

UO dancers prepared

By
J.C. Pock

*There is a dance
dancing us
with all our strength
and innuendo
reflecting positively
on the face
behind our skins.*

Jasper Pound

Sometime during the next two weekends the dance mentioned in this obscure American poem should appear in front of your eyes here at the University of Oregon as the Department of Dance and the University Theatre present "Dance 76" at the Robinson Theatre.

The performers are members of the modern and ballet repertoires, and the folk repertory which comprise the Concert Dance Theatre and the E Dobre Folk Ensemble.

This year the repertory dance companies will present their pieces in two weekends of evening performances on the main stage of the Robinson Theatre at 8 p.m., April 1-2-3-8-9-10, with 2 p.m. matinees April 3 and 10.

Two different programs for "Dance 76," one being dedicated to the bicentennial celebration, will alternate performances on each of the two weekends.

The Dobre Folk Ensemble features a suite of Appalachian dances choreographed by a new dance faculty member, Jerry Duke.

Duke collected authentic folk material during research in the

southeastern United States and has contributed a lively, foot-stomping number for the concert.

A Mexican dance, "Los Gatos," by senior Lawrence Hecox, fluid and vicious, requires exceptional footwork by the performers.

"Tancoln Es Mulatni" (Dance and have fun with the gypsies") by senior Gail Andrews shows the ethnic costumes and traditional movement patterns one might associate with such a Hungarian title. Also from the Eastern European milieu comes Jerry Duke's "Bulgarian Dance Suite."

Concert Dance Theatre expanded its ballet repertory this season with three new pieces.

Ballet director Barbara Remington contributes a gorgeous *pas de deux* entitled "Summer Nocturne" that evokes a mood of warm, romantic evenings under soft skies. Her "La Soiree" is a ballet for seven dancers in four sections utilizing different types of movement that coalesce in the finale. The dance is vivid, comic, romantic, a versatile piece of choreography.

For her first showing to Eugene audiences, Ceil Forrest, a Graduate Teaching Fellow specializing in choreography, brings two original pieces to "Dance 76." "The Party" is a depiction of children playing games and dealing with one another at a birthday party.

Visual abstractions, line, color and mood are the dominant elements of her second piece called "Portraits of America." This work was inspired by paintings from two American artists, Norman Rock-

well and Stanley MacDonald Wright.

Janet Descutner's "Red, White and Blue Rondo" will open each concert with speed, energy, color, and tapping feet. It's all-out American.

The popular "Jivin'" revives the late thirties in true be-boppin' style with choreography by Jennifer Pashkowski Winsted.

The development of America in the guise of people and their relationships is traced from its aggressive pioneering days, through the growth of cities, through war, to the present. Music by contemporary artists such as Jeff Beck, Billy Preston and Emerson, Lake and Palmer accompany this intriguing piece.

Dramatic, too, is Janet Descutner's new work "There Is a Dream Dreaming Us." Dialogue provides an unusual accompaniment in parts of the dance. Schoenberg and Webern fill the remaining listening minutes with provoking themes. Lyric prose parts derive from the works of French poets Baudelaire and Rimbaud.

"Resonances" by Vera Blaine, reconstructed by Janet Descutner, completes the modern dance program. Sculptural form, purity of line and an adherence to rules of composition are the emphasis of this.

"Dance 76" tickets and information are available at the UO Robinson Theatre box office by calling 686-4191. Tickets are \$3 general admission and \$1.50 for UO students with fee cards.

Williams play opens at Coburg Inn soon

In his recently-published book *Memoirs*, playwright Tennessee Williams says that *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, scheduled for a Eugene premiere this weekend, is his favorite play.

Considered a modern classic almost since its first performance, *Cat* has enjoyed an unusual measure of success in numerous productions since its 1955 debut. The American Shakespeare Theatre revival in 1975 was so successful that it was moved to New York, where it played to SRO audiences.

Eugene will have probably its first chance to see what has been called Williams' most human play when the Eugene Theatre Company (ETC) will present it, starting this Saturday and Sunday, in the banquet room of the Country Squire Inn.

"Cat," says director Dan Hays, "is a drama of survival...a portrait of people at a crisis point. It is an intensely theatrical play with a unique sense of humor."

"It's an actor's piece," Hays continues, "a play of character that presents some of the richest roles available to performers, Maggie, Big Daddy, Big Mama, Brick...strong challenges, because they are the essence of theatre: people exposed in their weakness...and strength. A viewing of this play can only lead to the

conclusion that there is light in darkness."

The original 1955 production featured Burl Ives as Big Daddy, Barbard Bel Geddes as Maggie, and Ben Gazzara as Brick. Ives repeated his role in the 1959 film, with Elizabeth Taylor as Maggie and Paul Newman as Brick.

The ETC production has John Freeman, Kathleen Randall, and Denny Guehler, respectively, in those roles with Big Mama being played by Jacquie McClure. Other members of the cast include Jan Powell (Mae), Robert Webb (Goope), Will Emery (Doc Baugh), and Dan Hays (Rev. Tooker).

The Eugene Theatre Company has been in existence for some three years and is registered with the State of Oregon as a non-profit organization. Past productions include *Three-penny Opera*, *Checkov Comes to U.S.*, *Old Times* (also directed by Hays) and, more recently, *Forty-nine and Fashion*.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof will play on April 3, 4, 10, 11, 23, 24, and 25 at the Country Squire Inn. Curtain is at 8:30 p.m. The bar opens at 7:15.

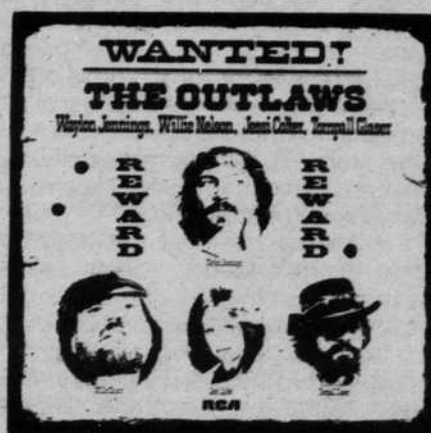
Tickets are \$3 with the bar tabs separate. Advance tickets may be obtained at Meier & Frank, Toad Hall, and the EMU Main Desk.

The Country Squire Inn is located five miles north of Eugene on Interstate 5, just outside the town of Coburg.

\$3.69



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dance 76

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Thursday, April 1, 1976