LEND AN EAR

# Ballet Russe Was a Disappointment

By MADELEINE HARRIS
Special Writer for The Eccentric

It is a sad thing to see a ballet company on the decline. But I fear that if the opening program of the Ballet Russe Friday evening was an indication of the quality of that group, then let us bow our heads and say a final benediction.

At the outset, it was distressing to see such a small audience gathered for an opening night. But this was perhaps a blessing in disguise—for this performance could have done more to reverse the cause of ballet among us than anything I know of.

Any theatrical endeavor—be it ballet, theater, or opera etc.—should use all the wonderful lighting and color techniques at its command for full imaginative effect. Or deliberately play this down in the direction of more realism. But either way, skill is involved—it doesn't just happen.

UNFORTUNATELY, neither was true of the Ballet Russe's performance Friday evening. In "Les Slyphides", the back-drops appeared as singularly uninspired creations of painted trees, highly reminiscent of a grammar-school production.

In "Variations Classiques", no scenery was used at all—a technique that can, at times, be effectively used with the idea of total simplicity in mind. But here, it was just plain bad.

There was no exciting color—no imaginative touches in lighting to enhance the simplicity. The costuming was very uninspiring and un-colorful. And the dancers moved about to the music of Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Handel in so listless a manner that it all became fused into one boring, uneventful and indistinct mass.

All of this is very distressing; but even more important was the dancing—or lack of it.

NINA NOVAK and Alan Howard danced well together and also in solo performances. But this, I fear, was by comparison to other principles and members of the ensemble, many of whom displayed not even the fundamentals of carriage and discipline.

Gertrude Tyven, who seemed omnipresent, was jerky and unflowing in movement. She communicated absolutely nothing emotionally . . . her movements appeared on several occasions to be those of a puppet with unseen strings directing her tight little torso.

The corps de ballet—very young and charming of visage—seemed unsure of themselves at times; and, incapable, at crucial moments of carrying off the mood and feeling of the piece.

Add to this the fact that several of the young male dancers had difficulty in carrying their lovely partners aloft and at the same time keeping their own precarious balance.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, all of this vacillated between the ludicrous and the offensive. It may well have left any newcomers to the art of ballet with the feeling that if this is ballet—then I want none of it—and for many more devotees, it was an unhappy and unsatisfying evening.

I profoundly hope that the Ballet Russe, which for many decades has been a top-flight organization, will look to its laurels and plan to revitalize its company in its entirety. People love and want good ballet . . . and they should have it!

. . .

That high standards are capable of being maintained will be evidenced in the drama, "Separate Tables", starring Eric Portman and Geraldine Page, opening at the Cass, Monday, Nov. 11.

It should represent the highlight of our theatrical season; for it charmed and moved New York audiences for over a year. It brings to our stage two notable performers whom we haven't seen in some time.

The quality of many of today's productions often falls below the capabilities of actor and producer alike; and we often are forced to accept meager efforts and pseudo quality. So let us rejoice when the real thing comes along . . . and "Separate Tables" has.

## Random Notes About Town

MUSIC
BIRMINGHAM MUSICALE, "Monette", a gay, melodic story of temperamental hat designers, Nov. 14, Community House.
Cleveland Orchestra, directed by George Szell, Nov. 11, Masonic Auditorium, 8:20.

THEATER
CASS, "Separate Tables", Eric Portman, Geraldine Page, Nov. 11-23; 8:30 p.m.
ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD, Agatha Christie's Thrilling Murder Mystery, "Witness For The Prosecution", Nov. 15, 16, 22, 23, Cranbrook pavilion, Lone Pine road.
OLYMPIA, Ice Follies, till Nov. 10, 8:30—Mats. 2:30.
WAYNE STATE THEATER, "Beyond the Horizon", by Eugene O'Neill, Nov. 8-16, at 8:30

MOVIES
BIRMINGHAM, "The Pride and the Passion", Frank Sinatra, Cary Grant, Sophia Loren and a cannon. Also "My Gun's Quiet," with Robert Bray and Pamela Duncan, Nov. 7-8.
"Sea Wife," with Richard Burton and Joan Collins—also "Battle Hell" with Richard Todd and Akim Tamaroff. Nov. 10-12.
"JEANNE EAGELS," with Kim Novak and Jeff Chandler; also "Pick-Up Alley," with Victor Mature and Anita Ekberg. Nov. 13-18.
BLOOMFIELD, "Hatful of Rain," with Don Murray and Eva Marie Saint—good adaptation of the stage play; also "Gun Glory", with Stewart Granger and Rhonda Fleming.
ADAMS, "Les Girls," with Gene Kelly, Mitzi Gaynor and Kay Kendall—One of the best musicals of the year—starts Fri.
KRIM, "The Red Balloon"; Academy Award Film—also, "The Last Continent"—travel film.

TELEVISION
PLAYHOUSE 90, "Clouded Image," with Farley Granger, Terry Moore, Vincent Price, Judith Anderson—Thurs. 9:30, channel 2.
PLAYHOUSE, "The Hole Card," with Tallulah Bankhead in TV film debut—9:30, Fri.; channel 2.
MIKE WALLACE INTERVIEW, with Diana Dors, British film star—Sat.—10:00, channel 7.
WISDOM, Sun. 2:30, channel 4.
FACE THE NATION, Sun. 3:30, channel 2.
OMNIBUS, Sun., 4:00, channel 4.
EXPLORING YOUR ART INSTITUTE, grades 1-6, Mon., 2:00, channel 56.
SEE FOR YOURSELF, grades 1-12, Thurs. 2:00, channel 56.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF TROY
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of meeting to be held on 4th day of November, 1957.

