

AF² - Ailey Up, Dimitri Down

BY AMY FRIBUSH
and ARLENE FURMAN

After a "cultureless" break, we returned to Greensboro just in time for the Sunday matinee performance of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre at UNC-G. We entered to find the first piece "Night Creature," choreographed by Alvin Ailey himself, already underway.

Their movements were jazzy with some ballet incorporated. A great control of isolated areas was displayed. Much hard work and practice payed off. The dancers ease in performing their steps and movements was apparent. The next two pieces were not choreographed by Ailey and had much more creative appeal.

In "The Time Before the Time After (After the Time Before)" the strength of the bodies involved was overwhelmingly impressive. "Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder" consisted of a chain of men contorting across the stage to voices chanting in harmony. The natural ability and talent of the agile bodies carried the piece. We found a picture of Alvin Ailey that made him look mean, but sensitive.

His next piece "Revelations" is regarded as a modern dance classic. It consisted of three religious-oriented movements climaxing in a revival to "Rockin' My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham." The energy exuberated made us want to get up and dance.

The packed audience gave a resounding standing ovation

that put chills down our spine. The dancers themselves had such a merry attitude and seemed to appreciate the crowd's gracious reception. Here was a pleasant and enjoyable experience without any emotional or psychological involvement necessary, as was the case with the Nikolais Dance Theatre (earlier this season.)

Dimitri, "Un Clown Extraordinaire," proved otherwise, Tuesday night at Aycock Auditorium. Young and old alike gathered to enjoy the talents of the virtuoso musician and mime expert from Switzerland.

He entered playing the ukelele, white-faced clothed in black overalls with an over large coat. Next, he proceeded through a series of monotonous stunts, barely succeeding in keeping our attention. These were insultingly amateurish, such as balancing a plate on a stick and juggling balls with his mouth. A fine act for a birthday party magician!

He was continuously moving yet the show lagged. Even our feet fell asleep. We seemed to be missing something somewhere compared to how the rest of the audience was reacting. Dimitri left the stage. Some people actually hoped it was intermission and he would be coming back. Imagine that!

To our dismay he appeared for his second act, which was even worse than the first. It started out with Dimitri playing the harmonica. It continued with him playing an accordion, trumpet, guitar, saxophone,

and bassoon, some simultaneously.

His musical versatility was obvious, yet it seemed to us a shame that someone with as much talent as Dimitri could not come up with a more intellectually stimulating performance.

(To be discontinued next week due to popular demand.)

Act Immediately

The acting and directing classes are making preparations for their annual evening of one acts which will be presented Monday, Dec. 12 and Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 8:15 p.m. in Sternberger. This year, according to Donald Deagon of the Drama Department, the auditions for these one act plays will be open to all students. "This is a change from the past productions," Deagon said. "In other years the actors in the plays have come only from within the class."

"As yet the full slate of one acts has not been selected, but we are looking forward to a very diverse group of shows," Deagon said. "This will be an excellent opportunity for weekend actors to try their skills."

The tryouts are scheduled for November 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall in Sternberger basement. There will be only one night of tryouts so be sure to mark your calendars: November 3, 6:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall.

Get into the act!

Seminar Members Escape

BY BRIAN CAREY

Fall break offered something other than home cooking and family reunions for fifteen students this year for the participants in the Fall Seminar on Coastal Ecology. Led by Dr. William Fulcher and accompanied by the Fulcher family, we enjoyed nine days of beautiful weather, interesting hikes, and general fun, compliments of the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Upon our arrival of the Bodie (pronounced Bawdy) Island Dorm near Nags Head, affectionately known as the Hilton, we quickly piled out of the vans and cars, and attempted to bring life back into stiff legs and sleeping feet. For some, it was the first fearless breath we'd taken in six hours. (Don't pass, Howard!) Although we had had rest stops at Hardee's, an historical tourist site, and the Manteo grocery store, we were eager to see who would claim the beds in the lavishly furnished dorm.

That night was spent in getting acquainted. The next day we were up at five, to the buzzing of mosquitoes. Jane Sutton of the National Park Service was on hand to lead us onto the beach for an hour of contemplation on our flimsy ideas of what ecology might be. An impressive sunrise enabled us to see how large the mosquitoes were, and so signalled our retreat to a hearty breakfast and discussion.

