

TV offers sample of Morris' work

Battle the Dallas and Miami Vice watchers tonight. Station yourself in front of the tube at 8:59 p.m. and insist on viewing the first five minutes of the new Dance in America program on WNET-Channel 13 at 9. Mark Morris and Dancers open the hour-long show with a near-perfect three-minute dance; it tells a story quickly but in depth.

Scheduled to come to Princeton's McCarter Theatre on April 18, and set for Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Series Nov. 12-15, Morris is making a quicker, bigger splash than any other choreographer in this decade. Several years ago, when he lived in Hoboken, he received a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and, therefore, performed a solo at Mill Hill Playhouse. His new piece for the Joffrey Ballet receives its New York premiere on Oct. 29.

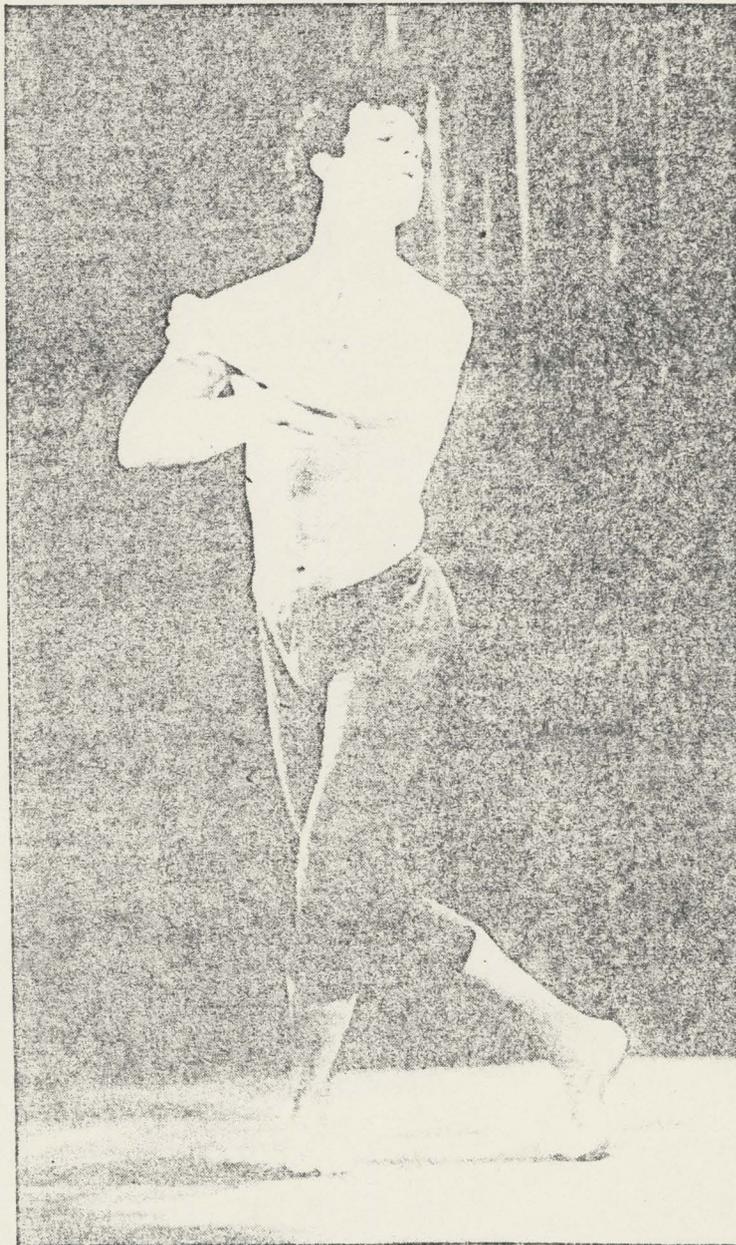
In "Songs That Tell A Story (Robe of White)" jeans-clad Morris, Donald Mouton and Guillermo Resto move to a country-western ballad about a mother opening a fateful letter. In construction, Morris is as terse and unobvious as Emily Dickinson. As the three travel in circles, each deftly mimes one small part of the story in quick succession. It's as heartwarming as the sad ballad itself.

The camera work by Danmarks Radio departs from the usual U. S. tradition by zooming in frequently but effectively. Anybody in your household will be fascinated by this dance.

NEVERTHELESS, if you lose control of the viewing on Friday, Great Performances repeats on Channel 13 at 2 p.m. Sunday. On Channel 12, it will be aired Sunday at 4 p.m.

If you stay tuned, you'll see the choreographer looking typically New York (bizarre by middle America's standards) cooking in his mom's Seattle kitchen.

What follows is a treasure chest of assorted dances. In "Prelude" to the music of Henry Cowell, a line of men and women dressed in black corset-like briefs wield fans with taut, two-



Mark Morris and his Seattle-based company make their television debut tonight at 9 on Channel 13.

dimensional gestures while a solo girl moves with legato intensity.

In "Dogtown," a biting sordid work, to songs by Yoko Ono, against a set of garbage bags bathed in chartreuse light, dancers on all fours march in lockstep. Plan to be taken aback.

Other dances include "Jealousy," Morris' emotion-based solo to Handel, a group work to Vivaldi's "Gloria," and "Love, You Have Won," a duet for Morris and Resto, also to Vivaldi, enhanced by a perspective-conscious set designed by Robert Bordo.

GOLDEN CHINA
RESTAURANT



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