



ELEGANT WORDS
 Sample an excerpt from the new edition of *Two Review*, an independent, limited-edition journal of poetry and nonfiction published in Anchorage.
Reading the North, Page F-5

play today

Your daily entertainment planner

artscene



Crafters Smackdown, noon, Congregation Beth Shalom, 7525 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Compete in this mega-crafting event or watch team competitions and individual bouts with displays, food, prizes and more. \$50 teams of four, \$20 individuals; \$5 to watch. (337-1672, www.frozenchosen.org)

onstage

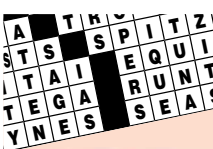
Othello, 3 p.m., Cyrano's Off Center Playhouse, 413 D. St. David Edgecombe's interpretation of the Shakespeare play takes place in Kodiak. \$17.50, with discounts available. (263-2787, www.centertix.net)

foodfun

Zonta's Accidental Gourmet Cooking Class Series, 3-6 p.m., Lucy Cuddy Instructional Dining Room, UAA Campus, Cuddy Hall. Join a hands-on cooking series featuring Hotel Captain Cook chef Steve Sandquist. Proceeds support charity organizations. \$100; \$375 for all four sessions. (277-8560, www.zonta-ak.org)

See play.adn.com and Play in Friday's Daily News for more events.

Were you here?
 A deckhand on a purse seiner saw "a spectacular fireworks display" lighting up Juneau as the city celebrated the announcement of statehood. Do you have stories, movies or photos of Alaska in 1958 or earlier? Share them and read a Daily News from 50 years ago this month at adn.com/statehood



Tribune Media has changed the crossword puzzle for the TV News. Because of the change, the answers for the puzzle from Feb. 3 didn't appear last week. They appear today on Page F-7.



An Alaska Dance Theatre dancer rests her feet during rehearsal.

Tales of the feet

Visiting choreographers spin stories in motion



Photos by BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News

Nicole Maple, Avianna McKee, Brittney Otevel and other dancers rehearse choreographer-director Gabriel Otevel's piece "Sueno" for Alaska Dance Theatre's Winter Repertory Concert on Friday and Saturday. Otevel says "Sueno" is about a mentor of his who recently died.

2-Minute Bio: Andrea Andresakis

- IN SCHOOL:** The native New Yorker studied drama in high school at the famous School of Performing Arts in Illinois. She studied dance at The School of American Ballet in New York.
- ONSCREEN:** She played a small role as herself in "Fame," both the movie and TV series.
- ONSTAGE:** She has danced with companies such as the New York City Ballet and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She has also performed at Broadway's Majestic Theatre and the Metropolitan Opera.
- BEHIND THE SCENES:** She has taught internationally and choreographed and directed for theater, musicals and opera.



Walter Barillas rehearses choreographer Andrea Andresakis' piece "Someone is Speaking." Andresakis says the work explores the lives of lonely people.

2-Minute Bio: Gabriel Otevel

- IN SCHOOL:** He learned the basics at his parents' dance school in his hometown of Augsburg, Germany, then studied with several other European teachers.
- ONSTAGE:** He danced with companies such as the Basler Ballet, the Bejart Ballet Lausanne and the Boston Ballet, which allowed him to work with notable choreographers including Twyla Tharp.
- BEHIND THE SCENES:** After shoulder surgery, he focused his energy on choreography and teaching in America and Europe. His first piece performed in Anchorage was 2003's "White Dreams," presented by Alaska Dance Theatre.

By SARAH HENNING
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Not every dance tells a story. Some dances focus on emotions or a state of mind, like fear. Others on abstract ideas like memory or trust. Some, truthfully, make it tough to know what the heck is going on. Often, that's a cue the choreographer just wants the audience to absorb the visual feast at face value.

But Alaska Dance Theatre's resident choreographers are storytellers. Andrea Andresakis of New York City and Gabriel Otevel of Germany have much to tell Anchorage within the time frame of their 10-month contracts.

The pair will have three works in this weekend's Winter Repertory Concert, which will also include two pieces by ADT staff members and one by guest artist Annie Arnoult Beserra of Chicago.

Andresakis will premiere a work set to the music of the Beatles. In it, she rewinds the lives of folks who are down and out, showing how they landed where they did.

Otevel will premiere two works. "Sueno" is about a mentor who recently died. Instead of an obituary, the choreographer has imagined a reverent and joyful reflection on their time together. Otevel's second piece, "Hospice," is autobiographical as well. It was inspired when his robust dancer father landed in the hospital with chronic asthma.

"My parents are from Prague. They escaped during the war



McKee rehearses "Sueno," the title of which is Spanish for "dream." Choreographer Otevel's signature style is fluid and organic, informed by ballet but not nearly as formal.

ALASKA DANCE THEATRE'S WINTER REPERTORY CONCERT will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Discovery Theatre at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets, \$27-\$31, with discounts for students, seniors and military, available at 263-2787 or centertix.net. There will be a free pre-concert discussion at 6:30 each evening.



adn.com
WATCH THEM MOVE: View videos of dancers preparing for this week's Alaska Dance Theatre Winter Repertory Concert at adn.com/arts

Arts



SHIPP-SHAPE CHANTEUSE

Mezzo-soprano Sara Shipp will present a recital dedicated to thoughts of spring at 7 p.m. Monday in the Steinway Piano Gallery, Seventh Avenue and A Street. Rosie Humphrey will accompany at the piano. Admission is \$10 at the door.

DANCE: Visiting choreographers explore emotions with new works

Continued from F-1

and everything, and they're both incredibly hard workers," Otevreil said. "My father was the sort of person who would never give up, always go, go, go. And when someone like that had to go to hospital, I thought, 'This will be it.'"

