

News of the arts

Dance company praised in U.S.

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers recently completed a successful tour of three major dance festivals in the United States. As the first Canadian modern dance group invited to Jacob's Pillow Festival in Lee, Massachusetts, the company set an excellent precedent during its five-day appearance in that city (August 23-27). It later performed at the International Children's Festival in Wolf Trap, near Washington (September 3, 4 and 5), and at the Delacorte Theatre's New York City Dance Festival (September 7 and 8). Performances in both cities drew praise from *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

The second of two alternating programs consisted entirely of Canadian compositions, one of which, entitled *Interiors*, was a collaborative effort by poet Dorothy Livesay, folk musician Jim Donahue and choreographer Rachel Browne. An intense and soulful work, it provided contrast to the joyful, religious dance, Norbert Vesak's *Gift to be Simple* and to the playful examination of the games between the sexes, called *Baggage*,



Contemporary Dancers in a scene from Country Music.

by Anna Blewchamp.

The company — 12 dancers with a support and administrative staff — was founded in 1964 by Rachel Browne, artistic director, choreographer and dancer. Among its guest choreographers

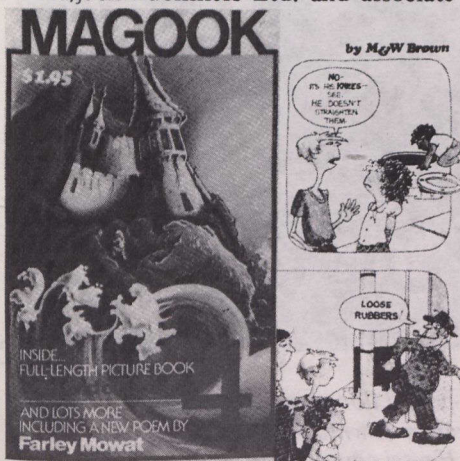
is Norman Morrice, the newly-appointed director of Britain's Royal Ballet, who will contribute to the company's present repertoire of at least 50 original works.

The tour received financial assistance from the Department of External Affairs.

It's not a book — it's a Magook!

Television will be facing stiff competition this October — from a bold little magazine/book called *Magook*, designed for children from ages four to eight. Every three months, a package of four Magooks will appear in book stores and supermarkets across the country, providing the reader with a library of 16 issues a year.

Magook Publishers Ltd. and associate



publisher McClelland and Stewart, promise an "eye-filling adventure in reading and looking that brings kids the best of the two great worlds of magazines and books". In each 48-page issue of *Magook* is an illustrated 32-page story (later available on its own in hard cover), poetry, articles, puzzles, an extra bedtime story, and a fold-out comic strip.

Writers Farley Mowat, Dennis Lee and Aviva Layton have contributed to the early issues which also include a French-English picture book by Madeline Kronby and Anna Vojtech, a guide to nature by Trudy Rising and Kathryn Miller, and a new song by Sylvia Tyson. All authors and illustrators are Canadian.

Film about Cuban culture

Arts Cuba, by Canadian Claude Jutra, which had its *première* in Havana recently in special screenings arranged by the Canadian Embassy, has been acclaimed generally as an authentic image of Cuban culture. Producer Vivienne Leebosh, who was present at the time taking part in a

speaker's program sponsored by the Department of External Affairs, describes the production as "a film about Cuba by Canadians for Canadians".

The one-hour documentary, supported in part by a grant from the Canada Council, has been purchased by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the English and French networks. It also has a potential market in Europe and the U.S.

Vivienne Leebosh, who produced another film about Cuban women in 1975 for International Women's Year, became fascinated with the Cuban arts at that time and wanted to help Canadians know more about the island and its culture. She was impressed with "the strong *rapport* that exists between professional artists and the people and also the great encouragement and government financial backing given to both professional and amateur art".

The picture moves from neighbourhood dances and work songs in the Cuban cigar factories to the sumptuous National Theatre in Havana, with prima ballerina Alicia Alonso. Canadian Chargé d'Affaires in Havana, Serge April, who arranged the