

August 2, 2012

Dance about quarries debuts on stage at quarry

By Gail McCarthy Staff Writer

Rockport's waterfront Halibut Point State Park will become a stage for a New York City dance troupe as it debuts the new work "Quarry Dance" on Friday and Saturday.

This is an effort by Ina Hahn, founder of Windhover Performing Arts Center, just a few minutes walk from Halibut Point, who is at work on a project to celebrate Cape Ann's quarries. Halibut Point has an oceanfront quarry with scenic views on all sides. In addition to the two quarry venues, there is a third show — all free — at Windhover featuring "Quarry Dance" as well as excerpts from the dance production "Made in Folly Cove" on Friday, Aug. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at an open-air theater in which the stage has a backdrop of oak trees.

"The purpose is to bring attention to the quarries of Cape Ann, which are one of the greatest treasures of this unique place," said Hahn. "The hope is that this will focus community attention on protecting these treasures for future generations." "Quarry Dance" is choreographed by Czech-born Dusan Tynek and performed by members of the Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre. Hahn noted that Pigeon Cove and Lanesville once boasted a bustling quarry industry which supplied granite for buildings and streets throughout the United States.

Tynek has received critical praise. "Mr. Tynek is a talent who seems to be waiting for his big moment; he has a gift for inventing inventive, luscious movement and an instinct for theatrical effect," wrote Roslyn Sulcas wrote in the New York Times last fall. Lisa Hahn, also of Windhover and Ina's daughter, said her mother is working on a documentary about the quarries of Cape Ann. "They are a natural treasure that some people don't even know exists. They are kind of a hidden gem of Cape Ann," she said. "They are an important natural resource to preserve and protect and celebrate. As a dancer, my mother had the idea to bring dance to the quarry and she had this dance company from New York in residence and used them to bring that vision to fruition."

Dance: 'Made in Folly Cove'

At the Friday Windhover show, the Windhover Dance company will perform excerpts from "Made In Folly Cove," a well-received performance when it made its debut in 2001. When it was performed in June at the Cape Ann Museum, more than 150 people attended, awarded it a standing ovation and requested future performances. The dance is directed and choreographed by Ina Hahn and written by Pat Kane Earle.

Gloucester's Carol Burnham will share the stage once again with dance company members Annette Cowhig, Michelle Dalton, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Suzanne Shrewsbury Baker and Nick Repoli. The costumes are by Pamela Wise.

The work is based on the lives and work of the Folly Cove Designers who formed a collective in 1938 under the direction of artist and children's book illustrator Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios. They were a textile design collective that flourished for 30 years until Burton's death in 1968. During the piece, the dancers and actors appear before projections of the designs, accompanied by music of the period, much of it played by local musicians.

Windhover shared a letter from an audience member at the museum performance, in which the resident wrote: "I came to the Cape Ann Museum for the absolutely brilliant performance about the Folly Cove Designers and those months and years when that place came to life and flowered. I was deeply touched. The narration, the variety of dances, the inclusion of the products and the historical perspective of what a working community could be, generated by people who loved their crafts, and who loved each other, was truly unique. Humphrey or Ailey couldn't have done it better."

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If you go What: "Quarry Dance," an outdoor dance performance. When and where : Friday, Aug. 3, at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 4, at 4 p.m., at Halibut Point State Park at 6 Gott Ave. in Rockport; and Friday, Aug. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Windhover Performing Arts Center at 257 R Granite St (Rte 127) in Rockport. Performance at Windhover will be held indoors in case of rain. "Quarry Dance" has been funded by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. The Windhover show also includes excerpts from the popular dance-drama "Made in Folly Cove." How much: There is no charge, but contributions are gratefully accepted. Details: Contact Ina Hahn at 978-546-3611 FREE 978-546-3611 or visit www.windhover.org.



Courtesy photo Windhover Dance company will perform excerpts from "Made In Folly Cove," directed and choreographed by Ina Hahn and written by Pat Kane Earle. The performance is this Friday, Aug. 3, at 7:30 at Windhover Performing Arts Center, 227 R Granite St. in Rockport.



Photo: Nick Repoli

Dancers, from left, Alexandra Berger, Emily Gayeski, Ann Chiaverini and Elisa Osborne will perform at Halibut Point and Windhover this weekend in "Quarry Dance." The performances are free. Dancers, from left, Alexandra Berger, Emily Gayeski, Ann Chiaverini and Elisa Osborne will perform at Halibut Point and Windhover this weekend in "Quarry Dance."



Photo: Nick Repoli

Dancers, from left, Nicholas Wagner, John Eirich, Samuel Swanton and Satoshi Takao. "Quarry Dance" will be performed at Halibut Point State Park on Friday, Aug. 3, at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 4, at 4 p.m. and at Windhover on Granite Street in Rockport on Friday, Aug. 4, at 7:30 p.m.



Photo: Nick Repoli

Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre dancers, from left, Alexandra Berger, Samuel Swanton, Emily Gayeski, Nicholas Wagner, Elisa Osborne. "Quarry Dance" debuts at Halibut Point State Park and Windhover Center for the Performing Arts in Rockport tomorrow and Saturday.