

Lithuanian dancer hopes to help others break free

BY ALYSSA SCHNUGG
Staff Writer

Visiting the United States for his first time, Lithuanian dancer Denisas Kolonychis said Oxford is a place to find peace.

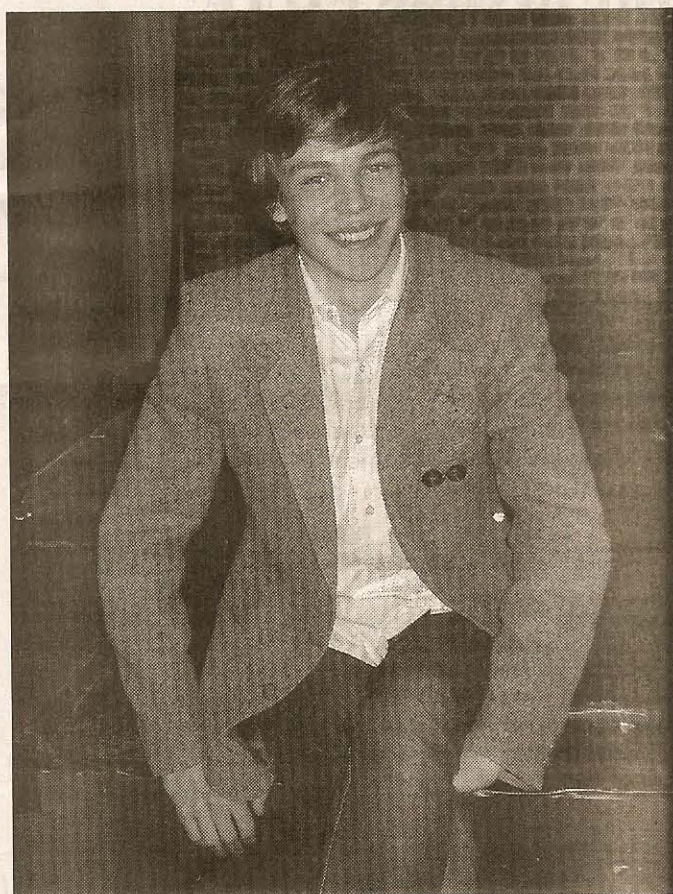
"It is very peaceful and quiet here," he said. "I can use this time to look into myself and use this for my dance."

A contemporary dancer, Kolonychis trained at the National M. K. Ciurlionis Art School in the ballet section and studied the specialty of the London Dance and Drama Conservatoire. He is involved with the Fluxus Ministerija movement. He has performed at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and was named the Young British Dancer of the Year in 2009 at the Contemporary Dance Festival in London.

He was asked to perform in New York City. His friend, Gabrielle, a Lithuanian high school exchange student living in Oxford for the school year, told him he should come to Oxford to perform while he was in the U.S. for the New York show. She contacted Wayne Andrews at the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council who was able to help bring Kolonychis to Oxford.

Kolonychis, 18, will perform the show he will perform in New York at 7 tonight at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center.

"It will be very unique," he said. "In New York, I am performing outdoors, on the street and in galleries. Here



Lithuanian contemporary dancer Denisas Kolonychis will perform at The Powerhouse at 7 this evening. There is no charge; however, a donation to the arts will be appreciated.

I will do the show on one stage."

The show is free to the public; however, those attending will be asked to give a donation toward the arts.

"This is an opportunity to see an amazing dance show that people in New York City will be seeing, for free here in Oxford," Andrews said.

His show will depict that life of teenage boy, held a prisoner by his own emotional bonds and society restraints; his rise out of those bonds and then back

into new ones as he becomes older.

"It might be a bit controversial," Kolonychis said. "I want to crush stereotypes. If one person comes to the show and sees something in his life that he can change about himself than that is good. I will be very happy."

The University of Mississippi has provided Kolonychis with a dance studio for rehearsing.

For more information, call the Powerhouse at 236-6429.

—alyssa@oxfordeagle.com