

DANCE DREAMS

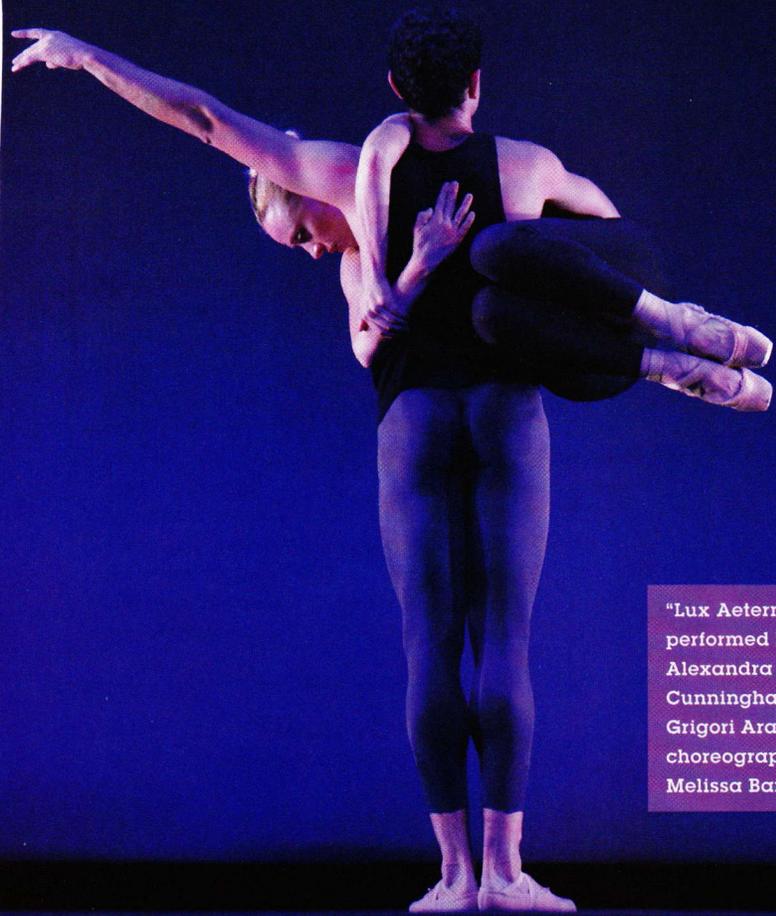
Orange County is known nationally as a major supporter of ballet and other dance programs, with leading companies from around the world performing here each year at Irvine Barclay Theatre and Segerstrom Center for the Arts, among other venues. But the area's support of dance goes well beyond just buying tickets to see works created elsewhere. OC is also home to an innovative incubator of new choreography courtesy of Molly Lynch and the National Choreographers Initiative.

Lynch was artistic director of Ballet Pacifica from 1988 to 2003, arguably the company's most culturally significant years. After she resigned from that company, she was urged on by community leaders to continue creating new dance, as she had with the Pacifica Choreographic Project. As a result Lynch founded NCI, a dance project that each summer invites four promising choreographers and a cast of 16 professional dancers to OC for a three-week intensive process creating contemporary dance. The works are then premiered at Irvine Barclay Theatre, with many subsequently finding their way into the repertoire of dance companies around the world.

To celebrate a decade of creating new works of uniquely athletic art, NCI has something special planned for this year's performances. Not only will there be a night



"Lovers" performed by Preston Swovelin and Alessa Rogers choreography by Wendy Seyb



"Lux Aeterna"
 performed by
**Alexandra
 Cunningham and
 Grigori Arakelyan;**
 choreography by
Melissa Barak

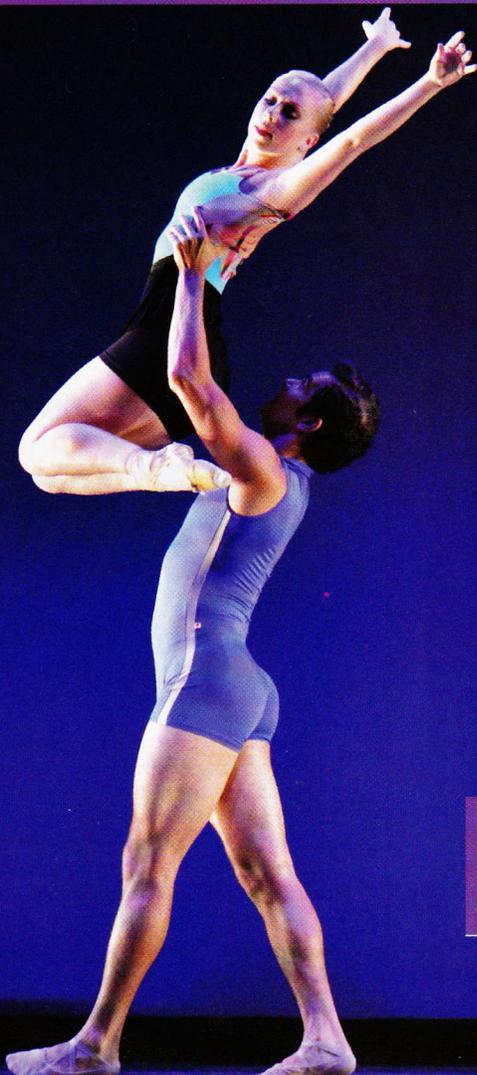
dedicated to the debut of the choreography developed in these four new works created during the NCI summer project, but there will be an additional performance featuring highlights from the best work created in the history of NCI.

There have been 37 NCI choreographers, each of whom created a new piece while in Orange County. Other companies have performed some 22 of those works. NCI Highlights (Saturday, July 13), celebrates the cultural impact of the project, with excerpts from several of these pieces revived by the 2013 cast on the Irvine Barclay stage where they first debuted.

The 2013 cast includes professional dancers from Atlanta Ballet, BalletMet, Ballet Austin, Dance Theatre of Tennessee, Festival Ballet Theatre, Los Angeles Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theatre, Oklahoma City Ballet, Richmond Ballet, and Sacramento Ballet. The dancers train and rehearse in the UC Irvine Department of Dance facilities.

At the NCI Discovery Showcase, (Saturday, July 27) Lynch says the OC audience can expect European contemporary, modern, and classical dance from a diverse group of choreographers, David Fernandez, Susan McCullough, Kitty McNamee, and Petr Zahradnicek. Lynch selected each for their different perspectives, approaches and styles. After the performances, there's a lively Q&A where the audience can engage with the artists and discuss the new work.

National Choreographers Initiative, July 13 and 27.
 Tickets: \$30, \$20 student, \$60 VIP. thebarclay.org



"Cell" performed
 by James Fuller
 and Nadia Iozzo;
 Choreography by
Thang Dao



"Moments" performed by Orlando
 Canova and Bridgette Burnett;
 choreography by Darrell Grand
 Moultrie