

Salemites View "Swans" Cue



A FINAL TOUCH BEFORE THE SHOW

We pulled open the massive, black stage doors and made our way into cluttered wings and mass confusion—lights, scenery, props dancers, crewmen, cameramen and reporters. Stumbling between sweaty, overall clad stage hands, red, travel-worn music trunks, and aluminum ladders; we searched for an unoccupied niche. Midget-like men and women pushed past us to join other members of the troupe on stage. Dancers in pastel ballet shoes and red, green, black, grey, and blue leotards gave a kaleidoscopic effect as they began doing plies and

pirouettes. The Northern and Mid-Western accents of the troupe gave a sharp contrast to the harsh booming voices of prop men shouting to each other as they adjusted the flimsy blue backdrop of Swan Lake. A hush descended upon the troupe in response to three sharp claps from a small, muscular man in pink ballet shoes. The dancers took their positions as the ballet master walked to center stage and began chanting bar work instructions in French. "Second position et un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, et huit. Hold in chest—pelvis in place." His sing-song instruc-

tions were interrupted only by persistent coughing, and gum chomping. Occasionally members left their positions on stage to coat their shoes of yellow-green resin.

As the dancers continued their bar work, men brought in tall stacks of music. They were followed by the musicians, some in tails, others still in their Bohemian-dress. They disappeared into off-stage rooms where they began tuning up.

The ballet master dismissed some of the dancers and began working with the corp de ballet of "Swan Lake", and the warriors in "The Combat".

"Fifteen minutes, please," the stage manager called. Again confusion—stage men made finest adjustments for the backdrop of the first number; the lighting technicians inserted blue bells in spotlights, cameras flashed, workmen gave the stages a final sweep with their large brushbrooms. The swans and huntsmen appeared in feathery white and green velvet costumes smelling of the greasy make-up which covered their chalky white faces. Some swans licked multicolored suckers as they searched hopefully through a new batch of mail that had been placed on an empty trunk outside the dressing rooms.

"Five minutes please" the stage manager called again. On stage the ballet master still calmly directed a few dancers. Carpenters, electricians, wardrobe mistresses, Wake Forest photographers, Salem reporters, swans, huntsmen, and the prima ballerina became silent as the stage manager gave his last call, "Ready for Swan Lake." The overture began.

"They're all in different positions tonight because of the flu," the ballet master whispered, "I pray they do all right." The curtain went up and the green-garbed huntsmen danced out on the stage—Swan Lake began.

—Sarah Ann Price
—June Gregson

News In Review

This week end Betsy Smith and Mary Jo Wynne are representing the A. A. at the Athletic Association Convention at East Carolina College. The convention, sponsored by the Athletic Federation of College Women, is open to delegates from all over the state. Those chosen as alternates were Joan Melton and Susan McCotter.

8:00 Morning Chapel
1:15 Day Student Meeting
4:45 Hockey Tournament
6:30 A. A.
6:30 Salemite

Movies:
Carolina: "Jailhouse Rock," with Elvis Presley
Winston: "Dino," with Sal Mineo, Susan Kohner, and "Hotrod Rumble," with Leigh Snowden

Center: "Night Passage," with Stewart Granger, and "Curuca, Beast of the Amazons"

Thursday, October 31—
4:45 Hockey Tournament
6:30 Phi Alpha Theta, Friendship Rooms of Strong.

7:30 Harry's Party

Friday, November 1—
8:00 Morning Chapel

Movies:
Center: "Rock Around the Clock," "Rock, Pretty Baby," and "Mark of the Lash"

Saturday, October 26—
Davidson-Presbyterian
N. C. State-Duke
Wake Forest-U. N. C.
Sunday, October 27—
6:30 Vespers, Little Chapel
Monday, October 28—
8:00 Morning Chapel
4:45 Hockey Practice
5:00 Student Government
6:30 "Y" Cabinet
Tuesday, October 29—
4:45 Hockey Tournament
6:30 IRC
Wednesday, October 30—

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