

FANCY FOOTWORK

Dance troupe promotes solidarity at '... Rag Feet' performance

HOLLAND

The Grand Rapids Press

Be open to getting to know people, even if they're different.

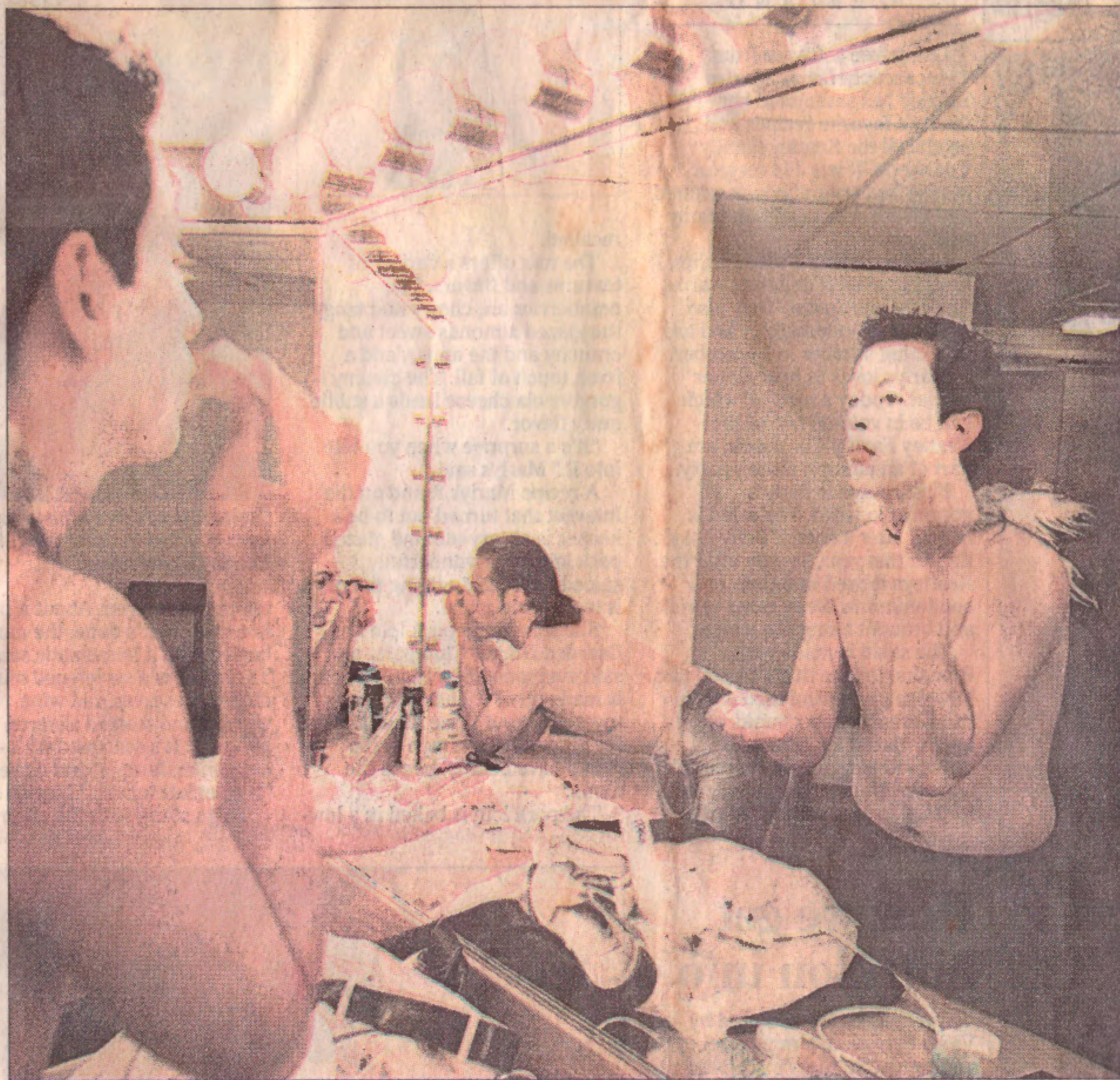
It's good advice in any language.

Members of Grosso Modo, a contemporary dance group from Holland's sister city of Queretaro, Mexico, on Saturday performed a children's dance-theater tale titled "... Rag Feet," which makes a pitch for solidarity with some very upbeat footwork.

The 50-minute performance played to a near-capacity crowd of mostly families at Hope College's Knickerbocker Theater.

The production also is designed to introduce youngsters to the joys of dance. Children in the audience were invited on stage after the performance to meet the dancers.

Grosso Modo also did two full-length performances during its visit to Holland. The troupe moves on to Chicago this week for one performance there before returning



PRESS PHOTOS/ADAM BIRD

Cristobal Ramirez puts on makeup for his part in the contemporary dance troupe Grosso Modo's performance Saturday, as Carlo Ivan Somera Garcia finishes up his eye makeup.

beneficial.

Jodi Kurtze of Aerial Dance

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The group grew out of the contemporary dance workshop at the Autonomous University of Queretaro three years ago. The troupe already has performed in independent recitals and at dance festivals throughout Mexico.

Grosso Modo's visit to Holland is part of the first performing arts cultural exchange between the two cities. Aerial Dance Theatre, a professional dance affiliate of Hope College, performed in Queretaro last May.

The exchange already is proving

Grosso Modo's visit is part of the first performing arts cultural exchange between Holland and its sister city of Queretaro, Mexico.



Members of Grosso Modo dance during a free performance Saturday at the Knickerbocker Theatre in Holland.



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Jodi Kurtze of Aerial Dance Theatre, did original choreography for "Tras la existencia (Chasing Existence)" during its tour last spring. Grosso Modo dancer Eva Pardave now is performing the piece.



The finished product: Ramirez is "The Cat" after putting on all his makeup and costume. In addition to the free performance on Saturday, Grosso Modo gave two full-length performances while in Holland.