

the ARTS

Alberta Ballet Company

They come. They dance. Give lecture-demonstrations. They win respect, admiration, and appreciation.

They criss-cross Alberta visiting schools, hospitals, and halls.

Cold Lake Stettler. Banff. High Prairie. Bonnyville. Camrose and Fairview.

They're 16 appealing, professional, and talented young people, our own Alberta Ballet Company.

If they haven't weaved their magic spell in or near your town yet, you can bet it won't be long before they do.

After an extensive fall-winter '73 northern tour playing in a dozen centers, they're now back in Edmonton for a solid month of rehearsal for their gala Annual-Christmas week production "Ballet and all that Jazz," at Calgary's and Edmonton's Jubilee Auditoriums.

Then it's an even heavier season with the spring tour throughout central and southern Alberta.

Many Albertans are unaware of the extensive touring Canada's youngest professional dance company undertakes each year.

But more and more

residents are now getting to see their excellent classical, character, and jazz interpretations.

By the end of the current '73-74 season, they will have visited 34 different centers playing to a total audience of more than 30,000 people.

This doesn't include the season's 80 highly rated lecture-demonstrations in schools, attended by more than 35,000 students, making a total viewing audience of about 65,000.

"As host principal I was most impressed by the standard of dancing and enthusiasm demonstrated by these young people. They were able to establish an almost instantaneous rapport with their audience who were largely unexposed to ballet previously."

"I was particularly impressed with the administration and organization. Miss Carse, the stage team and electrician were particularly capable and efficient, ensuring that each performance was smooth, well-timed, and executed with a minimum of fuss."

"The combination of professional skill and joie de vivre among your dancers

appealed to all of us and was a credit to them and their directors."

J.F. Hodgins, Managing Director of the Alberta Ballet is proud of the letters he receives from principals, recreation directors, and program chairmen from throughout the province.

The Alberta Ballet was first incorporated in 1966 to present dance of professional calibre to all the people of Alberta.

The company's secondary goal is to also encourage and develop young Alberta talent.

This is done through tours, and the Alberta Ballet School set up in September of 1971.

Ruth Carse, Artistic Director for the company since its inception is also Principal of the School.

R.A.D. and Modern Jazz training is offered and the School is approved for Province of Alberta Dance Scholarships.

Miss Carse is certainly well-known to Edmonton, Canadian, and U.S. audiences as a former soloist, a choreographer, and teacher.

Besides her highly capable direction of the Alberta Ballet, she's contributed greatly to the local musical dance scene, and her participation and contribution to charity and

I Do, Do be

In this day of open marriages, trial marriages and no marriage at all, the Citadel Theatre's next production will provide a light and entertaining look at this much maligned institution.

The production is I DO! I DO!, the musical adaptation of Jan de Hartog's popular THE FOURPOSTER by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt of THE FANTASTICKS fame.

Directed by Citadel Artistic Director John Neville, I DO! I DO! features two of Canada's leading performers...Douglas Chamberlain and Roma Hearn...and a fourposter bed. Chamberlain will be remembered for his hilarious performance as the sheriff in the Citadel's production of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING earlier this season.

Miss Hearn is riding the crest of a wave of critical acclaim for her recent performances, particularly her recent role as Laure, the embittered heroine who learns to love again, in the Charlottetown Festival production of the musical BALLADE.

This is the first time I DO! I DO! has been staged in Edmonton, so audiences can look forward to something new for this holiday season. And it is a production the entire family can enjoy.

Neville describes it as the story of a marriage, with the things common to every marriage...great love at the beginning, taking each other for granted and the problems

resulting from that, a rift approaching separation...and the highlights of becoming parents, career advancements and the marriages of offspring. All of it is put together in a tuneful, fast-paced package that is both attractive and entertaining.

The Citadel considers itself fortunate to have been able to find such an experienced pair of performers as Miss Hearn and Mr. Chamberlain, as this is a demanding show in which the only two actors in it are not only on stage throughout, they must dance and sing, create a broad range of human emotions, and age considerably as the show proceeds.

Choreographer for the show is New Yorker Daniel Siretta, who has staged numerous Broadway musicals including the Ruby Keeler revival of NO NO NANETTE. Musical Director Peter Yakimovitch has worked across Canada as a musical director and pianist, and has written rock revues and a rock ballet. Sets are by resident designer Phillip Silver and costumes by Tim Waters.

I DO! I DO! will run December 1 to 30 (Mondays and Christmas Day excepted). The two preview nights November 29 and 30 will feature special post-production discussions between audience and performers. Preview tickets are available at \$1.50 for students and senior citizens, and \$2.00 for adults.

Tickets reservations for all performances may be made at the Citadel Box Office, 424-2828.

symphony benefits and performances is endless.

Miss Deborah Sims, formerly with the Royal Ballet School in London, England, is

the Senior Teacher and Ballet Mistress of the Company.

The average age of the corp

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Merrilee Hodgins, a native Edmontonian and principal dancer with the Alberta Ballet, has studied ballet and jazz in Denmark, Germany, Norway, England, the United States and Eastern Canada. She and 39 other young

people will star in two special world-premiere performances "Mobiles in Motion" and "Harp Concerto", part of the Christmas week shows in Edmonton and Calgary at the Jubilee Auditoriums.