

Season opens with *Petrushka*

The Eugene Ballet Company opens its ninth season, October 10 and 11, with the colorful and lively production of *Petrushka*. This Russian story of a puppet with a human heart was first produced by the Eugene Ballet Company in March of 1984, with Doug Zalud-Mackie playing the title role. This year the dynamic and exciting Zalud-Mackie will recreate that role, and a lovely new company dancer, Maricar Drilon, will dance the role of the Ballerina. Marc Hughes will dance as the Moor. Hughes was the Prince in last spring's popular production of *Cinderella*.

According to notes in *Balanchine's Complete Stories of the Great Ballets*, "the idea of *Petrushka* was first of all a musical idea. Stravinsky had finished *Firebird* and was about to begin

his next project when he interrupted his plans to compose a purely non-balletic piece. He wanted to write a piece for piano and orchestra in which the piano would seem to be attacked by the mass of instruments. It would fight back, flourish a bit, but then the large orchestra would win out. Stravinsky began to think of this composition as a contest between a puppet, represented by the piano, and the orchestra. After he had finished it, he tried to find an idea that would express the image that had been in his mind as he composed. He found it in a word, *petroushka*, 'the immortal and unhappy hero of every fair.' It is perhaps the most famous ballet in modern repertory." The original choreography was done by Michel Fokine for Nijinsky.

This season the production will share the bill with a new piece by Resident choreographer, Toni Pimble, entitled *G-Song*, and a suite of dances from *Raymonda*, choreographed by guest choreographer, Kathleen Smith.

Tickets are available through the Hult Center ticket office (687-5000) and all outlets. Prices range from \$5.75 to \$19.75.

Following this production, the Eugene Ballet Company will send 17 of its members to tour six cities in Taiwan for two weeks, beginning October 29. This is the first tour of its kind taken by an Oregon arts organization.

After the Taiwan tour, the Company will begin its annual Northwest tour of *The Nutcracker*.



PHOTO BY CLIFF COLES

The Eugene Ballet Company opens its ninth season, October 10 and 11, with the colorful and lively production of *Petrushka*. Pictured here are dancers Maricar Drilon and Doug Zalud-Mackie.

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