

A fool's table displays bizarre artistry

Robert Desrosiers Dance has improbable dream

W. Hurst

It's a myth that performing artists are, by their vocation, adventurous. Timid safety-seekers are found as frequently onstage as they are off. And in Toronto, the adventurous ones are rare: T.I.D.E. and the Robert Desrosiers / Theatre Company are among the small handful.

From Dec. 17 to Dec. 19, the

auditorium of Toronto's Castle Frank High School will be taken over by Desrosiers for his latest show, *A Fool's Table*. The programme will consist of two works—*Bad Weather* and the longer title work. If Desrosiers' record is any guideline, the evening will be peculiar but exciting.

In 1981, at Harbourfront, Desro-

siers turned a bird into a woman and a mammal into a maniac. A waiter offered a live head on a platter and beady-eyed creatures were shot down as they did a soft-shoe routine.

The only clue Desrosiers offers about his Castle Frank show is that its imagery is related to societal development. Medieval Europe stumbled into the Dark Ages before crawling toward the Renaissance.

Although, Desrosiers works independently of any particular dance doctrine, he does not lack this kind of exposure. He graduated from the National Ballet School into the National Ballet of Canada. He lasted nearly a year on a diet of classical ballet. Desrosiers also worked with the Toronto Dance Theatre, a group influenced by the teachings of Martha Graham, a modern dance pioneer.

Between rounds with these two dance companies, Desrosiers studied with Lindsay Kemp, the English performance artist. Kemp uses masks and mime, but it is his use of time distortion and non-linear thought thought patterns that create his radical theatre.

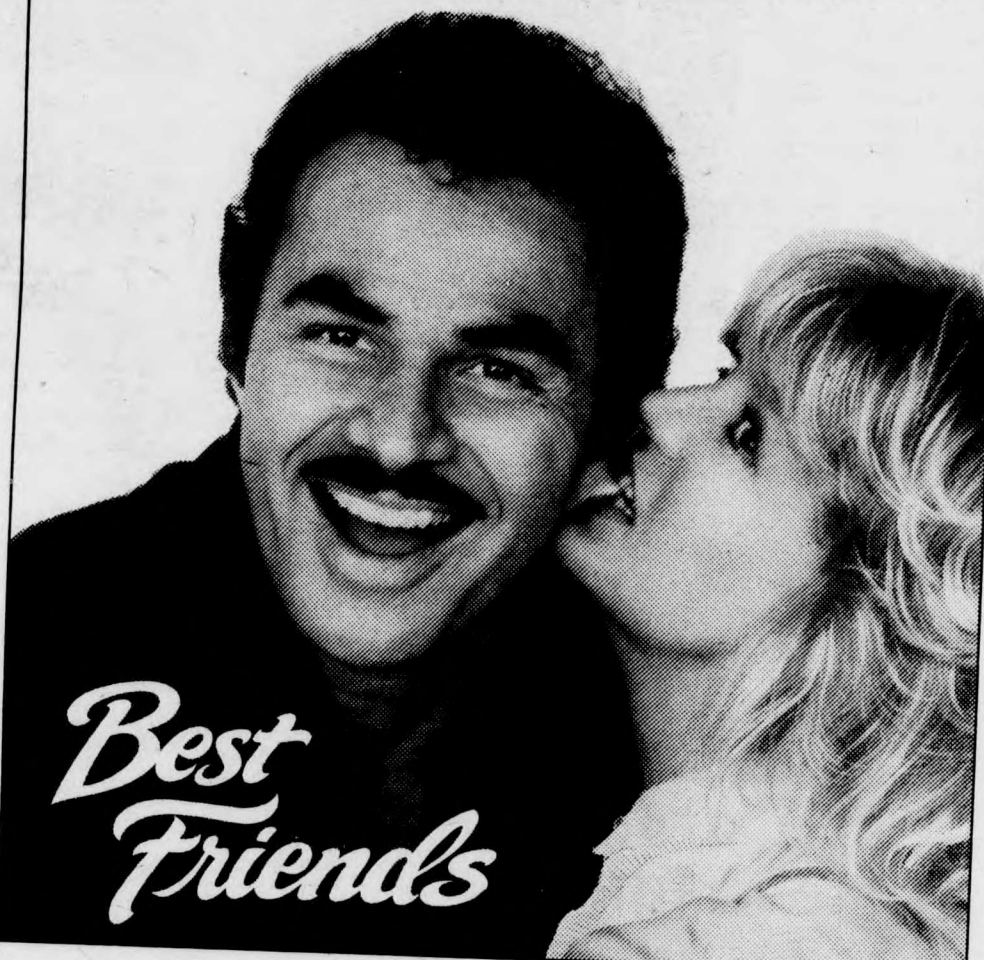


photo: Frank Richards

Robert Desrosiers Dance Theatre
Castle Frank High School

Dec. 18, 19 \$6. (preview Dec. 17)
8 p.m. (near Castle Frank subway)

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