

'Mark Morris,' a Sampler Of Choreographer's Work

Not only does Mark Morris seem to

choreograph dances as easily as a tree grows apples, but he also choreographs in an almost bewildering variety of styles. His dances aren't just apples, they're peaches and pears, as well.

A sampling of his choreography can be found in "Mark Morris," the documentary produced by Judy Kinberg and Thomas Grimm and directed by Mr. Grimm to be shown tonight at 9 o'clock on Channel 13 as part of the "Great Performances Dance in America" series. A repeat broadcast will be shown Sunday at 2 P.M.

There is surely something here to please almost everyone. There may also be something to exasperate everyone. And what may delight one viewer may annoy another.

This viewer was delighted by "Gloria," a celebratory dance that represents Mr. Morris at his most inventive. But Mr. Morris is also fascinated by the grotesque. Exemplifying this side of his choreographic personality are "Dogtown," in which people behave like animals, and "Jealousy," in which Mr. Morris gesturally demonstrates how jealousy can twist and distort people.

In "Songs That Tell a Story (Robe of White)," dancers act out the words of sentimental country songs, and viewers will have to decide for themselves whether the way they do it is charmingly naïve or merely coy. "Love, You Have Won," a duet for two preening courtiers, and "The Tamil Film Songs in Stereo Pas de Deux," a parody of a dance rehearsal, may also strike some viewers as coy. In contrast, "Prelude" is a study in formal design.

Between the dances are interludes showing Mr. Morris discussing his dances in various locations in his native Seattle. At one point, he says that, although he knows art can be ugly, "if the point of the work is the opposite of that," he is particularly interested in works that are "presented with good spirit." That remark may summon up his approach to choreography. Individual dances by Mr. Morris may be bothersome. Yet one senses "good spirit" in his choreography as a whole.

Jack Anderson