The rest of Sunday's activities included: a beach hike in search of gifts of the sea, when we first learned of Jay's

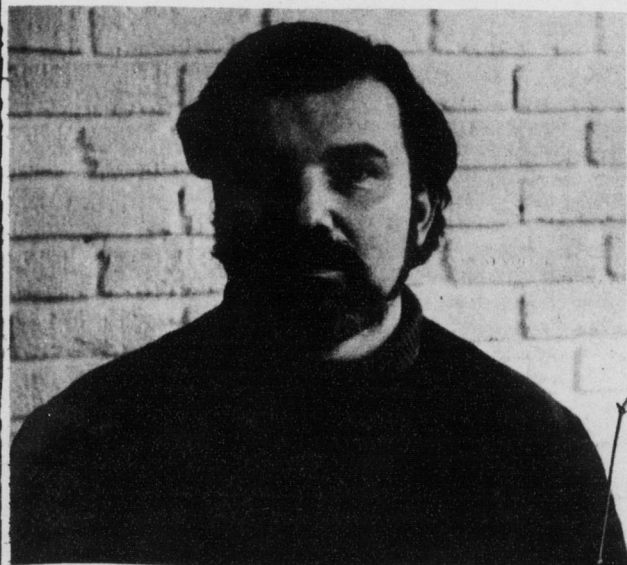
one-man 50-mile walk from Frisco to Whalebone Junction; a visit to the Wright Memorial where we saw Sherie skip down the entirety of Kill Devil Hill, and Lawrence of Arabia impersonations on Jockey Ridge, an enormous natural sand dune.

A visit to Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Buxton Woods were the highlights of Monday's activities. Treks up sixteen flights up stairs could not stop this group. On Tuesday, our adventures were mild, and included only a tour and a small lab session at the Marine Resources Center in Manteo, where we observed both the external and internal workings of such an institution. The night was brightened up by a roaring bonfire complete with baked apples, marshmallows, and songs.

Nags Head Woods was the site of our next journey, where we braved bulldozers, posted signs, and abandoned graveyards. Wednesday we visited Fort Raleigh, the site of the Lost Colony.

Our longest pilgrimage of the week took place on Thursday, as the whole day was spent at Ocracoke Island, haven of wild ponies and deathplace of Blackbeard the pirate.

Friday we met the Nags Head Town Manager. Saturday was spent at the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge. There we saw our friends the mosquitoes, as well as whistling swans, herons, Canadian geese, snow geese, and others, making it a worthwhile experience. Sunday we departed, with many memories of our experiences.



Michael Mott, British poet, presents poetry reading tonight.

Mott Presents Civil War Poetry

Don't like the poetry, you say? Don't understand it? Perhaps that's because you've never taken the time to appreciate it without the pressure of having to delve ever deeper into the depths of metaphorical language at the whims of some insensitive English teacher.

Take the opportunity to sit back, listen, and absorb the beauty of poetry, Tuesday evening when the British poet, Michael Mott presents a reading of his own works in Boren Lounge, Founders Hall at 8 p.m. A novelist and art critic as well as a poet, Mott has served as a

writer-in-residence and visiting lecturer at Emory University for the past seven years and currently is writing and lecturing full time.

Mott will read at the Writers' Club meeting at 7 p.m. and at 8 p.m. students, faculty, and visitors will be welcomed to hear his poetry. After the reading there will be an informal reception in the Boren Lounge at which time, Mott will entertain questions from the audience. He is quite accustomed to conversing with students, having read his own poetry at over 40 universities in the U.S., Canada, and England.

Mott has published four poetry collections, including *Absence of Unicorns*, *Presence of Lions*, not to mention some 200 poems in journals and anthologies such as *Encounter* and *London Review*. He has written four novels, two for children. Mott was the winner of the 1974 Governor's Award given by Governor Carter for founding the Poetry at Callanwolde Program. Earlier in his career he studied art and writing in France, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. His recent poems reflect his interest in American culture and history, particularly the Civil War.