Opening Thursday: During last month's "Solo" concert, Toni Pierce-Sands (above) danced "Clear as Tear Water," a breathtaking, prayerful work of power and sensuality made for her by New York choreographer Ronald K. Brown. The solo is repeated as part of TU Dance's second annual summer concert. Since debuting last year, the 12-member multicultural company founded by Pierce-Sands and her husband, Uri Sands, has rocketed to critical and popular acclaim on the strength of its accessible, artful fusion of modern, ballet and African dance forms. The show includes the Minnesota premiere of Sands' "Tearing for a Cure," commissioned as part of his prestigious Princess Grace Award, along with three other of his new works. The couple also reprise the charming duet "High Heel Blues," in which Pierce-Sands' open, gracious movements delightfully contrast with Sands' compact, airborne feline muscularity. (8 p.m. Thu.-Sat. and June 22-24; 7 p.m. Sun. and June 25; 2 p.m. June 24. $17-$25. Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Av. S., Mpls. 612-340-1725.)

- Camille LeFevre, Twin Cities dance critic

GRAPHIC: PHOTO

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2006