Otevreil's father recovered, but the experience marked his son. "Hospice" follows one person who is scared of death, wants to fight it, but eventually finds acceptance and a belief in a better hereafter.

Read on for a closer look at these resident choreographers and their new works.

'SOMEONE IS SPEAKING'

Choreographed by Andrea Andresakis

Back story: Andresakis visited New York City over Christmas and encountered an unusual old woman living in the same building.

"She's kind of out of it; I think she's on meds or something," she said. "But then I found out that she was on the Olympic swim team and is a medalist, and it just made me realize that people's lives take dramatic arcs. ... You can't always tell when you see people on the street, even homeless people, where they've been. They've been young. They've been in love."

"So that's the idea of this piece — showing the lonely people of the world and looking back to see how they got where they are. And to show there's always hope."

The sound: Immediately, Andresakis connected her idea to the lyrics in "Eleanor Rigby":

"All the lonely people/Where do they all come from?/All the lonely people/Where do they all belong?"

So she went with an all-Beatles soundtrack — "Eleanor Rigby," "Lovely Rita," "Here, There and Everywhere," "No One" and "Let it Be."

The look: Stylistically, Andresakis stews a vast array of ingredients in her dance pot. The piece is en pointe, so it has a ballet foundation. But arabesques and sashaying are just one aspect. There is theatrical miming



Above: Choreographer Andrea Andresakis, left, works on arm positions with dancers Sam Franklin and Nicole Maple during rehearsal of her piece "Someone Is Speaking" for the Alaska Dance Theatre's Winter Repertory Concert, scheduled for Friday and Saturday in the Discovery Theater.



Left: Choreographer-director Gabriel Otevreil reviews the work of his dancers at the end of a rehearsal of "Sueno."

Photos by BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News

and slithering modern ground work. There is Broadway, such as heels clicked together spryly in the air, and folk dancing, in which dancers hold hands and move in a circle.

"I'm interested in blending styles," she said. "I have one of my couples doing some salsa en pointe and doing a little sugarfoot, a swing

move, because it works with that part of the story; the couple is out on a date and social dancing."

Need to know: Although "Someone Is Speaking" might sound familiar to fans of the musical flick "Across the Universe," Andresakis still hasn't seen it. "I really want to see that movie, but I thought if I saw it in the

middle of creating this work, I'd want to change everything."

'SUENO'

Choreographed by Gabriel Otevreil

Back story: When French choreographer Maurice Bejart died in November, Otevreil felt the sting of loss.

"I'm interested in blending styles. I have one of my couples doing some salsa en pointe and doing a little sugarfoot, a swing move, because it works with that part of the story."

— choreographer Andrea Andresakis

"What he had to give, what he had to share ... he was a complete genius," Otevreil said. "I learned so much from him. Being in his company gave me a lot of hope. By having his name on my resume, every dream for me was possible."

Otevreil wanted to pay tribute to Bejart. He was sad but didn't want to create something funereal. Instead, the dance focuses on the joy and hope, the admiration and awakening that he felt while working with his mentor. "Sueno" is Spanish for "dream."

The look: Often, yoga-like moves on the floor segue into expressive, modern movements. The sweeping arms, extended legs and giant spins seem designed to take up as much space as humanly possible, while underlining Otevreil's theme of artistic flowering.

The sound: Segments of the piece alternate between the vocal stylings of Spanish singer Maria del Mar Bonet and instrumental pan flute music from Latin America.

Need to know: One of the featured dancers in this work is Gabriel's wife, Brittney. In his other work, "Hospice," she dances the role of death.

Find Sarah Henning online at adn.com/contact/shenning or call 257-4323.

O'MALLEY: Surviving Alaska in February, one day at a time

Continued from F-1

couch. About then, Sara came home and gave me a sympathetic look.

"It's kind of too bad you are going to Fairbanks tomorrow," she said.

I'd almost forgotten. Fairbanks. I hadn't been for 10 years, since I'd spent a summer watching my cousins while my aunt was in school. Why did I think it was a good idea to visit Fairbanks in February? The flashcard in my hand read "atrophy."

When the plane touched down the next evening, the temperature was 38 below. I could see a finger of car exhaust hanging low over the town. Aunt Ruth met me at the baggage claim. Outside, the cold parched my nostrils and stung my eyes. Ruth told me

she'd accidentally left her garage door open a few inches and everything inside froze.

"The white wine's a little slushy," she said. "You just have to put it in the microwave."

The next day my cousin Jack and I drove to Ester to visit his dad. We hadn't really hung out much since Jack was 10. In those days, he spent a lot of time in his room, playing Smash Mouth songs too loud and hating me. Now he goes to UAF. He seemed tall and thoughtful, wearing a silver ring on his finger and a pea-coat. He'd just been in Germany on exchange.

"Sometimes I can't see staying here," he said. "I go to class and it's all people from high school."

I thought of myself at his age, heading off to college

on the East Coast. Then I remembered why I'd come back. I wanted to live in a place I was connected to, where I had family and memories.

The car windows were iced over on the inside, except for small circles where the heater blew tepid air. I could just make out the thin yellow crescent of the moon through the tall trees.

"You can leave," I told him. "It'll always be here when you get back."

He switched on his iPod, and Ella Fitzgerald came lilt-ing out of the speakers. We both started singing along. For the first time in a while, I felt content. It was cold outside, but inside, we were warm.

Julia O'Malley is a Daily News reporter. Reach her at jomalley@adn.com.

Every life is a story to be remembered and celebrated...
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