

Castleton Dance Artist To Choreograph Work

CASTLETON — Susan Sgorbati, instructor of theater arts at Castleton State College, has been awarded a grant from the Vermont Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is one of four people in southwestern Vermont who received the grant, and was the only performing artist in the group.

Ms. Sgorbati, now a resident of Shaftsbury, will choreograph a modern dance, "The Rites of Passage," within the framework of the ritual. "The transcendent state of the physical and spiritual experience is sadly lacking in contemporary society," Ms. Sgorbati asserted.

The composition is about important transitions in life from birth to death. It will be performed in five different settings, for example, a synagogue, a museum, a quarry. Five CSC students will perform

the composition next spring. John Riddle of Bennington will compose an original piece of music for the dance.

Originally from Philadelphia, Ms. Sgorbati has been teaching at CSC since last year and is in the process of organizing a sacred artist guild in southern Vermont for all kinds of artists. She also plans to start a dance company.

The 31-year-old dance teacher received her bachelor of arts degree from Bennington College. While there, she toured with the Collaborative Ensemble of Dancers and Musicians.



SUSAN SGORBATI

After graduating from Bennington College, Ms. Sgorbati taught at William College, Williamstown, Mass. There she was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1978 and composed "The Journey of Abraham," an hour-long piece.

Dance ritual set for Saturday

"Rites of Passage," a contemporary dance ritual concerned with important transitions in life, will be performed Saturday, May 9, at two locations in Bennington.

It will be shown on at the Bennington Museum courtyard at 4 p.m. and St. Peter's Episcopal church at 8:15 p.m.

The dance is concerned with symbolic recognition of important moments of consciousness.

Susan Sgorbati, dance director at Castleton State College, conceived the idea, directed and choreographed the project. "Our society is bombarded either by enormous amounts of computerized information or oversentimentalization of serious topics," said Ms. Sgorbati. "The objective use of real symbols to explore who we are and are becoming is the purpose behind this composition."

An original score was composed for the project by John Riddle, choirmaster and organist of St. Peter's Church in Bennington. The set design is by Grey Gundaker, a graduate of Bennington College.

This project is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Vermont Council on the Arts Inc.



Scene from 'Rites of Passage', a contemporary dance ritual to be performed Saturday at two locations in Bennington.

Rites of
Passage

18—Bennington Banner, Wednesday, May 6, 1981

Entertainment

Resident of Shaftsbury awarded an arts grant

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