

## A Key to Enjoying Ballet

Since the wonderful time of ballet is to be imminently with us, it might be fun to talk a little about this artistic form. It has the stupefying faculty of completely captivating some people, sending them into raptures and ecstasy. To others, it remains a complicated, mysterious and utterly meaningless maze of human movement.

To begin with, almost everyone loves to dance. Dancing is as natural to human beings as laughing, crying or walking. It is a basic means of expressing human feeling and has been since those dark mists of cave-days right up to our present Rock'n' roll era.

It follows, then, that dancing, when sincerely undertaken, should have universal appeal. The next best thing to dancing oneself is to have the vicarious pleasure of watching someone else.

**WHEN WE STEP** down on a dance floor, when out for an evening, or a rumba, or a fox-trot or a waltz—(sometimes all three at the same time)—what- ever the music seems to suggest, we dance within the confines of a fixed step. We don't just give way to free expression and throw ourselves about with abandon. This would be utter chaos. Nevertheless, we still manage to express feeling and movement and enjoy ourselves.

The same is true of ballet. It has been accused by many of being too strict a discipline for the body—too stilted and stylized—yet a truly fine ballet dancer will be able to express to the audience all his spontaneous feelings of joy or sorrow or other emotion. The spirit of the piece may call for—and do it with the grace and agility which brings the audience along with him into this wonder-world of beauty and enchantment.

TO SOME, ballet seems to speak in a completely foreign tongue—to be an art which requires a knowledge of occult things. It is really not necessary to be conversant with all the meanings of such tongue twisters as "fouetté" and "entrechat" which are bandied about by affected intellectuals who miss the forest for the trees.

Ballet appeals to the senses... not the intellect. It is an art of color, music, and movement which speaks to everyone.

It has the dazzle of a parade or fair—the movement and grace exhibited on the baseball diamond; and above all—music to evoke mood and help delineate character. Its mission is to entertain us... not to instruct. Ballet has no end other than that of pleasing the eye and ear. It should relax and excite—tease and uplift the senses. Let us not become browbeaten into solemnity by approaching this wondrous art as if it were a classroom exercise.

THERE ARE, of course, all levels of presentation—a dancer's grace and flow will vary—the standard of choreography and settings will fluctuate—and the story may or may not have appeal. These are problems for the critic. For the theater-goer—let it be an evening of enjoyment for its own sake.

The role of the male dancer has evolved unliking comment from more than one tired and irate businessman who has literally been dragged by his wife to "an evening of ballet."

It is true that in many classical pieces the male dancer has the rather innocuous job of "lifting" the ballerina from one sequence to another, and of otherwise stand-

By MADELEINE HARRIS  
Special Writer for The Eccentric

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College President  
To Preach at Kirk

A prominent American college president, Dr. Howard P. Lowry, of Wooster college, will preach at services of the Kirk in the Hills Sunday. Author of several books, Dr. Lowry is general editor of the Oxford university press. Kirk services are currently held in the Bloomfield Hills high school at 10:30 a.m.

You will find many bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns.

Official Status  
For City Policy

To assist a future city commission, a long standing policy is about to be entered on the Birmingham city record. It will state that members of all city boards and commissions must be registered voters or property owners of record.

It is expected that the entry will be made next Monday night by commission resolution.

Asst. City Manager Robert Kenning said present members have these qualifications:

The city charter or state law requires the more important groups to maintain such membership standards, Kenning explained, but the city commission unofficially has extended this practice to all other boards.

India's brightest tourist attraction—the Taj Mahal—has an annual maintenance bill of about \$150,000, according to the Indian government.

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Random Notes  
About Town

**MUSIC:** DETROIT SYMPHONY: Eugene Ormandy, Conductor. Ford Auditorium, Thurs. 8:30.

**BALLET:** RUSS: "Variations Galop", "Swan Lake", "Coppelia", "Giselle", "The Sleeping Beauty". Maxine Auditorium, Nov. 1, 2:30.

**5:20 Matinee:** Set and Set.

**SCANDINAVIAN SYMPHONY:** CHORUS, directed by Henry Nezer, featuring Charlotte McCray, soprano soloist, Nov. 2-3-4.

**THEATRE:** OLYMPIA: Joe Poller, nightly at 8:30.

**CASINO:** Walter Pidgeon in a new "Happiest Millionaire" through Nov. 21, 8:30.

**MOVIES:** BIRMINGHAM: "Pride and the Passion" Joseph Lerner, Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra drag a caution about "The Big Boy" Fred Flinn, Thurs. Fri. Sat.

**BLOOMFIELD:** "An Affair to Remember", Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr in a sentimental peak.

**"Trapper Hook"**, Joel McCrea, Thurs. Fri. Sat.

**ART FILMS:** SUB AND CORNET: "Albert Schweitzer", narrated by Burgess Meredith and Frederic March—bookend biography.

**STUDIO AND WORLD:** "Stella", Greek film.

**TELEVISION:** WISDOM: Sun. 8:30, channel 4.

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## 139 On Honor Roll

According to lists just released, 139 Barnum junior high school students were named to the school's honor roll at the end of the first marking period. They received A's, B's and S's in achievement and 1's and 2's in cooperation and effort.

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