

## Guest choreographer puts the moves in Moby Dick!

### Ana Rusness The Concordian

At least one new face is dancing down the cobblestone paths of Cobberland these days. Guest choreographer Patrick Kasper travels the highways from Minneapolis to Moorhead every weekend and surrounds himself

with Concordia's theaterfolk. His mission? To create a graceful crew of sailors for Concordia theater's production of "Moby Dick! The Musical."

The show, which is shocking in many ways, is a perfect fit for Kasper, who claims, "Entertainment is my life, baby!"



Patrick Kasper has been working with the cast of "Moby Dick! The Musical" since the beginning of October.

For the past few weeks, daily life has involved creating paths of movement for a whale, icebergs, a peg-legged captain, a crew of whalers, and a school full of girls. In a blatant understatement, Kasper describes this routine as "doing something different and original."

While the schedule of choreographing a musical may seem somewhat rehearsed and routine, Kasper uses his personal style to inspire and excite those he works with.

"He really livens up the show! He's energetic and adds so much ... Even the way he communicates the moves," cast member Jody Hatzenbeller, senior, said.

Kasper encourages students and other dancers he teaches to "vocalize" the moves. By doing this, he increases retention of the moves and captures the joy of dancing. This technique is one used by Positive Motion, the multi-faceted creative entity conceived by Kasper. He and others produce music, lyrics, clothes, videos, and numerous other artistic endeavors through the company.

"Moby Dick! The Musical" uses several of Kasper's talents. While the challenge is part of what drew Kasper to Concordia's latest production, the relationships and dedication of the cast are what he has come to value

most.

"The relationships are the greatest. Everyone works so hard and they like to be challenged," Kasper said. He added that they are full of curiosity and have lots of questions, which they are not afraid to ask.

Curiosity, a little family talent and an apparent notion of his fate seem to be what got Kasper to where he is today.

The foundation for his stage of stardom and international recognition was slowly constructed in Fargo. Always aware of his desire to be a performer, Kasper's passion was kindled when he saw his older brother cast in Pippin. Following that, he approached Kathy and Eddie Gasper, who offered him a dancing scholarship at their performing arts studio. His interest and talent increased, and he took classes, and eventually taught, at the Trollwood Performing Arts School.

Today, Kasper feels "happy and satisfied."

"I've accomplished more than I thought I would, but I want to accomplish more," he said. He enjoys being able to make a living doing what he loves to do: being creative and teaching. With the help of Positive Motion, Kasper currently inspires kids all over the world by practicing "education through entertainment."