



Troupe to premiere comedy sketch

Ronald Martell, freelance director-actor, returned to Detroit recently to devise a commedia dell'arte sketch for The Mme. Cadillac Dance Theater. The premiere of this new work for the L'Alliance Francaise of Detroit will be at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit.

Commedia dell'arte is a style of Italian comedy popular in the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe. Familiar characters such as Harlequin, Pantaloon and Scaramouche are stock characters in commedia sketches.

Mollere, France's most distinguished playwright, traveled with a commedia company in his early

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— Harriet Berg
theater artistic director

years and used the style in many of his plays.

These plays and characters were brought to the New World by early French settlers and were popular in Quebec at the time of the Cadillacs, founders of Detroit in 1701.

Harriet Berg, artistic director of The Mme. Cadillac Dance Theater said, "The commedia scene will make a perfect addition to our repertory. It establishes an important connection to the Baroque period and the court of Louis XIV. It's hard to imagine Detroit in that context, but that's exactly where it belongs historically. We are very fortunate to have an experienced artist like Mr. Martell, who knows this period well working with us."

Martell who has been a director in theaters from Oregon to New York City, is currently working for NBC in Los Angeles.

Call Ed Chalton, 644-2692 for ticket information.



Ronald Martell

Students win ballet awards

The Michigan Ballet Foundation's second Maria Lascau Scholarship Awards for classical ballet were presented May 6 following auditions at the Lascau School of Ballet, Bloomfield Hills.

The judges were Veronica Tennant of the National Ballet Company of Canada and Oleg Briansk, founder and director of the Saratoga Ballet Center in New York.

The winners were: First place \$1,000 scholarship, Kelly Knechtel, 13, Bloomfield Hills; Second place \$500, Lisa M. Carrol, 13, Orchard Lake; Third place \$250, Elizabeth A. Sullivan, Highland.

Honorable mentions went to Jamie M. Planko, 15, Novi, and Carmen Dapkus, 14, Livonia.

The competition was open to Michigan Intermediate and advanced dancers, 12-18 years old. The awards are to be used to further the recipients' classical ballet studies.

Following Van Gogh

"A Photographic Essay on the Life of Vincent Van Gogh" by Paul Hul is on display at Somerset Hall of Troy through June 17. The renowned Dutch photographer captured on film the places the artist lived, worked, studied, painted and died on July 29, 1890, at age 37. Shown is Hul's portrait of a woman from Neunen taken last year. Somerset Hall, Big Beaver and Coolidge, is the last of three places in Michigan where the exhibit has been shown before going on world tour.

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