Susan Zadoff returns to the stage with 'Pinocchio'

The Eugene Ballet Company is presenting two new ballets this season, *Pinnocchio* and *Pas de Quatre* scheduled at South Eugene High School Auditorium Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

One of the performers appearing in both ballets, Susan Zadoff, has not only the distinction of being a senior member of the company but is also an instructor for the university's department of dance.

Zadoff began dancing with the two-year-old Eugene Ballet Company last February.

"I thought I was too old to perform again," Zadoff says. "The Grannans, the artistic directors of the company, called me up for an audition and in less than a half hour, I was hooked again. It is very rare that a dancer is foolish enough to start performing again at my age. It has opened up a whole new world for me."

Zadoff, a native New Yorker, began her career at the High School of Performing Arts which recieved much national recognition in the movie *Fame*. Zadoff then recieved a scholarship and began performing for the Ballet Ruse de Monte Carlo, America's touring company which brings ballet to cities throughout the nation. She spent four years touring the United States and Canda as a soloist for the Ballet Ruse.

Zadoff then embarked on a short Broadway career — appearing in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, and *Milk and Honey*, among other productions. After a brief run with the New York State Ballet Company, Zadoff began teaching.

She and her husband moved to Eugene 10 years ago; Zadoff opened a studio, and eventually received an instructorship with the university dance department.

"I've been teaching 18 years to date," Zadoff says. "And I have not performed professionally in all that time. Beginning performing again is a joy to me — I was hungry for it even though my body may be protesting a bit."

Zadoff feels that many of the older mature artists involved in the company give added dimension to the performances. And because of the newness, the company is fortunate to have fine older dancers with experience.

"There is a nice balance between the experienced and younger up-and-coming members of the company," Zadoff says.

The Eugene Ballet Company relies on university students, members of other local dance troupes and a young crop of local dancers in addition to the mature dancers.

"The Company is reaching out and crossing the community in a wonderful sharing effort," Zadoff says. "In conjunction with the Eugene Symphony, we performed the Nutcracker Ballet last season to a delighted and supportive community."

Zadoff feels lucky in her position of bridging the gap between the community and the university. She feels the university possesses one of the finest dance departments in the Northwest and offers a well-rounded and rich program. She says, however, that she'd like to see more university students branch out into the community-based Eugene Ballet Company.

Zadoff is also director of the Ballet Repertory Concert Theatre and will be choreographing the summer musical for the Oregon Repertory Theater this summer. Along with other instructors from the dance department, she will be choreographing the *Red Ponie* at the Aaron Copland Festival in Roseburg in June.

Zadoff will dance the roles of Marie Taglioni in the *Pas de Quatre* and as the fairy in *Pinocchio*.

Tickets for the ballet range from $1.50 to $7.50 and can be purchased at Albert's Hosiery in Valley River Center, Backstage on the Downtown Mall in Eugene, Lights for Music in Springfield, and at the Eugene Ballet, 686-9342.

Story by Sheri Scully

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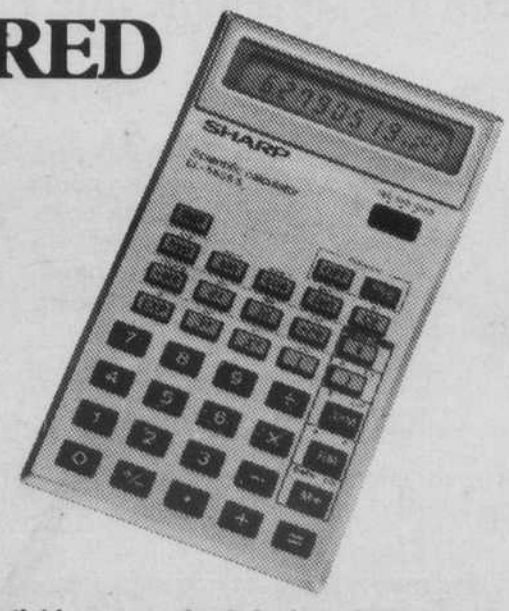

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