

# Buoyant Dancers Conquer New York Stages



Lois Greenfield



Susan Cook

By JENNIFER DUNNING

**S**PRING begins officially next week. This, then, might well be the last weekend suitable for holing up in theaters. And it is possible to do that in dance theaters alone, since the weekend boasts programs by an extraordinary number of major choreographers and interesting newer ones, as well as a range of dancing that incorporates almost every aspect of the art.

Merce Cunningham, that patriarch of post-modernism, is performing with his compelling dancers this weekend at the Joyce Theater in work that often has the quiet effervescence of early spring. The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company will be bathing the stage of City Center in luscious warmth. Things promise to be considerably pricklier at the Kitchen, where Douglas Dunn, a Cunningham alumnus, is presenting his colorfully quirky dance.

The new and the old will be well represented. Mark Morris will offer typically iconoclastic dance tomorrow at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, and there will be work from two modern-dance pioneers — Anna Sokolow and Doris Humphrey — at theaters in Manhattan. Dancegoers will also have the chance to renew an old acquaintanceship and forge a new one when the Miami City Ballet, directed by Edward Villella, makes its New York debut tomorrow at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College. And Sanjukta Panigrahi will pay tribute to the ancient Indian art of Odissi dance in a performance tomorrow at Asia Society.

Manhattan's four theaters for new modern dance will all be hectically busy this weekend. And work by the newest, most adventurous choreographers and performance artists will be represented in theaters around the city.

Those who haven't seen Mr. Cunningham's "Septet" this season will have a last chance to do so tonight. And it is a chance that should not be missed, for this 1953 work, set to Erik Satie's "Trois Morceaux en Forme de Poire," is one of the choreographer's most serenely lovely dances. Another event that is not to be missed is Mr. Cunningham's own standard-setting performances. They occur — with characteristic clarity, rich detail and surprising emotional intensity — in "Pictures" tonight and in "Grange Eve," an abstracted look back at the rural world of Mr. Cunningham's childhood, tomor-

Continued on Page C32

Mark Morris, top left, offers a modern-dance program tomorrow at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts.

A quirky style of dance will be presented by Douglas Dunn, left, this weekend at the Kitchen.

Yanis Pikieris, top right, will perform with the Miami City Ballet in "Prodigal Son" at Brooklyn College.

A new solo performance by Chisa Hidaka, right, will be featured this weekend at the Muzia Dance Theater.



Beatriz Schiller



Christina Lord

NYT (Mar 18/88)

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Continued From Page C1

row through Sunday night.

A third highlight is "Eleven," a new work performed, like "Grange Eve," tomorrow through Sunday night. Mr. Cunningham sets himself a task here and solves it. The task, in this case, is to fill the small Joyce stage with activity, much of it unrelated, and keep it looking large and uncluttered. (The Merce Cunningham Dance Company performs tonight and tomorrow at 8 and Sunday at 2 and 7:30 P.M. at the Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street. Tickets are \$25. Information: 242-0800.)

## Exploration Continues

Douglas Dunn has long been one of the sterner formalists of postmodernist dance, but there has always been a barely perceptible twinkle in his eye. Of late he has unashamedly begun exploring the messy complications of emotions and relationships. And his new "Matches" continues that exploration. The sets and costumes are the wittily ebullient work of Mimi Gross, and there is a good deal of wit, too, in the performing of Mr. Dunn's fine company. (Douglas Dunn and Dancers will perform tonight through Sunday and Thursday through next Sun-

## Representation of the old and the new, the traditional and the iconoclastic.

day at 8:30 P.M. at the Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street. Tickets are \$8. Reservations: 255-5793.)

Mark Morris uses music by Purcell, Brahms and J. S. Bach in dances to be performed tomorrow night at Lehman Center. But this is classical music used with a twist. In "One Charming Night," the Purcell piece, two lovers are soon — and subtly — revealed to be vampires. Brahms's waltzes inspired George Balanchine to create a dance set in a 19th-century ballroom, but Mr. Morris sees exuberant modern love in that music in "New Love Song Waltzes." And "Marble Halls" manages to make stately formal dance out of everyday moves and gestures done to Bach. (The Mark Morris Dance Company performs tomorrow at 8 P.M. at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, Bedford Park Boulevard and Goulden Avenue, the Bronx. Tickets are \$13, \$15 and \$17.50. Reservations: 960-8833.)

