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Motion and music rock the Gindi Auditorium

By Ari L. Noonan

S hopping for a fresh entertainment ticket in a town glutted with look-alike shows?

The University of Judaism is serving up a Jewish entertainment package in its Gindi Auditorium that producers believe will appeal to a critical, demanding audience.

Next Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-



TOVA MORCOS

11, the world-traveled Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble and the new University of Judaism Choir, under the direction of energetic Tova Morcos, will team for the first time in a program not likely to be found anywhere else.

It promises a full plate of unusual visuals and sounds that are new to the hillside U.J. campus, and perhaps to the community.

Traces of Chanukah will be found in the motif a few days after the holiday ends. Otherwise, Keshet Chaim is introducing two new routines, and everything that Morcos' choir does will be a first.

The colorfully costumed Keshet Chaim dancers sometimes seem to perform in the manner of acrobats, arms and legs appearing to point in multiple directions simultaneously as they glide not only across the Gindi stage but practically over it, too, as they stretch out their innovative routines.

Reviewers say that audiences are not likely to make comparisons with other entertainers — their program is that distinctive.

The U.J. choir, says Morcos, won't be mistaken for one of those staid Jewish singing groups that specializes in liturgical sounds.

Morcos pledges that her 56 voices will be mostly contemporary and "positively upbeat," an unnecessary addition if conductor Morcos is involved. Very often she seems to be as much performer as



'CHASIDIC SOUL' — The Keshet Chaim Dancers will engage in a Chasidic fantasy at the University of Judaism.

leader, and the crowds love it.

It's entertainment with a beat and a challenge.

Together with U.J., the Keshet Chaim dance troupe stages an annual major production, usually in the springtime. But the schedule was routed by last January's earthquake, which broke Gindi apart.

The entertaining Kenny Ellis will serve as the joke-cracking master of ceremonies and singer Lisa Wannamaker rounds out the performing cast.

The shows at Gindi are at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, and at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11.

For information: (310) 476-9777, Ext. 254, or (818) 784-0344.