



Wesleyan dance program to spin an eclectic web.

By Gary Budzak
Of The Columbus Dispatch Staff

A centuries-old legend about a spider inspired a collection of eclectic modern dances to be performed this weekend at Ohio Wesleyan University.

"Basically, I started by being intrigued by the myth of the tarantula's bite," said choreographer/dancer Natalie Marrone of *The Widow's Spin: Contemporary Dances of an Ancient Myth*.

In the Italian seaport of Taranto during the 16th century, the face-paced dance that became known as the tarantella was wrongly thought to cure a tarantula's bite.

"I wanted to bring to life, to personify, this image of a tarantula as a widow," said Marrone, a dance instructor in the university's Department of Theater and Dance.

Marrone and her 4-year-old, 10-member troupe, the Dance Cure (so named because she is "fascinated by the healing qualities of dance"), will perform *The Widow's Spin*. Six dances will depict the widows, and they won't be all sad, Marrone said.

The Dance Cure will employ a combination of current dance techniques, including swinging out over the audience on a rope, that revolve around elements of Italian culture and Italian-American stereotypes.

"This is not folk dance. This is very athletic, very rhythmic...a visceral, physical experience," Marrone said.

Troupe members will read two poems during the 50-minute performance.

Marrone said she hopes the audience "will allow themselves to feel at home. I want them to come away as if they have been on a journey (to Italy and back)."