

The Star

Gannett Suburban Newspapers

Wednesday, September 28, 1994

Dancing like it's all they've got — and for some of them, it is

Dancer teaches women inmates something they can be proud of.

By Joan Vos Mac Donald
Star Writer

The bare stage seemed devoid of promise. Indifferently pinned sheets of cloth hung across some of the windows, dancers waited slackly before dirt-mottled walls.

Then, as the music started, the mood changed. Perched on the corner of what's left of the lid of an upright piano, she began her bittersweet song.

"Life is a cabaret my friend, life is a cabaret."

When her song faded, the dance began.

Contributions needed

Mary Johnson is looking for contributions to help stage her dance production. She needs costumes, tap shoes, makeup, lighting equipment, sound equipment, curtains, scenery, volunteers to work on programs and props. Some things, like safety pins, are

said inmate

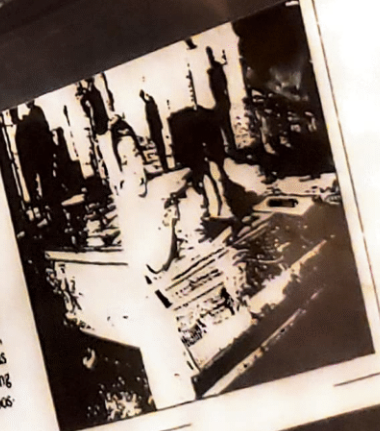
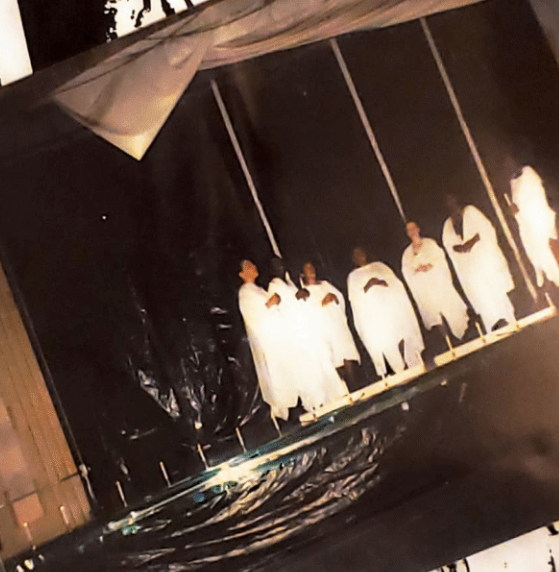
She was talking about her dance teacher, Mary Johnson.

"For some of these women, putting on this show is the first thing they can be truly proud of in their lives."

Costume

...have a grant year for costumes and equipment. In the meantime, we will somehow be able to show something to

going to reach them said. "If I can just reach them, it will be so little, it could be us in the wrong time, choosing the wrong person."



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