

San Diego Ballet Company to become resident program

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The San Diego Ballet Company will become a resident program of the University of California, San Diego for six months, beginning in January 1980, according to an agreement signed by representatives of the two institutions Tuesday, May 8.

Under the terms of the agreement, the professional ballet company will present five ballets at UC San Diego from January to June 1980. The company will pay a nominal production fee.

In return for the use of the university's Mandeville Auditorium, the company's artistic director, Keith Martin, and school director Lynn Hodgkinson will teach drama and dance courses during the 1979-80 school year at the university.

"This will provide potent new opportunities for students and faculty to participate in a whole new area of theatre," said Michael Addison, chairman of the UC San Diego Department of Drama.

Faculty and students will assist the ballet company in the design and technical aspects of the ballet productions, according to the agreement. The sharing of facilities and services will reduce production costs for the ballet company, Martin said, and allow the company to charge lower admission prices to its performances and thus increase its audiences.

"We will have the security of a home, so we can plan way ahead and do as many performances as we like, and maintain high standards of dance and production," Martin said. "We will also be creating opportunities for young people to become involved with ballet. It's an ideal situation."

The UC San Diego Department of Drama offers an undergraduate degree in drama and a Master of Fine Arts degree in theatre. The program includes classes in dance and theatre production, but until now, ballet has not been offered by the drama department.

The department has proposed that Martin and Hodgkinson be given the title of non-salaried lecturer from July 1, 1979, to June 30, 1980. They will teach jazz dance, ballet, mime and dance history.

Martin said the collaboration will allow the company to develop a younger audience than it has had in the past, because of the lower admission that will be charged of audiences and because of the working relationship that will be cultivated between the company and students at UC San Diego.

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