



Summer zizzles at



ARTISTIC ADVENTURES

Visitors to Art Naturally can see the work of over 100 artists and craftspeople including (from left clock wise): oil painting by Michael Harris; oil painting by Leslie Ann Becker; painting by L. Wilson; woodcraft by Karly Sawada; mixed media by Ling Chang; photography by Laura Sawodny; woodcraft by Austin Jeffries; and pottery by Malcolm Gear.

Photos courtesy of the artists.

Help support the arts

Art Naturally requires volunteers for set up and take down of the show on Aug. 8 and Aug. 9, as well as "techies" for the two evening performances of the Desrosiers Dance Theatre.

For set up, volunteers would be needed Friday, August 7, and for take down on Sunday, August 9. Tasks include setting up tables, lattice work and the information tent. Take down includes dismantling the fences, and returning tables to the pick up site,

and loading supplies into vehicles.

Those with a theatrical heart and some experience in the amateur technical field, can learn the "ins and outs" of stage setting, lighting, sound, and more by working with the company's stage manager.

For more information on these opportunities, call Allena Litherland at the Scarborough Arts Council, 698-7322 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

While dance lovers feast on the delights of the Desrosiers Dance Theatre, other visitors to Art Naturally can enjoy a smorgasbord of fine art, craft and family fun.

The annual show brings a lively sampling of art and craft to the beautiful sculpture gardens of the Guild Inn at 201 Guildwood Pkwy. The Spencer Clark Collection of Historic Architecture, a collection of classical columns, facades and sculptures rescued from Toronto's historic buildings in the 1950s and 1960s, provides an idyllic setting for the works of over 100 artists and craftspeople.

There are 38 new exhibitors this year, along with many outstanding artists returning from last year to demonstrate, show and sell their work. Visitors can enjoy an outstanding selection of paintings, pottery, photography, sculpture, stained glass, folk art, jewellery, hand-

made clothing, contemporary doll collectables, floral arrangements, toys and other fine handcrafted items.

Art Naturally also features daytime performances by members of the Desrosiers Dance Theatre. Highlights of the company's varied repertoire will be performed at intervals throughout the day on Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9 at the Greek Theatre.

In addition to dance vignettes on Saturday, there will be performances by The Sunflowers, and children can enjoy a craft area, face painting and clowning and balloon creations by Sunshine the Clown.

These performers and activities will continue on Sunday, with the addition of the Scarborough Arts Council poetry competition award ceremony.

The popular Art Naturally raffle returns this year with a variety of prizes to be won including a folk art wooden

box from Rac Allinson, white wine gift boxes donated by Pelee Island Winery, children's books from Amnck Press, a mosaic china and tile wall hanging and porcelain vase from Maggie Murdoch, several paintings, concert passes and theatre tickets. Tickets are \$2 each, three for \$5 or \$15 for a book of \$15. Early bird tickets are available at the Scarborough Arts Council, 1859 Kingston Rd. Another opportunity to bid on an item in the council's silent auction, with auction items donated by Art Naturally artists and craftspeople.

Celebrate the summer at Art Naturally on Aug. 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Guild is located at 201 Guildwood Pkwy., south of Kingston Rd., between Markham Rd. and Morningside Ave. Admission is free. For more information, call the Scarborough Arts Council at 698-7322.

Desrosiers dances into Art Naturally

The Desrosiers Dance Theatre performs at the Greek Theatre at the Guild Inn, as part of Art Naturally 1998. Evening performances are Aug. 7 and Aug. 8, 8 p.m. Tickets are adults \$15, children \$8 and can be obtained by calling the Scarborough Arts Council at 698-7322. Mini daytime performances, on Aug. 8 and Aug. 9, also at the Guild Inn, 201 Guildwood Pkwy. are free.

By Vivian Sneed

The Desrosiers Dance Theatre brings its stylish, energetic and evocative dance program to the Scarborough Arts Council's 14th edition of Art Naturally art and craft festival at the Guild Inn.

The award-winning dance company performed a short program at Art Naturally last year and enjoyed it so much that they wanted to return and perform a longer program, says Robert Desrosiers.

"It's totally right," he says, of performing outdoors at the Greek Theatre. "This is the place. There's something magical about an outside show."

Desrosiers and his nine dancers will perform *Musical Chairs* and a mixed repertoire of work on Friday, August 7 and Saturday, August 8 at 8 p.m. This performance marks the opening of the company's 1998/99 season.

Mr. Desrosiers describes *Musical Chairs* as a "playful, quirky" piece "bending toward the humorous side". The dance is his interpretation of the child's party game from which the title is taken.

The stage will be bathed in primary colours as the dancers explore a "whole series of themes" while using chairs as props, hats and even costumes.

Writing in *Dance Magazine*, Paula Citron said of this 1995 work: "Robert Desrosiers is a master of imagination who interpolates fantastical props and costumes into high-energy chore-

ography to illustrate a philosophical premise. And the Toronto Star's Michael Crabb noted "Desrosiers has culled only the most fertile products of his imagination and refined them to enhance their potency."

The evening program will also feature a full performance of the company's *Mixed Repertoire* highlighting Dora nominated Vivaldi's *Sacred Songs*, *In Colour*, *Angel Transformation*, *Ultra City* and *Double Man*. Both evening performances are a presentation of du Maurier Arts.

Of the acclaimed *Sacred Songs*, Mr. Desrosiers says it is a "celebration of joy and spirituality and will work well outside."

The evening performances will attract "more of the usual audience for dance" but the mini-performances on Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9 will "attract people who are in the park but don't usually see this kind of work."

Experience has taught him that live dance combined with performing outside produces a "tremendous excitement for the audience. They connect to you very quickly. I like performing in front of audiences like this because you can see how magical it is for them. It is great to bring it (dance) to them." It's also a positive outreach opportunity for the company because "many people seeing the company for the first time outdoors, will then come to regular shows."

Preparing for Art Naturally is the dance company's immediate goal, but Robert Desrosiers' fertile mind is also looking to the future.

"We will develop new material," he says, of what will be featured in the remainder of the season. It depends on what happens when I go into the studio with my dancers." He does point to a tantalizing production for children called *Circus Dream* slated for January, 1999.

Wherever or whatever the audience, the Desrosiers Dance Theatre will interpret the world using its theatrical style to communicate the excitement, fantasy and humanity of dance.



Four dancers from Desrosiers Dance Theatre perform Vivaldi's *Sacred Songs* (top) and *Musical Chairs*. Photo courtesy: Michael Stuparyk.