

Fiesta festive

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

Dalhousie Cultural Activities presented Halifax audiences with one of the most colorful shows in the entertainment world on Tuesday night. Fiesta Folklorico provided a sell out audience with a feast for the eye rarely seen in Halifax. The show was not superb but the costuming was absolutely magnificent and compensated for the not so terrific singing and dancing.

There were, it must be noted, two performances which did make the evening worthwhile - the Dance of the Deer and the lariat exhibit. The Dance of the Deer was one of the most powerful and moving performances I have ever seen. It was difficult to believe that the deer being chased by hunters was not in fact a real deer but a human being. The lariat exhibit was breathtaking in its precision and speed. The

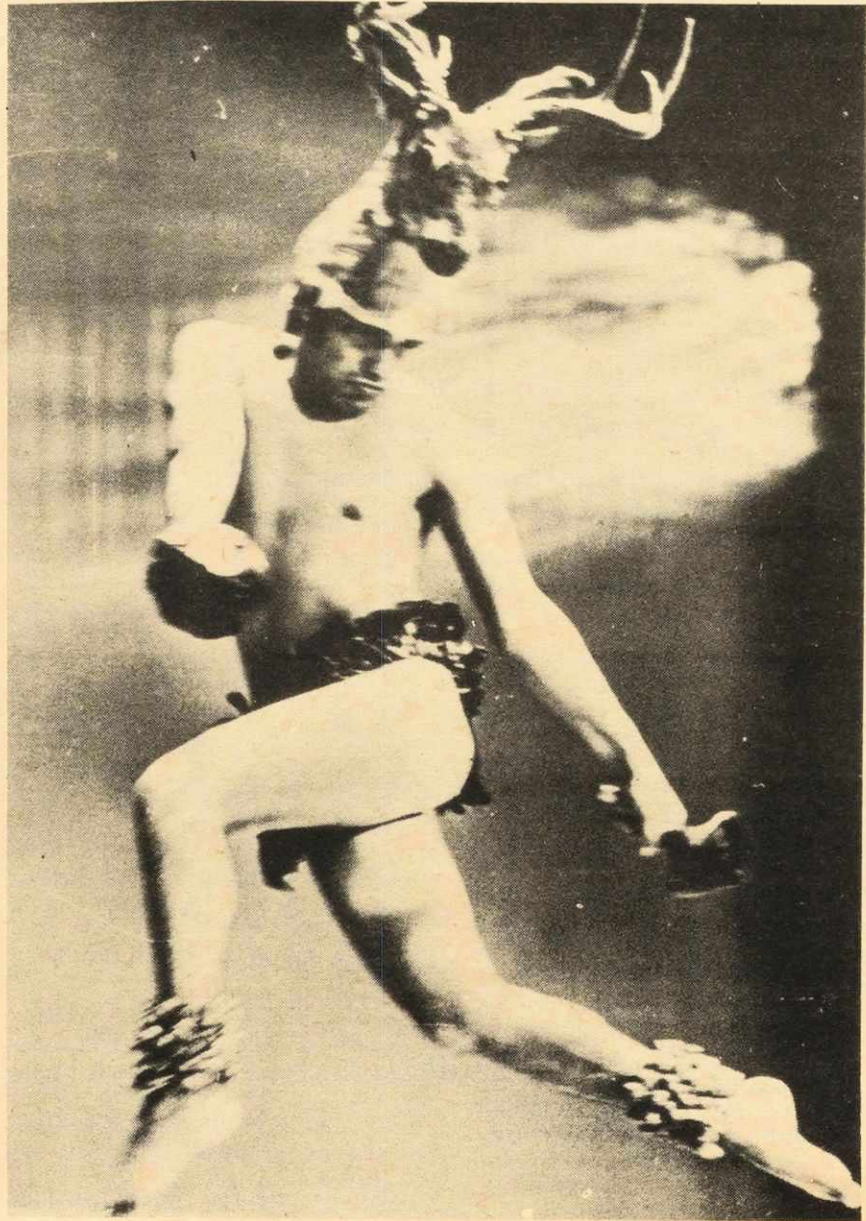
performer appeared extremely young but his ability to use a rope was in no way hampered by his youth. The audience broke into spontaneous applause repeatedly while the young Mexican jumped through, over and around his spinning rope.

Several of the group dances were extremely well performed but many of them were, except for the costumes, rather boring and repetitious. The straight musical numbers were far from professional and, though the group contained one good singing voice, for the most part the singing was a total wipeout.

One of the criticisms I have is that there was a warmth and feeling of joy missing from the performance that is not missing in Mexico. Mexicans are on the whole a happy race but there was no indication

from the cast of Fiesta Folklorico that this is so. One received the distinct impression that the cast couldn't really care less about the audience - they only wanted to get

on with the show to get it over with. There is a very real danger of this happening to any group on tour but most groups overcome it - Fiesta Folklorico did not.



Dance of the Deer from Festival Folklorico

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socialist publications find their major stumbling-block. Although the press may wish to criticize government policy, it runs the probable risk of alienating (or losing) its primary source of essential revenue. The bestower of the grant usually makes it quite clear (albeit tacitly) that government (or Company) policy is not to be criticized. Cross recounted the case of one private grant (apparently unconditional) to the "Canadian Forum" which was suspended in the space of one week after an article unfavorable to the source was printed in the magazine.

Cross indicated that the only truly successful magazines are those with a specialized following and possessing low overhead costs, specifically the trade magazines e.g. "Plumbers Digest". Although magazines subsidize their less fortunate brothers other magazines still teeter on the brink of sudden death. Cross blames the government's inequitable paper policy, through which foreign sources can obtain paper at prices lower than can Canadians, for much financial trouble to compound the problem.

Paper prices are currently rising at the rate of 35-40% per year.

The government's new anti-inflation program may also cause problems for Canadian publishers. It is well known that any venture bearing the vague label "literary" or "cultural" are of very low priority in a depressed economy. Socialist publications would seem to be included in the above category. Cross also decried the NDP for the lack of a nation-wide publication promoting socialist education in Canada. Visiting MP Stuart Legatt (NDP - New Westminster) explained on the grounds that electoral politics have before this time been emphasized that the expense of education. Lack of funds (a perennial problem) was also mentioned as a reason. However, there is a move within the party to get such a publication. Mr. Cross stated that this should be a top priority of the Party to educate the people as to the NDP's policies.

In conclusion Cross stated, Canadian periodicals are essential to Canadians in the understanding of our unique problems. Socialists and others should be made aware of this fact.

Time space

Finally for all you disco fans who have that inner love for soul comes, straight from the soul city, Philadelphia, 9 pieces of the most contemporary hot soul disco sounds to cross the border. Coupled with the ringing brass and the heavy bass beat, one will have the opportunity to listen to one of the finest female singers in the soul stadium today. Along with a great

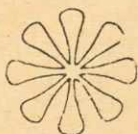
variety of music a new swing in show time costume changes will occur. All told, for two nights, TIME SPACE CONTINUED shall prove to be one of the most exciting and soulful shows ever to appear at Dalhousie.

TIME SPACE CONTINUED will be appearing in the McInnes Room at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday Jan. 29, and in the Cafeteria on Friday, Jan. 30.

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