Meeting to review special assessment roll No. 23 and to hear objections to the special assessments assessed against special assessment project known as "Derby Road Improvements" in the City of Troy, Michigan:

Please take notice that the Commission will meet at Troy City Offices on Monday, the 18th day of November, 1957, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll No. 23 and of hearing any and all objections to the special assessments as assessed in said roll No. 23 made in the matter of constructing the following described improvements:

Paving with Portland cement concrete that portion of Derby Road extending from Adams Avenue east to the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Viaduct.

The assessment roll is on file in the office of the City Clerk for public examination. The special assessments therein contained have been assessed according to law against all the parcels of land constituting special assessment district No. 23, which district is described as follows:

Birmingham Estate No. 2, Lots 295 through 300, Inclusive.

The above assessments and all proceedings upon which they are based shall be incontestable, unless suit to contest the validity thereof is instituted within thirty (30) days after the day of the confirmation of said special assessment roll No. 23.

DATED: City of Troy, Michigan, this 28 day of October, 1957.

J. LAWSON LOCKHART,
Clerk, City of Troy, Michigan
(35)

NOTICE OF SALE
$89,000.00—
1957 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT STREET IMPROVEMENT BONDS
(Districts Nos. 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 36)
TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids for the purchase of 1957 Special Assessment Street Improvement Bonds (Districts Nos. 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 36) of the par value of $89,000.00 will be received by the undersigned at the Township Hall, 4200 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, on the 14th day of November, 1957, until 8:00 o'clock p.m., Eastern Standard Time, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read.

Said Special Assessment Street Improvement Bonds shall consist of 89 bonds of the denomination of $1,000.00 each, numbered consecutively in direct order of maturity from 1 to 89, both inclusive, will be dated November 1, 1957, and will mature serially as follows:

$14,000.00 on March 1, 1958;
$49,000.00 on March 1st of each of the years 1959 and 1960;
$18,000.00 on March 1, 1961;
$19,000.00 on March 1, 1962.

Bonds numbered 71 to 89, both inclusive, maturing in the year 1962, of said issue, may be redeemed at the option of the Township, in inverse numerical order, on any interest payment date on or after March 1, 1959, at par and accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption. Notice of redemption shall be given to holders of bonds to be redeemed by publication of such notice not less than thirty days prior to the date fixed for redemption, at least once in a newspaper or publication circulated in the State of Michigan which carries, as part of its regular service, notices of sale of municipal bonds. No further interest payable on bonds so called for redemption shall accrue after the date fixed for redemption, provided the Township has money available for such redemption with the paying agent.

Said bonds shall be coupon bonds and shall bear interest from their date at a rate or rates not exceeding four and three-quarters per cent (4¾%) per annum, expressed in multiples of ¼ of 1%. Said interest shall be payable on March 1, 1958, and semi-annually thereafter on September 1st and March 1st of each year. The interest rate for each coupon period on any one bond shall be at one rate only. Both principal and interest will be payable at a bank or trust company to be selected by the purchaser of the bonds. Accrued interest to the date of delivery of such bonds shall be paid by the purchaser at time of delivery.

Said 1957 Special Assessment Street Improvement Bonds are issued in anticipation of the collection of an equal amount of special assessments on Special Assessment Rolls Nos. 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 36. The liability of each special assessment district is limited in the manner set forth in the bond resolution.

In addition to special assessments, said bonds pledge the full faith, credit and resources of the Township of Bloomfield for their payment.

For the purpose of awarding the bonds, the interest cost of each bid will be computed by determining, at the rate or rates specified therein, the total dollar value of all interest on the bonds from December 1, 1957, to their maturity and deducting therefrom any premium. The bonds will be awarded to the bidder whose bid on the above computation produces the lowest interest cost to the Township. No proposal for the purchase of less than all of the bonds herein offered or at a price less than their par value will be considered.

A certified or cashier's check in the amount of $1,780.00, drawn upon an incorporated bank or trust company and payable to the order of the Treasurer of the Township of Bloomfield, must accompany each bid as a guaranty of good faith on the part of the bidder, to be forfeited as liquidated damages if such bid is accepted and the bidder fails to take up and pay for the bonds. No interest will be allowed on the good faith checks, and checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned promptly to each bidder's representative or by registered mail.

Bids shall be conditioned upon the unqualified opinion of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, attorneys of Detroit, Michigan, approving the legality of the bonds, which opinion will be furnished without expense to the purchaser of the bonds prior to delivery thereof. The Township shall pay the cost of printing the bonds. The bonds will be delivered at Detroit, Michigan.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Envelopes containing the bids should be marked plainly "Proposal for Bonds."

ROBERT H. DUDLEY,
Township Clerk.
(35)

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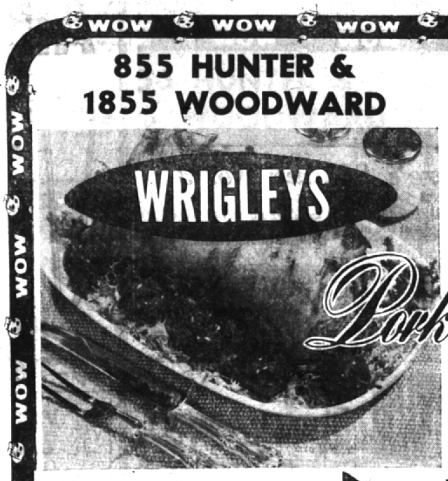
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