

The International Ballet of Caracas to perform

October 23, 1979

The International Ballet of Caracas, called "an exceptionally good looking troupe, bursting at the seams with enthusiasm, vitality and talent" by the London Evening News, will perform Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2 and 3, at the University of California, San Diego.

Performances are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 p.m. Saturday in UC San Diego's Mandeville Auditorium. Tickets are available at Select-a-Seat outlets and at the UCSD Central Box Office.

The company was founded in 1975 by Vicente Nebrada, currently artistic director and choreographer for the company and formerly a dancer with the Ballet de Cuba, Ballet de Paris, the Joffrey Ballet and the Harkness Ballet.

Since its inception, the Ballet of Caracas has toured South and North America and Europe and received enthusiastic critical acclaim everywhere. The company has become known not only for the technical skill of its dancers, but for the dancers' ebullience, agility and athletic flair.

The dancers "have an unbelievable sinuosity, a sensual intensity and enormous discharge of energy even in comparatively quiet passages," wrote Noel Gillespie in *After Dark* after the troupe's Washington, D.C. performance.

The Venezuelan company is composed of experienced dancers from several countries, including Venezuela, the United States, Canada, Cuba and the Philippines.

Zane Wilson, Dale Talley and Manuel Molina, leading dancers with the company, are former members of the Harkness Ballet, and prima ballerina Zhandra Rodriguez was a principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre before she returned to her native Venezuela to star with Nebrada's company. Rodriguez once was named one of *Esquire Magazine's* 45 superheroes of the dance world, along with Alicia Alonso, Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and others.

The dancers all have solid classical backgrounds and the troupe's repertory reflects a complete range of dancing styles, from classical to modern ballet and even popular dance.

The troupe has established its own character by imbuing many of its pieces with a distinctly Latin American accent. Many of Nebrada's own works convey the unique blend of Spanish, Indian and Negro cultures of South America.

In its UC San Diego appearances, the company will perform a new work, "Percussion for Six Men," and "Our Waltzes," both by Nebrada, and Margo Sappington's "Rodin Mis en Vie."

Of Sappington's "Rodin Mis en Vie," John Percival of *The London Times* wrote, "The idea of bringing statues to life is an old one in ballet, but her treatment of it is grippingly unhackneyed. Beginning with a series of solos, it takes a fresh breath with a central group of duets and reaches a powerful climax full of tormented movement."

"Our Waltzes," said Montreal Gazette critic Linde Howe-Beck, "shows the company to perfection and typifies the kind of unusual approach to dance the group takes. A work of dazzling, incessant flow, it swoops back and forth across the stage, changing direction faster than the eye can see."

Tickets to the Friday night performance cost \$10 and \$7.50 general admission and \$5 and \$3.50 for students and senior citizens. Tickets for the Saturday performance cost \$7.50 and \$5 general admission and \$3.50 and \$2.50 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available in the orchestra section and on the main floor.

The event is sponsored by the UC San Diego University Events Office.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

TO THE EDITOR: Members of the company will be available for advance interviews.

Phone 452-3120 for information.

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