

Ballet group, symphony join for local concert

The Classical Arts Ballet Company, sponsored and directed by Nancy Sue Whitson, will perform with the Scandinavian Symphony at 8:20 p.m., Feb. 23, at Southfield High School.

This is the seventh season that the ballet company and the symphony have combined talents to present a concert.

Twenty-six area dancers will participate and the program will consist of ballet music from "Faust" by Gounod, excerpts from Peer Gynt Suite by Greig, Karelia Suite by Sibelius, and "Flower Festival" by Helsted.

Guest artist this season is Edward Bianchone who has performed with the Miami Ballet Company and Fusion Dance Company in Florida. At present he has his own dance studio in New York.

He will partner Miss Whitson in the

Walgurgis Night Pas di Deux from Faust which was choreographed for them by their coach, Finis Jung, of New York. Miss Whitson and Bianchone are preparing to go to Tokyo in May to participate in the Third World Ballet Concours.

MISS WHITSON danced in the first two Concours in 1976 and 1978 with her former partner, Richard Newman. They were one of only two couples from the United States. This dance competition is sponsored by the International Arts Foundation.

The Classical Arts Ballet Company has made two tours of Europe, having been invited both times to be guest performers at the annual Rebid Festival in Aalborg, Denmark. They also danced at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, at the

estate of the U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, and in Stockholm.

Valter Poole is conductor of the Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra. He was formerly with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and is professor of music at Wayne State University.

There will be a luncheon in honor of Miss Whitson on Feb. 22 at the Northland Inn sponsored by the Scandinavian Symphony Women's Organization. Miss Whitson will speak and give a ballet demonstration featuring some of the dancers. Guests are welcome. For reservations call Mrs. James Shank, 644-9203.



The Classical Arts Ballet Company performs regularly with the Scandinavian Symphony. Here they are shown in a sequence from "Les Patineurs."



Big Happy Hank

They call him Big Happy Hank because he's 400 pounds of clown. The world's largest clown will visit Farmington Hills Friday, Feb. 29, for a performance in "The All Sports and Variety Show" staged as a benefit for Farmington Community Band in Harrison High School. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, or \$3 for children and seniors, available in Farmington & Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 23715 Farmington Road.

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