## Dancer returns, now everything's in balance

After many years in the spotlight on

the world's stages, ballerina Joanne Danto has returned home. Not to rest or change careers, but to continue dancing and teaching with Birmingham

as home base.

Miss Danto graduated from Seaholm
High School and went to New York City
to study and perform. She has been a
solosit with the Pennsylvania Ballet
Company, the National Ballet Company of Washington D.C., the Frankfort
(Germany) Ballet Company, the Joffrey and the New York City Opera
Company.

frey and the New York City Opera Company.
"I like living in Birmingham," she said. "My family is here. Things are happening here and I'm really quite pleased."
She wasn't sure about the opportuni-ties that would be available when she

ties that would be available when she made the decision to return here with her 14-month-old daughter. But the of-fers came quickly.

She is just finishing up a series of seminars at the Jewish Community Center and will be teaching at Interlochen for much of the summer. She is looking forward to that because she's an Interlochen alum.

ANOTHER EVENT THAT is still in the talking stage is a special pas de deux in a Michigan Opera Theatre pro-duction of "Die Fledamaus" next fall.

As she talked about her future, she said, "I would eventually like to have my own company, but not now. . . . I will always be involved with dance. I have a lot to contribute, I have been there."

She doesn't miss the life of constant traveling, performing on different stages every week and the lack of a home base. Her daughter, she said, has given balance to her life.

"Because of this child, I no longer and a self-indulgent existence, dancing

lead a sett-inquigent existence, dancing before mirrors."

She has taught in the past and likes it as long as the circumstances are agree-able. She was troubled by the notice-able variance of skill levels in one of her recent classes here.

"I'm afraid some of them aren't get-ting anything out of it," she said after one class. Her tired students disagreed. They assured her (while massaging legs) that being in the room with her when she demonstrated was an educa-tion in itself.

When she was in New York City for he first time, she received an offer for a graduate assistant and teaching fel-lowship from Indiana University.

lowing from mainand university. While there, she worked under Gilbert Reed and was the leading dance with the Indiana University Ballet.

"I lowed it for two reasons," she said.
"One, the training was much better, more personalized, and two, there was a lot of performing."

ROBERT JOFFREY, whose school she had attended when she was in New York, saw her in one of the Indiana University productions and asked her to join his company. She did, but didn't like it because the work was too contemporary for her taste.

She did like working with Reed, whom she said "has'done some incredibly beautiful things."

While she has been labeled "a Balanchine dancer," she doesn't object to it.

"Most American uanto-ramany schools (theories) rather than just one and yet somehow we manage," think dancers working in a compasse said. "I'm not sure lift the best way in the reality a lot of luck, where you land and who is teaching at the time."

One of the most important aspects of American dance that she thinks about a lot is choreography. It's a vital part of her career.

Interlockene dance instructor and interlockene, her former Interlockene dance instructor and long the ready and the companies of the second of the care and the companies of the companies

"I think what American dancers have been looking for for a long time is good choreography," she said. "Of course, there's Balanchine, Robbins, Tudor and Dennis Nabat, director of the Cleveland Ballet Company, has

done some. But necessary and a company should be given the opportunity to do it. At least they would have an idea of what the choreographer is going through."

places and teach a series of seminars at Oakland University.

Miss Danto isn't sure what directions her Michigan-based career will take. But, so far, she's pleased that it's started and on its way.

### **Bon Voyage launches** reading program

The Southfield Public Library program "Passport to Books" is being launched with a Bon Voyage Party at 2 pm. Saturday, June 21. The party is slated for the Southfield Pavilion.

Marjorie Brown and the storytellers will be featured in a program of drama, songs, poetry, puppets and fun.

The free program is for school age children and will last about one hour. No registration is required.

Bus transportation to the party is available from selected schools and the Beechwoods Reading Center to the Civ-

ic Center Library.

The bus will leave Grace School at 1 p.m. and return at 315 p.m.; Beech' Woods at 1.15 p.m. and return at 325 p.m.; Brace School at 1.30 p.m. and return at 349 p.m. Magnolis School at 1 p.m. and return at 3.25 p.m.; Vandenger at 1.15 p.m. and return at 3.25 p.m. and return





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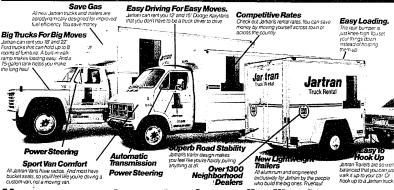


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