



Area ballet company readies for festival

The Michigan Ballet Theatre will host the third annual 1974 Mid-States Regional Ballet Festival which will conclude with a gala performance for the public in the Music Hall for the Performing Arts on Saturday, June 1, at 8 p.m.

It will be the first time the Farmington based ballet company has ever hosted a festival, and the first time the Regional Festival will be held in Detroit.

Called "Festival 1974," the three-day affair will offer seminars, workshops and master classes for the participants, which will be about 1,000 dancers from 15 performing ballet companies in the Midwest. The festival will run from May 30-June 1.

Evelyn Kresson, artistic director for the Michigan Ballet Theatre, is chairman of the Festival, who has

arranged, she said, for "some high-powered classes" for the dancers.

Faculty members who will teach in workshops come from the American Ballet Theatre School, American Ballet Theatre Company, the Mary Anthony Dance Theatre, and the Dayton Civic Ballet Company.

The Michigan Ballet Theatre, which has been adjudicated as a performing company, rather than an intern company, will perform "La Poeme Pastoral" by Benjamin Britten, and choreographed by Ms. Kresson.

THE COMPANY will be represented in the performance by Jill Eathorne, Lisa Gerben, Carole Cotter, Tove Johnson, Melissa Mitchell, Karen Ziemba and Ron Hollen-camp.

"The Mid-states Regional Ballet is composed of ballet companies within a geographical region which gets together once a year at a festival in that area," Ms. Kresson explained.

"The major contribution of Regional Ballet is the annual festival which gives young dancers an opportunity to study and perform with their company in a setting where artistic standards are high."

The local company was founded in 1967 as Suburban Concert Ballet, but changed its name after broadening its scope to encompass the entire Detroit Metropolitan area.

The company has a repertoire of some 15 ballets and has staged a ballet concert each year since its inception.



Photos
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