

## Teacher and student dance together again

■ Ludwig will prepare duet and piece for seven member ensemble.

*By Dina Mishev*

Since Monday, Dancers' Workshop has been working with guest choreographer Ann Ludwig on two new pieces to be included in its latest production, Living Room Project.

"It's a long, diverse program," Dancer's Workshop Artistic Director Babs Case said. "We have a lot of work to do before we're ready to perform."

Ludwig two pieces promise to be among the more interesting in the Living Room Project.

"Ann is just an amazing dance theater choreographer," Case said. "Her work is conceptual, which is very different from pure movement work. Her pieces contain lots of dance, but they are also very theatric oriented."

This week marks Ludwig's first time collaborating with Dancers' Workshop and Contemporary Dance Wyoming, but Case has worked with Ludwig for years. The first met while Case was an undergraduate at university of Iowa. Ludwig was then the head of Iowa's dance department. Following graduation, Case joined Ludwig's company, A. Ludwig Dance Theater, and remained under her artistic direction for three years.

"Ann has been a huge part of my life. She's been a huge mentor," Case said.

Ludwig is currently the director of graduate studies and a professor of dance at Arizona State University, a position

she has held since 1979. A. Ludwig Dance Theater, of which she remains the artistic director, still performs around the world.

Ludwig has set over 200 pieces during her career. The New York Times wrote, "Ludwig's pieces careen through a wide assortment of female responses in theater-dance that has all the ragged, irrational reasonableness of life lived slightly below the polite formalities."

In her choreography Ludwig has tackled such issues as domestic violence, the homeless, women's and men's roles in society, drug and alcohol use, gender preference, ravages of war, aging, love, marriage, and divorce. Despite her often heavy subject matter however, Ludwig takes care not to neglect the sheer joy of dancing, sometimes infusing swing, waltz, tango, and country into pieces. "She's really one of a kind," Case said. "We're unbelievable fortunate to be able to work with her." Ludwig started setting her two pieces – one for the entire seven-piece ensemble and a duet for Case and Karen Forss – on Monday and will continue to work with the group through Friday.

"We're working all day, every day," Case said.

Tonight Ludwig is giving a workshop for Contemporary about careers in dance.

Tickets for the Living Room Project are \$12. In addition to Ludwig's pieces, the Living Room Project will involve several visual artists, including furniture designers and videographers.

The 90-minute, multi-disciplinary performance will show at the Main Stage Theater the first two weeks of February. For more information, call Dancers' Workshop at 733-6398.