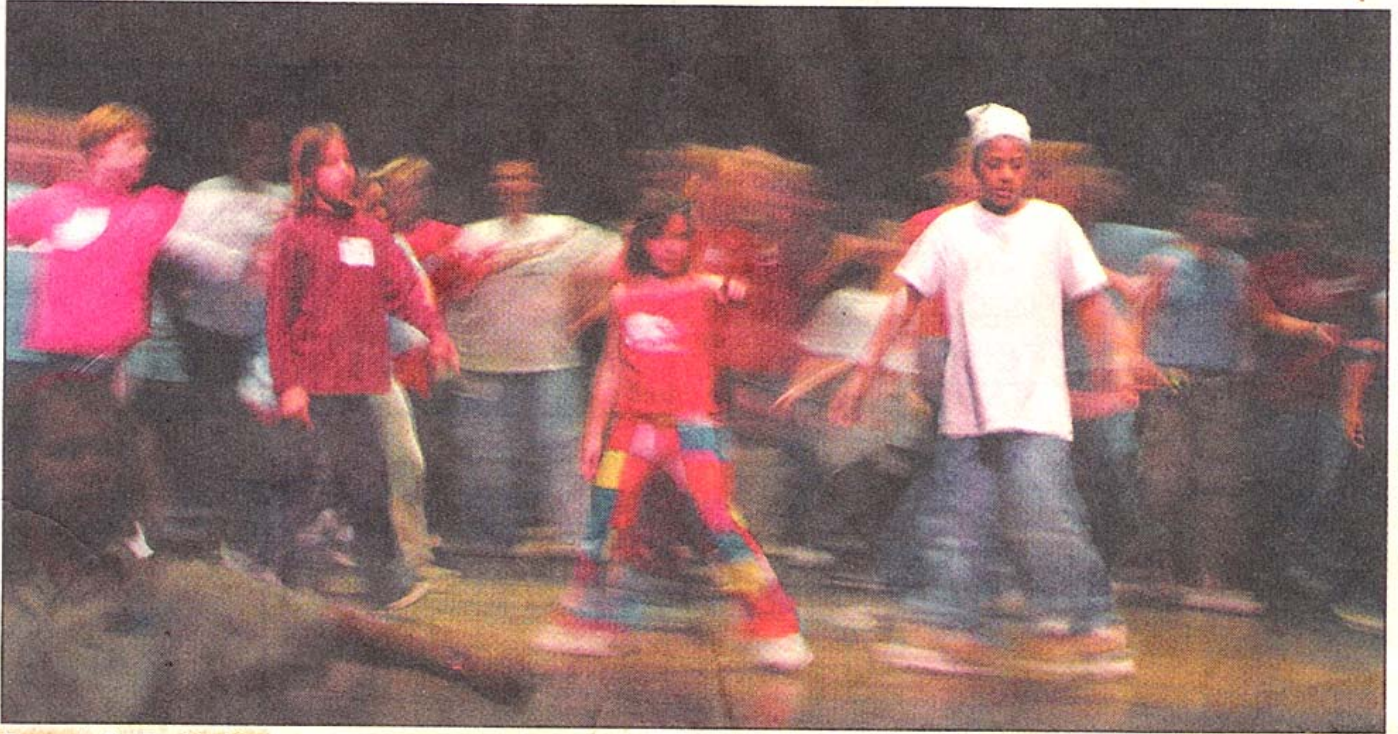


BRAVO, ON WITH THE SHOW



From left, Sophie Krahnke, Lindsey Lafleur, Cassidy Laikin and Sierra Launer participate in *Bravo, On With the Show* Thursday at the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre in Bloomington. STAFF PHOTO BY JEREMY HOGAN

Workshop, show immerse students in performing arts

By David Horn
H-T Staff Writer

Emily Lyon and Lindsey Lafleur have something in common with New York's Radio City Rockettes.

Lyon is a fifth-grader at Childs Elementary School. Lafleur is a fourth-grader at Harmony School. Both girls learned dance routines Thursday from onetime Rockette choreographer Justin Greer.

Lyon and Lafleur were among 100 children between 10 and 17 years old to sign up for a free one-day theater workshop at the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre, where six hours of intensive training culminated in a 6 p.m. public performance called *Bravo, On With The Show*.

The all-day event was

cosponsored by Insight Communications and the Bravo Film and Arts Network.

Project director Robert Pullen said Bloomington is only the 12th city the national arts education campaign has visited so far. "We've already been to Juneau, Alaska, and Gainesville, Florida," he said. "We hope to visit all 50 states before we end a three-to-five-year national tour promoting arts education."

A study by Bravo four years ago led to the current tour. It found that 44 percent of arts curricula had been cut from public schools since 1985.

"We're trying to raise the awareness of how important theater arts education is to kids," he said, "since it embodies life skills like self-confidence and

self-esteem."

Greer, currently on leave from Broadway's *Annie Get Your Gun*, helped Lyon, Lafleur and their co-stars develop self-confidence Thursday by making them rehearse complex dance steps until perspiration turned into inspiration.

"We've got to do it again," he'd tell the tired dancers. "But try to remember a little more this time."

The pace was nonstop, but instead of complaining, confused kids stumbled through intricate steps over and over until frowns gave way to tentative smiles and confident grins.

By midday, the routines were familiar but most dancers were bushed.

"I'm interested in acting," Lyon said at lunch, "but sitting

down and eating really helps."

"If you try hard enough, it may be possible to learn all these dance routines in one day," said Lafleur.

Seven members of the award-winning Edgewood High School show choir Music Warehouse, including 15-year-old Sean Witt, were among the oldest students in the company.

"Our choir teacher told us about the program," said Witt, "so we signed up."

Music Warehouse members had no trouble learning the dance routines, but were still memorizing song lyrics at lunchtime. Curtain time was still a few hours away.

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