

## **Black dance troupe from New York, Rod Rodgers Dance Company to perform at UCSD**

**February 23, 1973**

The Rod Rodgers Dance Company, a powerfully innovative Black dance troupe from New York, will perform in the University of California, San Diego Gymnasium one night only, Friday, March 2, at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the performance are \$3 for general admission, \$2 for UCSD faculty and staff, and \$1 for UCSD students, and are on sale at the Urey Hall Ticket Office on Revelle College and at the door the night of the performance.

The nucleus of this exciting young company is made up of individuals who are choreographers and dance instructors in their own right. The group presents a variety of music and dance theater perspectives reflecting the different backgrounds and experiences of each of the performers but which combine to form a unique theater experience.

While the group many times relies on the deep ethnic roots of Afro-Cuban dance and jazz, its work is also rich in modern and avant-garde styles including the new multimedia techniques.

In the UCSD performance the troupe will present two dance dramas and a number of other short works from its repertoire. "Harambee!" (which means "Forward with Unity" in Swahili) is a dance drama created by Rodgers depicting the inspiration, assassination, and spiritual resurrection of Black leaders.

Also to be performed is "Box," a dramatic dance study of malevolence in today's prisons inspired by and dedicated to George Jackson of Soledad and the men killed at Attica.

Rodgers, choreographer, dancer, and director, was introduced to his art as a child in a family of professional dancers. Since coming to New York in 1963, he has performed with several concert companies; has worked in off-Broadway theater; and with his own company, has firmly established himself as one of today's most provocative choreographers.

He has authored several articles on dance including "Men and the Dance: Why Do We Question the Image?" published in Dance Magazine in 1966, and "Don't Tell Me Who I Am" published in Negro Digest in 1968. He is also an articulate spokesman for dance.

In 1965-66 he received a John Hay Whitney Fellowship and was selected to receive a 1970-71 choreographer's grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C.

The dance company has performed throughout the United States and is well known for its work with youth in community-oriented cultural arts programs. In 1970 it performed workshops, lecture-demonstrations and master classes sponsored and coordinated by the Detroit, Michigan, Model Cities Program in cooperation with several other Michigan organizations.

It has also toured the New England states visiting, many local colleges and toured the Atlanta University Center campuses, Atlanta, Georgia, where the company received rave reviews from local newspapers. The company also received a 1970-71 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

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