David Wood executes a fluid arch in the Toronto Dance Theatre's recent production of Atlantis.

Dance Theatre in fifth creative season

By AGNES KRUCHIO

The Toronto Dance Theatre company opened last week for their fifth anniversary performance series, and once again demonstrated their creative genius.

The Theatre is performing three premiere programmes, each running for a week. The first programme last week a premiere of Atlantis, choreographed by David Earle, was the most ambitious dance the Theatre has produced thus far, a full-length 45minute production.

Atlantis portrayed in fantasy the life in ancient Atlantis before the deluge, and was totally engrossing.

The audience was caught up with the creator in the Greco-Egyptian atmosphere of the lost continent. Earle's choreography, intricate yet dynamic, made generous use of space and props to create the glimpses we got into his world.

In contrast, Encounter, the accompanying piece, illustrated the Toronto Dance Theatre's great advances since its premiere in 1969. Rigid, stiffly ritualistic, more so than demanded by the theme, it showed up the rich human choreography of Atlantis.

El Mocambo

Figure in the Pit was a wispy fantasy, with gossamer costumes and dancing. The final dance was the now famous Ray Charles Suite, a happy, peppy "romp into the fifties", and a humorous, good-willed rap of human foibles.

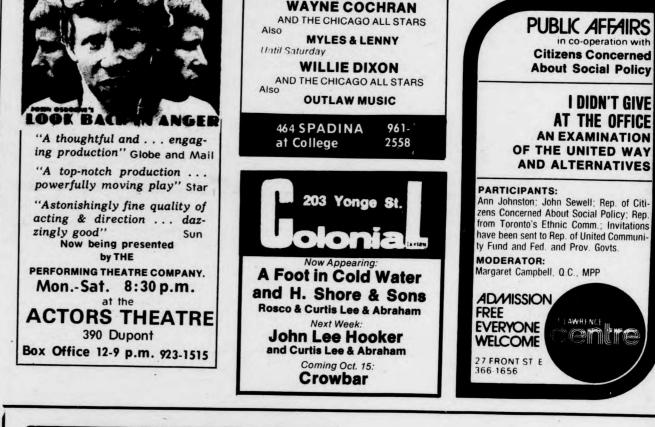
October 4, 1973, Excalibur 15

This week's programme features Randazzo's A Flight of Spiral Stairs. Operetta (David Earle), the now-nowfamiliar I Had Two Sons (Randazzo), Baroque Suite (Earle) and Visions for a Theatre of the Mind (Randazzo).

The Toronto Dance Theatre, though composed of the same faces as last season, is returning with more. Programme Three will have two new dances, Harold Morgan's Delicate Balance by Patricia Beatty, a comic look at the erotic, and A Walk in Time by Peter Randazzo, "an ethereal walk in space by four ladies in white". If Atlantis is any indication of the kind of work the company is capable of, both programmes should be worthwhile.

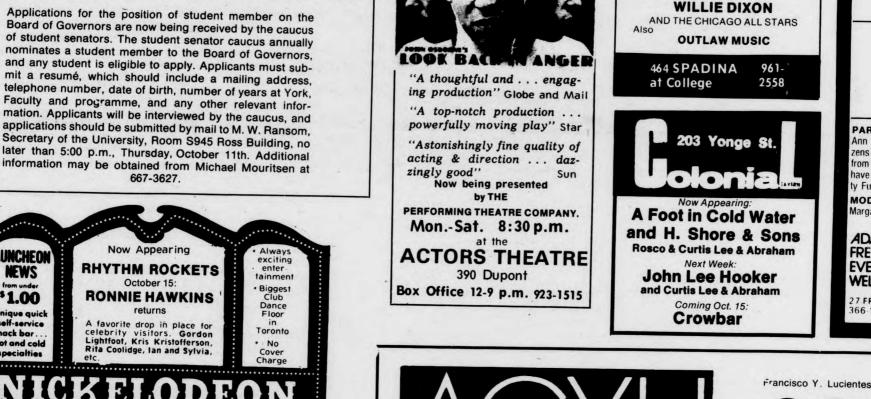
Programme Two has its final performance tonight at 8:30, and Programme Three runs on October 6, 11, 12 and 13 at 8:30, with a matinee on the 13th at 2 p.m. The Dance Theatre performs at the Macmillan Theatre in the Edward Johnson Building, and ticket information is available at 367-0253.

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