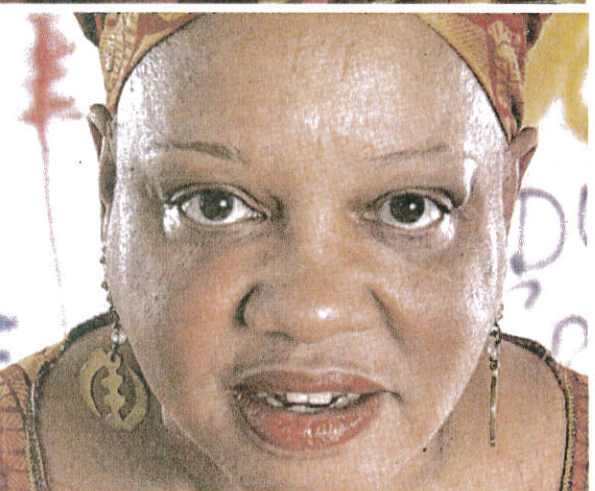
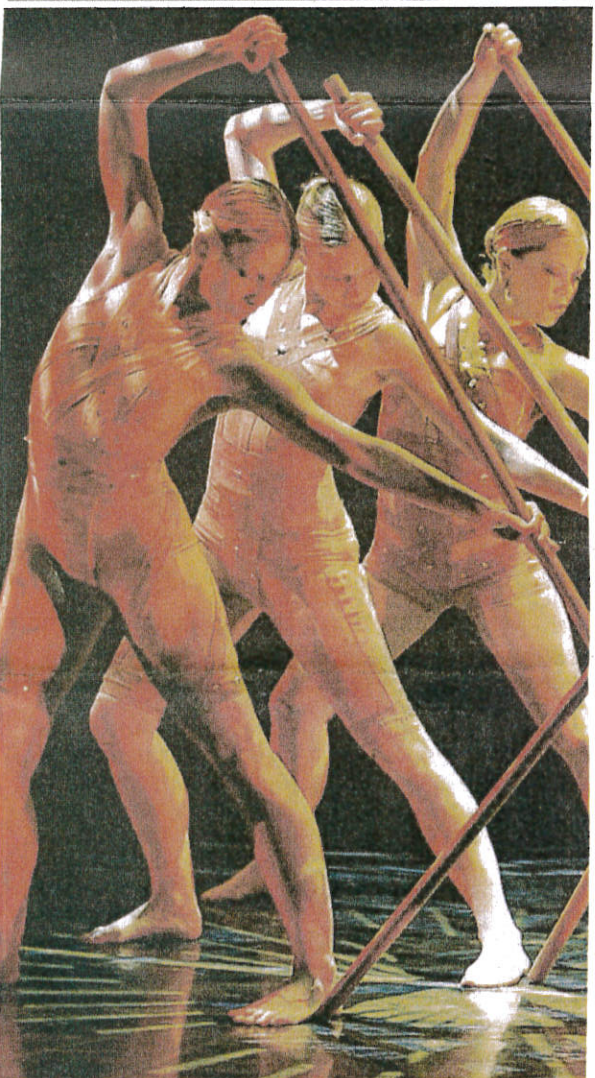
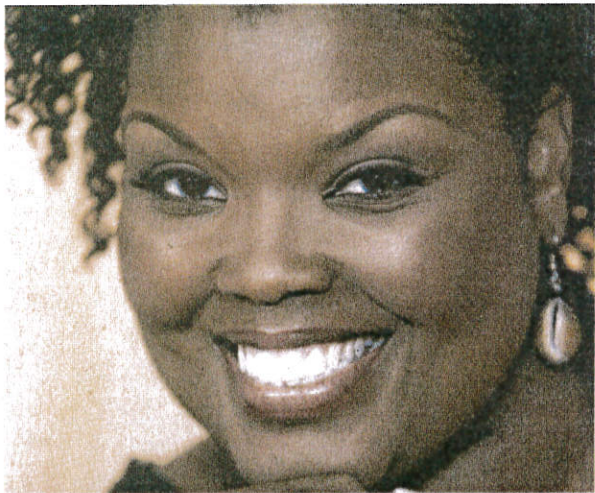


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LOCAL LIVING



BUTLER ARTS FEST TAKES RISKS, HOPES TO GROW

By Michael Anthony Adams
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On Caltobiano, dean of Jordan College of the Arts, revived Butler ArtsFest in 2013 to shape the image of the arts at Butler by taking risks and reaching diverse audiences. Caltobiano's biggest risk this year is the festival's theme, "Fables, Fairy Tales and Physics."

At first glance, it's unclear how the theme guided the programming for the 14-day festival, which includes singers Angela Brown and My Brightest Diamond, blues-gospel band The Blind Boys of Alabama and actress Deborah Asante, accompanied by Cirque du Soleil aerialist Tavi Stutz. Caltobiano points to one of Butler's own contributions to the festival to answer that question.

The university has completely re-imagined Haydn's "The World on the Moon," "which is a kind of fairy tale," said Caltobiano, "the second act takes place on the moon.

We have what we think is the first science-fiction opera. We are doing it in the Holcomb planetarium at Butler University in a very special way: We're doing it for an audience of 40 at a time."

What the Austrian composer meant to be a 3½-hour performance with a 60-piece orchestra and a cast of 24 actors, Butler has adapted into an operatic ensemble of three musicians, 12 actors and a 75-minute run time. Caltobiano claims it will be an experience no one's had at an opera before.

"I think ArtsFest is becoming more ArtsFest-like," said Caltobiano, who relaunched the festival in 2012 after a seven-year hiatus. "We're starting to focus on the things that are really important to Jordan College and to my vision of the arts at Butler, and those are things like unique presentations."

"I think it's nice to have a theme to base everything around," said David Hochoy, artistic director of Dance Kaleidoscope. "The jury is still out, because it's only the second year (Caltobiano)'s tried it, but for marketing purposes, it helps to sort of have a central focus for the festival."

Hochoy, whose dance company will be performing Maurice Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite," said one of the jewels of ArtsFest is that most of the performances are in the new Schrott Center for the Arts, which opened in 2012.

★ Contact Star reporter Michael Anthony Adams at (317) 444-6123. On Twitter: @MichaelAdams317.



BUTLER ARTSFEST 2014

» **WHEN:** April 3-13 (with an encore weekend April 25-27).

» **WHERE:** Howard L. Schrott Center for the Arts, Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall, Lilly Hall 112, Holcomb Observatory, Lilly Hall Studio Theatre, Clowes Hall.

» **COST:** Free-\$52.

» **INFORMATION:** butler.edu.



Visit [indystar.com/things to do](http://indystar.com/things-to-do) for the full festival schedule.



Among those performing at ArtsFest next month on the campus of Butler University will be (clockwise, from bottom left): Deborah Asante, Dance Kaleidoscope, jazz artist Don McCaslin, opera singer Angela Brown, My Brightest Diamond and the Butler Ballet. The festival has the unusual theme of "Fables, Fairy Tales and Physics." STAR AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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