

Dance company presented unusual style

by Penny Thomas
Staff Writer

The Sidewalk Dance Theatre of Knoxville, Tenn., presented their unusual style of modern dance at their performance in Whitley Auditorium last Thursday night.

The modern dance company which consists of five members, displayed not only different techniques of modern dance, but they also incorporated vocal expression in some of their pieces.

This style of including speaking is considered to be more of a theatrical type of presentation than just strict

Bensey recited the books of the Bible while another company member, Gary Abbot, danced to Bensey's words. Then both performed a duet acting out an interpretation of the story of Euticus.

This type of interpretive dance along with the next dance "Jeanie," where the dancer slowly folded up a green blanket with dead flowers in her hand, and the dance called "The Wood Peewee and Its Song" where the cast, all dressed in plain white leotards, imitated movements of the Wood Peewee bird, are all characteristic of this more theatrical aspect of the modern dance.

One dance called the "Sunday Funnies" did seem to liven the audience's attention as the dancers imitated comic strip characters.

The three dancers of this number were dressed in the characteristic clothes of comic strip cartoons such as bright blue capes or floppy chef hats, or bright red hats and ribbons.

The dancers brought to life the Sunday comics in their leaps and hops mixed with their exaggerated facial expressions that cartoon characters always have.

However, the dancing talent of these dancers did finally surface when they performed the dance called

"Evening Song."

This piece was a slow-paced number that revealed not only their precision movement and secure balance, but also their skin-tight unitards revealed the dancers' defined and toned muscles.

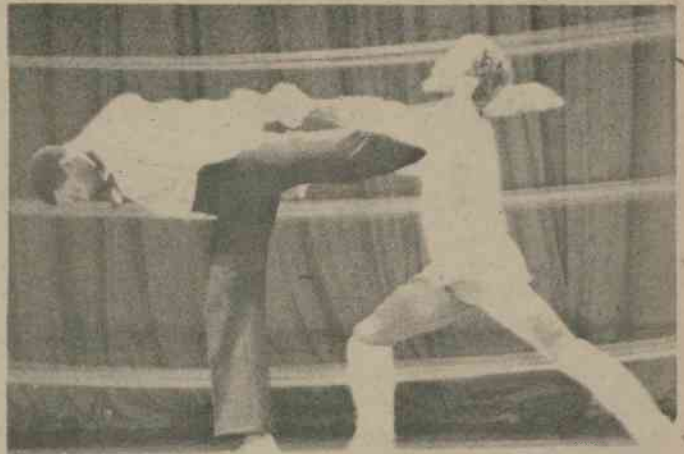
The audience reaction to the first segment of the production was one of silence interrupted with what seemed to be polite applause. This could have been because these dances were fairly new and different to the usual dance productions usually performed at Elon.

The second segment of the production consisted of one long dance that showed even more talent and stamina of the dancers in the company.

In this number, the three dancers covered the area of the stage in their perfectly timed turns and moves and kept up this agitated movement throughout the whole song. After all that movement, the only signs of fatigue or exhaustion were the sweat beads on the dancers' foreheads — if they were breathing heavy, they sure masked it well.

The dance named "Red Riding Hood" made up the entire third segment. This dance again returned to the theatrical approach as the cast of dancers portrayed the characters of "Red Riding Hood" in a play-like presentation of dance and speaking parts.

The audience seemed to relate to this piece more than the others as some people laughed or snickered at scenes where the dancers



"THE STORY OF Euticus" as portrayed by Sidewalk Dance Company members. Photo by Ron Kruppa

pretended to throw Red Riding Hood off the stage. The audience showed their appreciation for this dance by loud applause.

The final piece of the production was a humorous dance called "Watermelon." The dancers were dressed similar to watermelons with green shirts and pink overalls speckled with black sparkling seeds.

At first the dancers mimed eating watermelons and sat down on the edge of the stage and acted as if they were chewing and spitting out seeds.

Then the image of the imaginary watermelon became a reality as they pulled out a huge air-filled rubber ball about seven feet in diameter that was decorated like a watermelon. The dancers used this gigantic watermelon as a prop to dance around and dance on top of it as they bounced it around the stage.

This particular dance, said Anne Lynn Shugart later at a reception held in West

dorm lounge after the dancers' performance, "was one of the favorites of younger kids."

Shugart said that most of the members of the Sidewalk Dance Theatre not only tour and perform, but also teach classes to subsidize their incomes.

Most of the dances that the company performs are choreographed by Artistic Director and Choreographer Annie Genung but some like "Red Riding Hood," and "Watermelon" were choreographed by dancers from New York.

Virginia Mynatt, another member of the company, said that most of their travels have been primarily limited to the east coast as only as far west as Tennessee, but the company hopes to soon tour abroad in Europe or other places out of the country.

But thanks to SUB and the Alamance County Arts Council, Elon was fortunate to be at least one host of the Sidewalk Dance Company.

This would be helped by a letter, bigger pic of her costumes

Dance review

dance routines.

The production started with a dance called "An Aria" performed by Anna Lynn Shugart, one of the original members of the 1976 company. In this piece, Shugart seemingly pantomimed an opera song as she mouthed the words and glided around the stage with her burgundy dance skirt following her moves.

Michael Bensey, another of the original troupe members, introduced one of the dances that makes the company more theatrical in style with the second piece called "The Story of Euticus."

Perched upon a ladder,



ROOMMATES battled to predict each other's answers. Photo by Ron Kruppa.

Roomies match wits

by Jennifer Tulloch
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, the Harper Area Council presented The Roommate Game, a take-off of TV's The Newlywed Game, involving students and their roommates. The event was held in Harper Center Lounge, according to organizer Susie Bowling, because "There's not a lot going on for the students of Harper Center, and we wanted to organize some activities on this part of campus."

The Roommate Game consisted of competition between 10 different teams of roommates, all of whom live in the Harper Center Area. The format of the game was identical to that of The Newlywed Game; one roommate from each team would leave the room while the others were asked questions, then the isolated contestants would come back and try to match answers with their roommates.

Will Migniuolo, instructor of English, presided over the game by asking the contestants questions and entertaining the audience with his own humorous ad libs. An example of the type of questioning was, "Describe your roommate's friends: A. The Brady Bunch, B. The Rough Riders, C. Cheech and Chong, or D. The Warriors."

After several rounds of questioning, the winners were decided. Kim Daniel and Lisa Brown came in first, winning a Brown and Co. gift certificate. Craig Johnson and roommate Eric Sabin came in second, and received for their teamwork two Harper Area T-shirts.

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