

LETTERS *to the Editor*

There is hope for culture in Cyprus

Dear Editor,

Your Opinion column in last Sunday's *Mail* paints a sad picture of culture in Cyprus but there is much hope and opportunity provided the government has the will to improve the situation.

Of course, whether for the arts or for anything else, grandiose buildings, often in the wrong place and unfit for purpose, mean fat contracts for builders and developers and votes for the politicians.

Unfortunately, similar investment in cultural education, artistic exhibitions and performances does not immediately bring such bonuses. Surely, to be lined up near the bottom of the EU's culture table shames any politician in this most beautiful island with such an ancient tradition of art, music and dance. A national dance company is needed now. Young dancers and choreographers have to know they have a future in their own country.

Before I came to live here, my friends asked me where would I, as a balletomane, find culture in Cyprus?

I have found it in Dancecyprus. This

courageous company, sponsored by the Ministry of Education, is committed to developing excellence through its programme of performances.

Dancecyprus has the potential, talent and enthusiasm to make a major contribution to lifting the international standing of culture in Cyprus. However, this will not happen without adequate Government, EU and other funding combined with a new look at the need for the promotion of dance and other performing arts through the school curriculum.

Dancecyprus' successful experience with young people from the villages on the Company's Outreach Programme who were invited to watch rehearsals, showed a keen appetite among them for the art. The young are the future of Cyprus and her culture and they deserve a better inheritance than they have at present.

*Geraldene Featherstone,
Friend of Dancecyprus,
Kolossi*

■ Want to send a letter?

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