Edward Villella was one of the New York City Ballet's most beloved stars. Now retired from the stage and living in Florida, he is back in town this weekend with the Miami City Ballet, which he directs. Yanis Pikiaris, a gold medalist at the 1981 Moscow International Ballet Competition, will dance the title role in Balanchine's "Prodigal Son," one of Mr. Villella's most famous parts.

The company, making its New York debut with these programs at the Brooklyn Center, will be performing that ballet along with "Valse Fan-

taisie" and "Sylvia Pas de Deux," also by Balanchine, and works by Lynne Taylor-Corbett and by Jimmy Gamonet De Los Heros, resident choreographer. (The Miami City Ballet performs tomorrow at 8 and Sunday at 2 P.M. at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, Flatbush and Nostrand Avenues. Tickets are \$8, \$12 and \$16. Reservations: 718-434-1900.)

## A Banner

Lar Lubovitch's "Concerto Six Twenty-Two," which will be performed by his company tonight through Sunday at City Center, is a dance about friendship, set to a Mozart score and inspired in part by the choreographer's admiration for the dignity with which many face the affliction of AIDS. And the central duet has become a banner dance in the AIDS era. The program also includes "A Brahms Symphony," which Mr. Lubovitch has called "the most passionate, hedonistic dance I could do," and "North Star," set to music by Philip Glass and described by one critic as "a string of choreographic daydreams." (The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company performs tonight at 8, tomorrow at 2 and 8 P.M. and Sunday at 3 P.M. at City Center, 131 West 55th Street. Tickets are \$15 to \$35. Information: 246-8989. Charge: 947-5850.)

The forms of the temple sculptures and friezes of Orissa will be brought to life in a program of Odissi dance performed by Sanjukta Panigrahi, a distinguished interpreter of that sweet and sensuous Indian classical dance form. Miss Panigrahi will also participate in workshops in Indian music and dance at the Kambo Cultural Center next week. (Sanjukta Panigrahi performs tomorrow at 8 P.M. at Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue at 70th Street. Tickets are \$20; \$10 students. Information: 288-6400. Charge: 517-2742.)

The Philadelphia Dance Theater will present "A Tribute to Doris Humphrey," a program of works by Humphrey that range from 1920 to 1946. It includes her "Lament for Ignacio Sánchez Mejías" and re-creations of her "Fantasy and Fugue," "Banshee," "Valse Caprice," "The Call," "Breath of Fire" and "Air for a Ground Bass." There will also be work by Mino Nicholas, the director of the new company. This promises to be a revelatory evening, given the infrequency with which Humphrey's dances are now performed and the fact that the company's advisers include four noted Humphrey associates. (The Philadelphia Dance Theater performs tonight and tomorrow night at 8 at the Marymount Manhattan Theater, 221 East 71st Street. Tickets are \$7; Theater Development Fund vouchers accepted. Information: 317-0400.)

Anna Sokolow will present a new work, "Kurt Weill," and "Rooms," a Sokolow classic that captures the loneliness of modern urban life. Both will be performed by her company, the Players Project, at Merkin Concert Hall on Sunday. (The Players Project performs Sunday at 7 P.M. at the hall, 129 West 67th Street. Tickets are \$12; \$8 for students and the elderly. Information: 362-8719.)



Paula Court

Jo Andres offers a blend of dance, film and theater in her "Lucid Possession" at La Mama.

## Telling Stories

The entire weekend might be spent downtown, for the scene there is an active one over the next three days. Dance Theater Workshop is presenting the group Kinematic, which focuses on dance as a means of telling stories in a variety of artistic disciplines. A new piece, "Broken Hill," set to music by Sher Doruff, is based on the Grimm fairy tale "The Shoes That Were Danced to Pieces." (Kinematic performs tonight, tomorrow and Thursday through next Saturday at 8 P.M. and this Sunday and next at 3 P.M., at Dance Theater Workshop's Bessie Schönberg Theater, 219 West 19th Street. Tickets are \$10; Theater Development Fund vouchers accepted. Reservations: 924-0077.)

