

Agnes De Mille meets another challenge

By JOANNE KAYE PSENKA

The American Artists Series recently premiered a type of program that will become a regular feature of next year's offering.

Warren Shwyder cited the series' invitation to Agnes De Mille to lecture as the first of talk presentations by significant people — "movers and shakers."

Audience reaction to this innovation was unanimously enthusiastic. Animated chatter gave way to reverent hush as the program began — as if Agnes De Mille, distinguished dancer, choreographer, and writer, would soon re-create the splendors and highlights of dance history first-hand.

Her career, inspired by the youngster's perception of Pavlova, contributed to the change and development of the mainstream of American dance along all the avenues this art form allows one to approach.

The interesting lecture, illustrated by anecdotes and jokes, came abruptly

to a halt when the film and movie projector failed to provide the necessary sound.

While technicians operated on the equipment, Miss De Mille, with knowing poise and ad lib brilliance, quipped, "I don't like mechanical things. Don't you hate being at the mercy of all these little nuts and bolts? I can't defrost the refrigerator."

The audience laughed and applauded in admiration for the fresh charm and witty spontaneity of her ad lib remarks and became acquainted with her genius during this enforced pause. She encouraged the audience to ask questions, which she answered in depth, providing a glimpse of the woman which the ticket to a lecture didn't promise in advance.

She recounted her experience in Russia as an honored guest and the obstacles she ran into in trying to travel freely there. She said she considers Russian dance of today in the U.S.S.R. and elsewhere hopelessly "old-fashioned" and moribund.

The picture was brighter when she reflected on the effect of American dance on the rest of the world. Some of the credit belongs to her. She has done much to shape and influence the direction of American Dance and her dances are still performed today, her books on dance have become classics in her time.

Dance history is a new field in fine arts scholarship which Miss De Mille approaches with deep perceptiveness and unprejudiced eyes.

This film and lecture demonstration

telescoped the history of dance in our country from the Indians (she sang an Indian chant), to Black contributions, Irish innovations, court dance, classical ballet Isadora Duncan and Martha Graham.

Who can forget the film clips of Agnes De Mille herself gloriously dancing, or her students performing?

Indeed, the afternoon proved the dramatic fervor of Agnes De Mille — who was introduced as "a woman of passion."

Tax workshop designed for artists

The Center for Creative Studies College of Art and Design offers an income tax workshop designed to cover the preparation of appropriate IRS tax forms used by the artist.

The three-hour workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the CCS, 245 E. Kirby in Detroit's University-Cultural Center. The fee of \$8 is tax deductible. For further information,

call the registrar's office at 872-3118.

Leonard F. Charla, J.D., who is currently affiliated with General Motors Corp., will conduct the workshop. Charla received a master of laws from George Washington University graduate school of public and international law and a doctor of law from Catholic University Law School.

Orchestra appoints development director

Peter G. Remington of Birmingham has been appointed director of development for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

"Following an extensive search we are most pleased to announce Peter Remington's appointment to our executive staff," Ralph Guthrie, DSO managing director, said. "He has evidenced his fund-raising qualifications here in our own community as director of the United Foundation's commercial unit."

Remington, has been employed by the United Foundation of Detroit since 1975. As the commercial unit director he was responsible for soliciting 1,300 organizations. Last year, the unit raised more than \$5.3 million which was 9.3 percent over the previous year.

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