

Nureyev blasts nationalism, continued from page 16.

the audience clapping at O'Keefe Centre. Isn't that nice? Well, so all right, it's over and finished with now, but I'll tell you I will never give my permission to allow that film to be shown on European television. It's ugly what was done. No one likes being cheated."

At the moment, Nureyev is deep into Don Juan, the one-act ballet John Neumeier choreographed. Neumeier added two new solos to the work specifically for Nureyev. The two have never worked together before and while both say the relationship is "demanding," they are pleased with the results that are emerging.

"Don Juan is a great character to dance, don't you think? There have been so many images and views of him. I think every man sometimes dreams of himself as a Don Juan, although which one I'm not sure. John's character is very bold, I think, very beautiful in conception."

Neumeier was present during the interview and at the start he was still discussing the rehearsal that had finished a few minutes before. He was worried about a nuance, a sequence in which Nureyev concludes some steps and then stands to one side to observe others. "Even though you're not dancing there," the choreographer said to the dancer, "I'd like it to seem more obvious that you're not participating." After about another minute of this, Nureyev cut off the flow with "Are you dictating all this, or discussing it?"

The little exchange was not really important, for any creative relationship has its testy moments. The two men are a study in contrasts. Neumeier is a soft-spoken, steely-eyed intellectual. He knows what he wants, is determined to get it and uses the patience of Job to this end. Nureyev, on the other hand, reacts instinctively to his surroundings and is very quick to take offence. His artistic instincts, though, are fundamentally generous and he is quite prepared to do anything he can to help someone he considers worthwhile. At the moment, he is very eager to help Neumeier make his ballet a success.

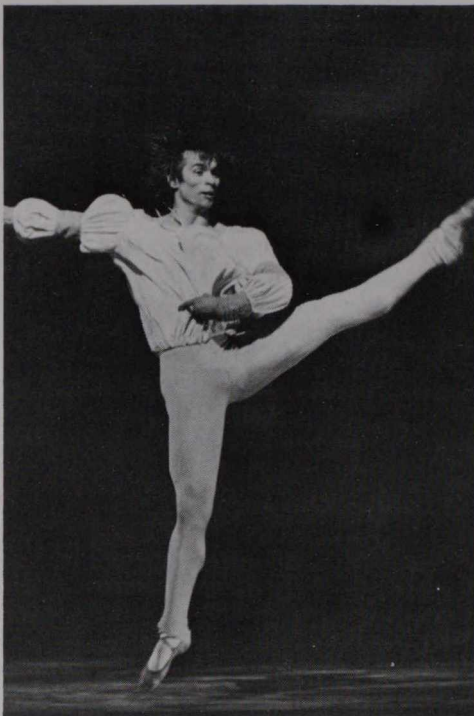
Both men are pleased with the quality of dancing they find in the National Ballet. Neumeier says working with the dancers has been "an inspiration" and Nureyev is very impressed with the partners he works with.

"I do not want people to miss my meaning on this nationalism I spoke about. I think every great company must have local pride and that this is very important. There are very good dancers here. Karen (Kain), Veronica (Tennant), Mary (Jago) — they're all very good, very top professionals. You have to go a long way to find someone like Karen."

He does not find Miss Kain's height difficult, although sometimes she seems to tower over him. "Well, Margot (Fonteyn) stood three inches taller than me when she

stood on her points and that was no problem. I think Karen is about the same."

Mention of partners brings memories of last summer's conflict in Paris with Natalia Makarova. At the time she was being touted as Nureyev's great soul-mate and the successor to the partnership with Dame Margot (O'Keefe Centre billed her as "Nureyev's electrifying partner" on its marquee when she danced here with the Pennsylvania Ballet directly after the Paris affair). When Miss Makarova arrived in Toronto, however, she let out a short, curt tirade on "that man" and vowed never to dance with him again. What really happened?



"We go and write a gossip column now, eh?" What should I say? Paris was a try-out and it didn't come off. I guess she is mad because she didn't become the electrifying partner. Partnership is not just a monologue. There has to be dialogue too. Just because you can dance together doesn't mean that you are good as partners. So, things didn't work out in Paris. Anyway, why do you worry about this business? You have too many good ballerinas here already. You don't need any more electricity. Is that enough gossip?"

Enough for the moment perhaps. Gossip however, will not stop about Rudolf Nureyev — he has all the talent and knows all the tricks to keep it going. When he's around, the excitement is unmistakable. I noted that it looked as if he was single-handedly going to take over New York next summer, dancing first with the National and then joining up with the Royal Ballet when it arrives.

"No, no, you've got it wrong. The Royal Ballet is joining up with me. I'm staying put — they're coming to me."

He said it with a devilish smile. He was, perhaps, anticipating how that comment would be received if it filtered back to London, the august headquarters of that great company, and he was already savouring the reaction. ♦

Economic Digest

A decision by Dow Chemical Co. (Global) to give performance bonuses to employees around the world brought cheques ranging from C.\$1,000 to C.\$5,500 to about 1,500 employees of its Canadian company in Sarnia, Ontario, in May.

The bonus cheques, amounting to 10 per cent of the employees' annual income, were given as a result of Dow's financial success, a company spokesman said: "We have performed well and have outperformed other chemical companies. It's a global award."

Estimated earnings of the U.S.-based multi-national company amounted to \$275 million in 1973. The bonuses for 50,000 employees around the world cost the company about \$50 million, a company spokesman said.

Robert Gibson, Dow Canada spokesman, said in Sarnia that world inflation is one of the main reasons for the bonus. Another was the excellent performance of the company and its employees. Accompanying each cheque was a company message: "For some time now, due to combined efforts of all employees, Dow globally has clearly outperformed the rest of the chemical industry . . . Because of this special combination of circumstances and the desire to pay for outstanding performance, the Dow board of directors has approved a special award."

Earnings

Average weekly earnings of about half Canada's non-agricultural work force rose by 8.5 per cent between March 1974 and March 1973, while the consumer price index went up by 10.4 per cent.

A preliminary report for Statistics Canada shows average weekly earnings during March were C.\$170.48 compared with C.\$157.09 in the same month a year earlier. The average in February was \$168.76 and there was a gain of about one per cent between February and March.

The consumer price index rose by one per cent in March.

The report covers weekly earnings of about four million workers and Statistics Canada gives averages for eight industry sectors. The highest was \$236.76 in construction and the lowest \$121.93 in the service sector.

Regionally, the average weekly earnings last March and the change from March, 1973, were: Atlantic region, \$148.02, up 14.82 or 11.1 per cent; Quebec \$163.36, up nine per cent; Ontario, \$174.17, up 6.7 per cent; Prairie region, \$164.82, up 10.5 per cent, and British Columbia,