hard; each

form on July 17-18 at the Keynolds Industries Theater. Visit www.americandancefestival.org for more information.



PHOTOS COURTESY ADF

International Choreographers Commissioning Program goes further. Usually three or four choreographers are welcomed per year. Some are well-known in their native countries; some emerging artists. Some have performed in the United States before; some are making their first journey to the continent. Many are return visitors from the more casual residency programs; some have been spotted by the Reinharts in their travels. Whatever the case, they're