



'Colour Brillante' is the featured piece this weekend by the Brandywine Ballet at West Chester University.

## BALLET'S BEAUTY

By DENNY DYROFF  
Staff Writer

The Brandywine Ballet's spring performance is like a breath of fresh air, frequently featuring world premieres by top choreographers.

Audiences can expect more of the same when the company performs the 2009 version this weekend at West Chester University's Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall. The diverse program will offer three world premieres, along with one of the company's latest and most popular pieces.

"Every year, the Brandywine Ballet brings in a guest choreographer," said Donna Muzio, the company's artistic director/founder.

The guest choreographer for this show is Eric Bean Jr., a principal dancer from Philadelphia's Koresh Dance

Company. His work is titled "Speak Easy," and features the music of Ella Fitzgerald and Vivian Green. The piece combines elements of jazz and swing.

"This is the first time Eric has choreographed a piece for the Brandywine Ballet," Muzio said. "It's a very sassy piece. It's very innovative."

Another world premiere will be "Make Haste Slowly," choreographed by former Pennsylvania Ballet principal dancer Meredith Rainey. It's a contemporary ballet theater piece.

The program will also have two works by Brandywine Ballet's resident choreographer Nancy Page - "Now We Are Free," which is a world premiere, and "Colour Brillante," which had its company debut last year.

"This is our second time to do 'Colour Brillante' and it is different this year," Muzio said. "It used to feature just one couple. Now it has three couples - and we added 12 more corps members. The flavor is still the same, but it was still a work-in-progress when we did it before."

See **BALLET**, Page 3

"Nancy's other piece, 'Now We Are Free,' is a near-classic piece with a contemporary flair. Nancy choreographed it for the Brandywine Ballet Company, which is our company of youth dancers. It's a very interesting piece and our young dancers perform it well."

**What:** Brandywine Ballet Company's Spring Series performances

**When:** May 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall in Phillips Memorial Building on the campus of West Chester University, South High Street, West Chester

**Tickets:** \$20, \$25 and \$35

**Information:** 610-692-6402 or [www.brandywineballet.com](http://www.brandywineballet.com)