Performance Space 122 is presenting two programs. Tamar Rogoff will explore an insomniac's struggle to become "a virtuoso sleeper," as advance word has it, in "Sleep Disturbances." A piece for 12 dancers, four beds and a fashionably mobile audience, it is set to music by Bartok, Chopin and Bach that is performed by Nurit Tilles, the pianist. Dan Hurlin and Dan Froot will also perform at that Lower East Side arts outpost in "The Jazz Section," a music-theater piece that explores historical bans on jazz music. ("Sleep Disturbances" will be presented tonight and Sunday at 7 and 9 and tomorrow at 4, 7 and 9 P.M. "The Jazz Section" will be performed Fridays at 10 P.M. and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 P.M. through April 3. The offerings are at P.S. 122, 150 First Avenue, at Ninth Street. Admission to each program is \$8; Theater Development Fund vouchers accepted. Reservations: 477-5288.)

Four choreographers will participate in sampler "Contemporary Concerns" programs at the Emanu-El Midtown Y.M.-Y.W.H.A.'s adventurous and homey Dance Center this weekend. Joan Finkelstein and Jimena Lasansky share the bill tomorrow. Barb and Doug Roesch, with Doug Skinner, and Julio Enrique Rivera move in on Sunday. (Performances are at 8 P.M. at the Dance Center, 344 East 14th Street. Tickets are \$8; \$4 for students and the elderly;

Theater Development Fund vouchers accepted. Reservations: 673-2207.)

The Danspace Project at St. Mark's concludes its winter season this weekend with performances of Tere O'Connor's new "Heaven Up North," set to music by James Baker. It uses the concept of the North as a psychological landscape in dance that has been described as abstract dialogue. (Tere O'Connor and his company perform tonight through Sunday at 8:30 at Danspace, 10th Street and Second Avenue. Tickets are \$6; Theater Development Fund vouchers accepted. Reservations: 674-8112.)

Two programs at the La Mama complex this weekend give evidence of the extended boundaries of dance in the 1980's. Jo Andres's "Lucid Possession" blends film, light, projections of hand-drawn slides and dance and theater into a single, mesmerizing ritual of inseparable ingredients. Federico Restrepo's "Carrera," which revolves around a runner and his observation of the children and night people of Manhattan, incorporates puppets as well as live performers. ("Lucid Possession" will be performed tonight and tomorrow at 10. Tickets are \$8 and \$10. "Carrera" will be presented tonight through Sunday and Thursdays through Sundays until April 3, at 8 P.M. Tickets are \$8. Performances are at La Mama E.T.C., 74A East Fourth Street. Information: 475-7710 and 7908.)

## A New Solo

With all the expectedness and surprise of the spring's first crocuses, performers associated with the most recent generation of postmodernist choreographers are beginning to show their own dances. Chisa Hidaka, a gifted member of a number of postmodernist companies, will be presenting a new solo in a group that also includes Pat Cremins, Chris Ferris, Phyllis Jacobs, Judy Trupin and Amos Vitori. (Performances are tonight and tomorrow at 8 and Sunday at 3 P.M. at the Muzia Dance Theater,

## A dance about friendship is a tribute to the dignity of AIDS sufferers.

385 Broadway, a block below Canal Street. Tickets are \$6. Reservations: 533-9585.)

Karen Pearlman and Richard Allen, late of the Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane company and other postmodernist troupes, will present their own typically high-energy dance in the new "That Was Fast." (Performances are tonight through Monday at 8:30 P.M. at the Ethnic Folk Arts Center, 179 Varick Street. Tickets are \$8. Reservations: 924-0077.) And Ariel Herrera and dancers will offer "Fish on Friday," a suite of pure-dance pieces developed from notes written on recent long subway rides. (Performances are tonight and tomorrow at 9 at the Cunningham Dance Studio, 55 Bethune Street. Tickets are \$8. Reservations: 924-0077.)

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