

Ballet Needs Males

EAST LANSING "There's a lack of male dancers all over the world," according to Fredbjorn Bjornson, principal dancer with the Royal Danish Ballet, a major instructor at the Cecchetti Ballet Conference and Seminar at Michigan State University this month. "It's a wonderful life," Bjornson says convincingly of the dancer's career. And it's good business, too, he indicates.

HE DESCRIBED a good salary, job security, benefits, social acceptance and artistic associates which are his as a member of the Royal Danish Ballet. He acknowledged, however, that these things come only after years of hard work, years of dedication. Bjornson's wife, Kirsten Ralov, ballet master with the Royal Ballet who is also teaching at MSU, warns that unless there are more male dancers trained, the stories of the ballets will have to be changed.

She feels the shortage results from the fact that few boys are interested in dancing as an art or as a career when they are very young.

"By the time a young man discovers that he might like dancing as a career, it's too late," she says. "He must start very young, and he must train every day."

THE ROYAL DANISH Ballet is more fortunate than most in enrolling boys, the Bjornsons say. The government-supported company has its own school so that youngsters with interest and ability can get both their education and their ballet training at the same time and at government expense.

"There are always about 50 or 70 young people in various stages of ballet training in the Royal Theater," Ralov explains. Those with the technique, physique and work, years of dedication. Bjornson's wife, Kirsten Ralov, ballet master with the Royal Ballet who is also teaching at MSU, warns that unless there are more male dancers trained, the stories of the ballets will have to be changed.

THE MALE BALLET dancer is well paid, has a job

when he is through training, gets two months paid vacation a year and receives a full pension at 48 if he wishes to retire, Bjornson explains regarding the Royal Danish company.

"But people don't retire," he notes. "Some of the company are over 60, some of the finest, past 50." Bjornson, 44 and still dancing, is finding new challenge and gaining new acclaim in character parts. "To play a role, without saying a word, that is more

difficult, that is more interesting," he says.

"When you live the art as a child and succeed, there is always a challenge," Ralov points out.

Bjornson and Ralov were members of a staff of more than 30 from several states and three nations, who taught 170 of America's outstanding ballet students and 56 of its teachers in the Cecchetti Ballet Conference and Seminar, an annual continuing education program at Michigan State University.

Numismatists Meet Aug. 10

A remarkable group of non-competitive exhibits is currently being assembled for the American Numismatic Association's 80th anniversary convention being held Aug. 10 to 14, in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

The London Mint will base its special display on 1200

years of English coinage. Exhibits are planned by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, the Bank of Canada, the Paris Mint, the Rome Mint, the Deutsche Bundesbank, the Republic of South Africa, Finland, the Israel Government Coins and Medal Corp., and many others.

amusements

Sloan Painting Covers Issued September 15

The Motor City Stamp and Cover Club of Detroit will issue a set of two cacheted covers for the new eight cent John Sloan painting, "The Wake of the Ferry."

The complete sets of two are available at 1¢ per set or six sets for \$5. Sets with pairs are \$1.25, blocks of four, \$1.75, and plate blocks of four, \$2.50. Order deadline is Sept. 15, from Laura Goldberg, 1313 E. Harry, Hazel Park.

Detroit is home of the first Sloan painting entitled, "The Wake of the Ferry." However, two weeks after he painted it, it was damaged. Sloan then painted another of the same title, but slightly different. The first hangs in the Detroit Institute of Arts and the second at Phillips Gallery, Washington, D.C.

The set offered by the club will be serviced on first day at Lock Haven, Pa., and at Detroit, on Aug. 4. The set will be unaddressed and mailed under separate larger envelope.



BOB WAGNER

Comedian Will Star At Club

Glenn Haywood, internationally famous comedian, magician, ventriloquist and television performer, will return to the 24 Karat Club, 16890 Telegraph, for one week starting Monday, July 26.

Sharing the bill with him will be Rocio De La Habana, Flamenco and Latin dancer, and Harry Harris, a 75-year-old singer of Gay '90s songs and parodies. Stage shows are at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and at 8:30, 10:30 and 12:30 Saturday.

Civic Players Plan Season

The Wayne Civic Players will begin their fall season with presentation of a serious drama "Flowers for Algernon" Oct. 22 to 24. It will be directed by Rosemary Moorhead.

This will be followed by "Period of Adjustment" in February and "Never Too Late" in April. All productions will be presented in John Glenn High School, Westland.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF the upcoming schedule was made at a dinner in the Sherwood Inn in honor of new officers of the group.

Bob Wagner of Westland was returned as president. He held the position in 1968-69 and in the interim has directed and appeared in several plays.

Fred Button, who has served as president and treasurer, is the vice president. He is also the group's sound technician. Mildred Roy, who is the new secretary, has been a member of the board for several years and is one of the original members of the Wayne Civic Players.

Don McKee, a new member, has been chosen treasurer.

THE PLAYERS extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in helping backstage or on stage to call the membership chairman, Ann Sidman, 33622 Blackfoot, Westland, or Lou McKee, 35006 Hees, Livonia.

Associate membership tickets may be obtained by calling Anne Button, 35042 Hees, Livonia, or Mrs. McKee. The Wayne Civic Players meet at 701 S. Wildwood, Westland.

New Play Will Open At Barn

Post-World War II New York is brought merrily to life when Macomb Theatre At-The-Barn presents Norman Krasna's "John Loves Mary." "John Loves Mary" will be presented July 30, 31 and Aug. 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. at the Barn Theatre, Hall Road (M-50) at Garfield, five minutes west of the Utica exit off of I-94.

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