4

NEW FILM CATELOG AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE: A CLOSE-UP IN TIME

Reviewed by John Mueller

NEW FILM CATALOG. A new and reasonably up-to-date <u>Catalog of</u> <u>Dance Films</u> has just been published by Dance Films Association. Compiled by Susan Braun and Dorothy H. Currie, the catalog is handsomely printed and contains descriptions of hundreds of available films on ballet, modern dance, dance therapy, ethnic-folk dance, mime, tap, technique, cine-dance, and other related areas.

Rental and sales information is included and there are also a number of cross-indexes by means of which one can find out, for example, where the works of a given choreographer appear on film, or on what films a given dancer appears. The <u>Catalog</u> contains no judgments about film quality. Here and there are some errors and omissions but, for the most part, these are quite minor.

Users of the <u>Catalog</u>, however, should be aware that the compilers have made little effort to ferret out inexpensive sources of films, often preferring instead simply to list the major distributor of a given film. For example, the <u>Catalog</u> explains where films like <u>Ballet</u> with Edward Villella, <u>Cortege of Eagles</u>, and <u>Paul Taylor and Company</u>, can be rented for \$30 to \$35, but does not indicate that they can be rented for one-third that price at other places. Therefore, before ordering films listed in the <u>Catalog</u>, one would be wise to check out prices in the catalogues of some of the major sources of inexpensive films such as the Audio-Visual Centers at the Universities of Illinois, Minnesota, Arizona, Kent State, Iowa, Boston, Michigan, Indiana, and, for those in Pennsylvania and bordering states, Penn State.

The <u>Catalog of Dance Films</u> can be purchased for a rather hefty \$6.50 (\$5.50 for DFA members) from Dance Films Association, Inc., 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.

REQUEST FOR LETTERS. <u>American Ballet Theatre: A Close-up in Time</u> was shown on national television for the first time in the fall of 1973. This superb 90 minute color program features a complete performance of Antony Tudor's Pillar of Fire with Sallie Wilson as Hagar as well as Cynthia Gregory and Ted Kivitt in a Black Swan Pas de Deux and sub-

John Mueller is Professor of Political Science, The University of Rochester and, in the area of the arts, is instructor in a course, "Dance as an Art Form" that relies heavily on dance films and videotapes. He is author of a Monograph, "Films on Ballet and Modern Dance: Notes and a Directory," to be published by American Dance Guild, summer 1974. Mr. Mueller will be Director of a Dance History Workshop, NARB Craft of Choreography Conference, 1974.

stantial excerpts from Les Sylphides, Agnes De Mille's Rodeo, Alvin Ailey's The River, and Harald Lander's Etudes. Interview material with De Mille, Tudor, Lucia Chase, and some of the dancers is also included.

The program will be made available for distribution <u>only if</u> the number of written inquiries about it are sufficient. A flood of mail would also have the highly desirable side benefit of encouraging the further production of such programs. Letters need not be lengthy, but they should be sent soon. Send them to:

> Mrs. Audrey Weiss Director of Media Services WNET 304 West 58th Street New York, New York 10019