

Royal Winnipeg-display of dazzling ballet



The Royal Winnipeg Ballet by Sylvia Kaptein

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet delighted audiences with a dazzling display of first-rate dance last week in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

The company, which is Canada's oldest having been founded in 1939, began its Eastern Canada tour in Halifax, performing here March 6, 7 and 8.

Thursday night's program opened with the charming piece, "Songs Without Words". This semi-classical love story was danced by four couples to the music of Felix Mendelssohn.

The costumes for "Songs" were simple, flowing and colorful. The four men were dressed in blue and white, while the women wore pastel shades of pink, blue, green and yellow, altogether creating an aesthetically pleasing picture.

Next came the highlight of

the evening, the "Don Quixote Pas de Deux". Superbly executed and brilliantly costumed is the only way to describe this piece.

Evelyn Hart amazed the audience with her incredible balance and poise, while her partner, David Peregrine, displayed equally amazing strength. Both gave a lively and precise performance.

Costuming deserves special note in the "Pas de Deux". Black, white, gold, and a very vivid red were combined in beautifully tailored outfits.

The next work, simply entitled "Women", was an energetic modern jazz ballet danced by five women to the music of Grace Slick. It is described by its choreographer, Oscar Araiz, as "...confessions of women in an intimate atmosphere".

The final dance of the evening was the comedy ballet "Pulcinella Variations". This American ballet, set to the

music of Igor Stravinsky, was performed with great enthusiasm and humour, especially in the very comical "Seranato".

The company's popularity, as judged by the spontaneous and prolonged applause it received, is easily understandable. The group is lively and technically excellent.

The smiles that were seen on almost all of the dancers were genuine, and not the forced smiles too often seen on stage.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has been called "one of the finest ensembles of young dancers in the world today". Judging from Thursday's performance, that opinion is deserved.

If the company keeps up its fine quality, it will pose as serious competition to the National Ballet of Canada, despite the latter's fame both at home and abroad.

'Name a star' booth hit of Halcon 3

by Darrell Dexter

Science Fiction fans from around the Maritimes gathered in Halifax last weekend for the third science fiction convention (Halcon).

The convention was an immediate success in terms of attendance with the events being sold out by 9:00 a.m. on the opening day of the convention. There were displays by local science fiction and fantasy artists, demonstrations of war games and even a concession booth that sold the right to name a star after a loved one.

The convention centred on science fiction movies and television productions. Among the favorites were: **A Clockwork Orange**, **Wizards**, **Star Trek** and **The Rocky Horror Picture Show**. Despite the cold weather, ticket holders got out to support each of their favorites.

Halcon Three boosted the number of members on the Halcon mailing list to over six hundred and at an average of twelve dollars a ticket, the event was a financial success. The people were relatively tame for what usually translates into one of the more

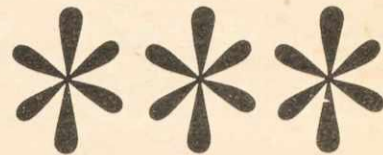
decadent events of the year but the fantasy flair was not lost. An assortment of costumes and gimmicks were always in vogue.

Undoubtedly, Halcon 4 will be in the works for next year but there is another treat for Sci-Fi fans before that. The annual world conference will be held in Boston on the Labor Day weekend of this year and a respectable contingent from the Maritimes is expected. The Boston conference will most likely be the closest the world meeting will ever come to Nova Scotia.

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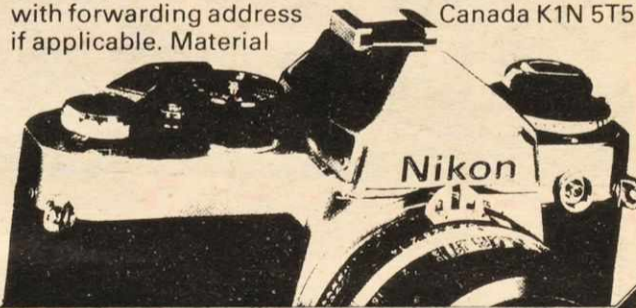


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