

# Les Grands Ballets Canadiens to Appear

Defining a ballet company today is an especially difficult task for a present-day company draws from the rich traditions of ballet's past (by dancing a classic such as Giselle or Swan Lake), introduces to its public the best works from the mainstream of 20th century classics, and maintains an avant-garde posture in its exploration of the new and the stimulation of the best creative minds that it can gather about it. A Canadian ballet company needs yet another definition because of its roots, its aesthetic, and its goals, for ballet in Canada struggled into existence only in the late 30s when a small company and school were founded in Winnipeg. In 1951, the National Ballet was founded in Toronto. Then, in 1952, a young dancer/choreographer arrived in Montreal to launch a small ballet troupe and school.

This fledgling company, founded and nurtured by Ludmilla Chiriaeff, became Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, originally known as "Les Ballets Chiriaeff", the young Montreal company appeared frequently on television (and since 1954 on stage) performing ballets created mainly by Madame Chiriaeff. The success of the company and school led to federal, provincial and municipal support enabling the establishment in 1958 of Quebec's first permanent professional company, under the name "Les Grands Ballets Canadiens".

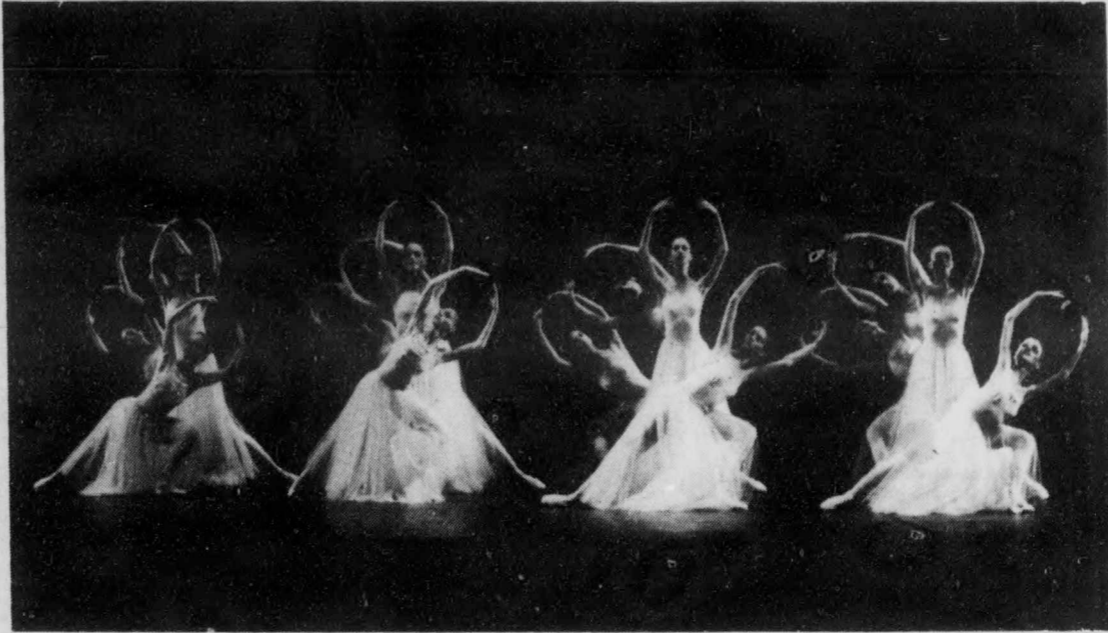
Madame Chiriaeff brought a rich background in dance to her new home. She studied with such masters as Fokine, the Russian choreographer who created "Les Sylphides", "Coq d'Or", "Petrouchka", etc. In Europe, Madame Chiriaeff had performed as a soloist and premiere danseuse, later working as a choreographer and ballet mistress. Her dedication and encouragement, during

the emerging years, as well as the contribution of Fernand Nault, then her Co-Artistic Director and choreographer of many ballets, has led to the establishment of an extremely strong company that has received international acclaim for professionalism and innovation. The world renowned Montreal choreographer Brian Macdonald was Artistic Director of the company from 1974 to 1977 and is now a resident choreographer. He has created many ballets for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and has overseen one of the company's most creative periods of growth.

In addition to its regular seasons in Montreal, Quebec and Sherbrooke, as well as its national and international tours, the present-day activities of the company are considerable. Attached to the company is the Ecole Superieure de Danse for students seeking a career in dance. The work of the first school established by Madame Chiriaeff continues through the Academy of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, concentrating on ballet training at the elementary level.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens have always sought to be at the heart of the Quebec community, where it was born and where it gained its character. Dance is always identified with a culture and with an era, and so it is that Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, through the constant creation of new ballet, truly reflects the artistic richness of its milieu.

Year after year, new works are added to the company's repertoire, and as more and more creation takes place, artists from many other disciplines have been drawn to collaborate with the company. Canadian musicians, singers, sculptors, painters, set and costume designers, all participate in the originality and success of ballets which have placed the company in the



Les Grands Ballets Canadien will be appearing at the Playhouse Monday October 15, at 8:30, sponsored by the Creative Arts Committee

vanguard of the country's artistic development.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens has included in its repertoire ballets created primarily by Canadian choreographers. Many of these have been set to original music composed by Canadians.

Canadian composers who have written music for ballets in the repertoire include, among others: Michel Perrault, Pierre Mercure, R. Murray Schafer, Harry Freedman, Dominique Trambly, Paul Duplessis and Gilles Vigneault.

Several choreographers with international reputations have agreed to create or set works for the Company including: Maurice Bejart, John Butler, George Balanchine, Norman Walker, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Paul Taylor and Lar Lubovitch.

In addition to performances in all parts of Canada, the Company has also toured in Europe, Latin America, and the United States.

## CHSR 700:

By JOHN GEARY

Things are starting to really accelerate around CHSR. All kinds of events and happenings are taking place during the next few weeks.

For starters, there's the CHSR DISCO in the SUB Ballroom, Friday night (that's tonight, folks!) starting at 9:00 p.m., and running through until 1:00 a.m., with the some of the funkier tunes and the most soulful sounds this side of Studio 54.

On Saturday, the CHSR Czars football (?) team takes to the field (and the tavern) to beat the "Brunsies", both at football AND beverage consumption. The annual Media Bowl Football Game begins at 2 p.m. on Holy Cross Field.

Also on Saturday the CHSR sports department will be broadcasting Red Bombers Football, live from the University of P.E.I., as UNB takes on the Panthers. The broadcast begins at 1:30 p.m.

Later on in the week, CHSR will be holding a general meeting, commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Room 103 of the SUB. Our new Business and Advertising Manager will be elected at this meeting. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of CHSR is welcome to come to this meeting.

Our latest feature news program "ROUND-UP" (formerly "WRAP-UP") has switched time slots; it can now be heard on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming on CHSR: Our feature music programs are tentatively scheduled to begin on October 22. Also in the works is a weekly sports show.

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