



DANCERS MARK 15TH BIRTHDAY

The Judy Dworin Performance Ensemble celebrates 15 years in Hartford with a premiere of "Secrets" tonight, Friday and Sunday. The program includes two dance/theater performances: "Hometown Hits" and "Hot Licks."

"Hometown Hits" explores personal stories of gender identity placed in a larger context of cultural and global surroundings. It features Michael Burke of New York and traditional Indian dancer, Rachna Agrawal. The plot centers on the cost of revealing personal secrets. Burke's story occurs when he returns home to Idaho after 10 years to explore his identity as a gay man. Agrawal's reveals that she has been learning Kathak, a traditional Indian dance that became associated with prostitution under British rule of India.

"Hot Licks" starts with an aged Marie Curie dealing with the effects of radium exposure. Curie's story is juxtaposed with the story of Radium Girls of the early 20th century in America. Dworin explores the effects radium exposure had on those girls who used their lips to apply radium to one-dollar watches and clocks to make the dials glow in the dark.

"Secrets" will premiere at the Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford.

A companion exhibit, "The Secrets in Our lives: Artists Revealed," will display in the gallery. Opening reception is tonight at 6. Tickets are \$20; seniors/students, \$10. Information: 860-249-1207 or charter oakcenter.org.