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Light fandango

by J.L. Round

To get to the point quickly, the Maria Alba Spanish Dance Company was disappointing. They seemed a capable group, the seven dancers, singer and flamenco guitarist, but rarely did the performance allow them the opportunity to create the excitement and splendour of Spanish dance.

Commencing with a rather lukewarm start, they were rather consistent throughout almost the whole of the programme. It was unfortunate because they seemed to have had everything else. A handsome company, they had the mystery and enchantment of Spain, beautiful costumery, and the intense, rhythmical grace of Spanish music. But then atmosphere isn't everything.

To be fair, however, I will say that what was done was beautifully and effectively performed. There were moments when the expectations I had had, seemed to be on the brink of being fulfilled, but these were brief moments rarely sustained.

The beginnings of *Intermezzo*, early in the programme, seemed an indication of better things to come. This dance was a duet choreographed by Luis Rivera, one of two guest artists with the company, who also performed the dance with Maria Alba. A fascinating set of move-

ments, much like an animalistic mating ritual, began the dance but somehow went astray - perhaps the animals had lost interest - and then culminated in a momentary, striking visual display created by the silhouettes of the dancers against a red back-drop.

The *Jota Navarra*, next in line was a light-hearted musical romp nicely performed which, however pleasant and colourful it may have been, was only pleasant and colourful.

Among the one really interesting piece was an interesting piece, *Asturias*, again choreographed and danced, alone, by Luis Rivera. Here was the fury and excitement of Spanish dance that I had been looking for, the dazzling display of costumery and foot-work that leaves the viewer breathless.

But O.K., so I know it's wrong to go to a performance with preconceived expectations. I know it is wrong to expect performers to fulfill these or any other expectations. And it is probably even more wrong to write a criticism on a comparative basis with these expectations. But it is by far the wrongest to go there expecting fire and fury and dazzling greatness, when all that could be had with the flick of a bic.

Women's Project arrival

To all women and friends of women! The Women's Information Project is a reality and happening here in Halifax!

The Women's Information Project is organized by the Halifax Women's Centre to supply information to women on resources, programs, rights, et cetera; for, by, and about women. This project has developed over a 2 month period, with the assistance of a Secretary of State grant and the efforts of Judy Aymar, among others. The project culminates on the weekend of March 13-14 at several locations in Halifax.

The Women's Centre hopes to reach as many women as possible, to maintain contact and provide a catalyst for individual and group consciousness. Feelers are being established in several areas, with support from various groups: YWCA, N.S. Government Employees' Association, Dalhousie Legal Aid, NFB, Maritime Tel & Tel, Turret Coffee House, Manpower (Womanpower), academic women, Pro-Feminae, Unison, Halifax Rape Relief, Halifax Regional Library, and many behind-the-scenes people.

The Project begins with information booths at shopping centres, March 4-6: Thursday night, Scotia Square; Friday night, Spryfield Mall; Saturday afternoon, Halifax Shopping Centre; with literature, displays and a slide presentation.

Two activities are planned for March 8, 8 p.m.: The Halifax YWCA (1239 Barrington St.) is sponsoring the panel discussion; "International Women's Year: Challenge, Catalyst, Change", and the N.S. Institute of Technology (Leeds St.) is hosting a talk "Can you work and still be a good parent?", sponsored by the N.S. Government Employees' Assoc. Barbara Clark and Susan Marmaroff will discuss child care and day care.

At 8 pm on March 10 "Les Filles du Roi" will be shown at the NFB Theatre. This is an historical documentary on French Canadian women, offering an interesting way to learn some history. (herstory). On the same day the Dalhousie Women's Movement will "woman" an

information booth in the Dalhousie SUB, from 11-1:30.

The St. Mary's SUB will also have an information booth at noon, March 11 from 11-1:30. That night at 8 pm "Women and Property" is the topic of discussion at the Oxford Community School. Speakers are from Dal. Legal Aid.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND.

Friday night at 8 pm women artists will perform at the Turret (1588 Barrington St.); a cover charge of \$2.00 (a necessary evil) will be charged. The list of performers has not been finalized, although Maxine Tynes will certainly be giving a poetry reading.

Saturday, March 13 there is NO REGISTRATION FEE and FREE BABYSITTING, at the Halifax Vocational School, 1825 Bell Road. There will be films, displays and photography by women.

From 10-11 am two workshops will be held on employment: one presented by Pro Feminae on career opportunities for women, especially in non-traditional occupations; the other by Lillian Risley on assessing employable skills, particularly for women returning to the labor force.

There are two workshops at 11 am: Barb Unree, of Unison, will describe women in the criminal world with emphasis on the causes of crime, and Halifax Rape Relief will discuss the social and legal implications of rape.

After the noon lunch break (available at cost) excerpts from John Culjak's play, "The Rain Falls Harder" will be shown. This is the premier performance of a dynamic and gripping play on rape.

At 1 pm Mildred Royer will give a workshop on "Women and the Law". At the same time Jaye Horrocks will discuss preventative

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Gazette is accepting literary contributions for its spring issue