

Dance

5 by 2 dance company performs in Potsdam



by Pat Bowers

On February 3, 1977 at 8 o'clock a lecture/demonstration was given by the 5 by 2 dance company. Originally, the group members were Jane Kosminsky and Bruce Becker. The name meant 5 pieces by 2 dancers. The group has recently added 2 new dancers, Carol Parker and Danny Ezralow. The company will now be called 5 by 2 plus 2. Ms. Parker didn't attend this engagement but Danny Ezralow danced for the audience as a member of the group for the first time this evening.

The lecture/demonstration started with Ms. Kosminsky and Mr. Becker showing basic technique exercises such as plié and brushes. These exercises help to keep the body in shape and they also serve as a warm up before a dance concert. It takes great body conditioning and control to be a dancer.

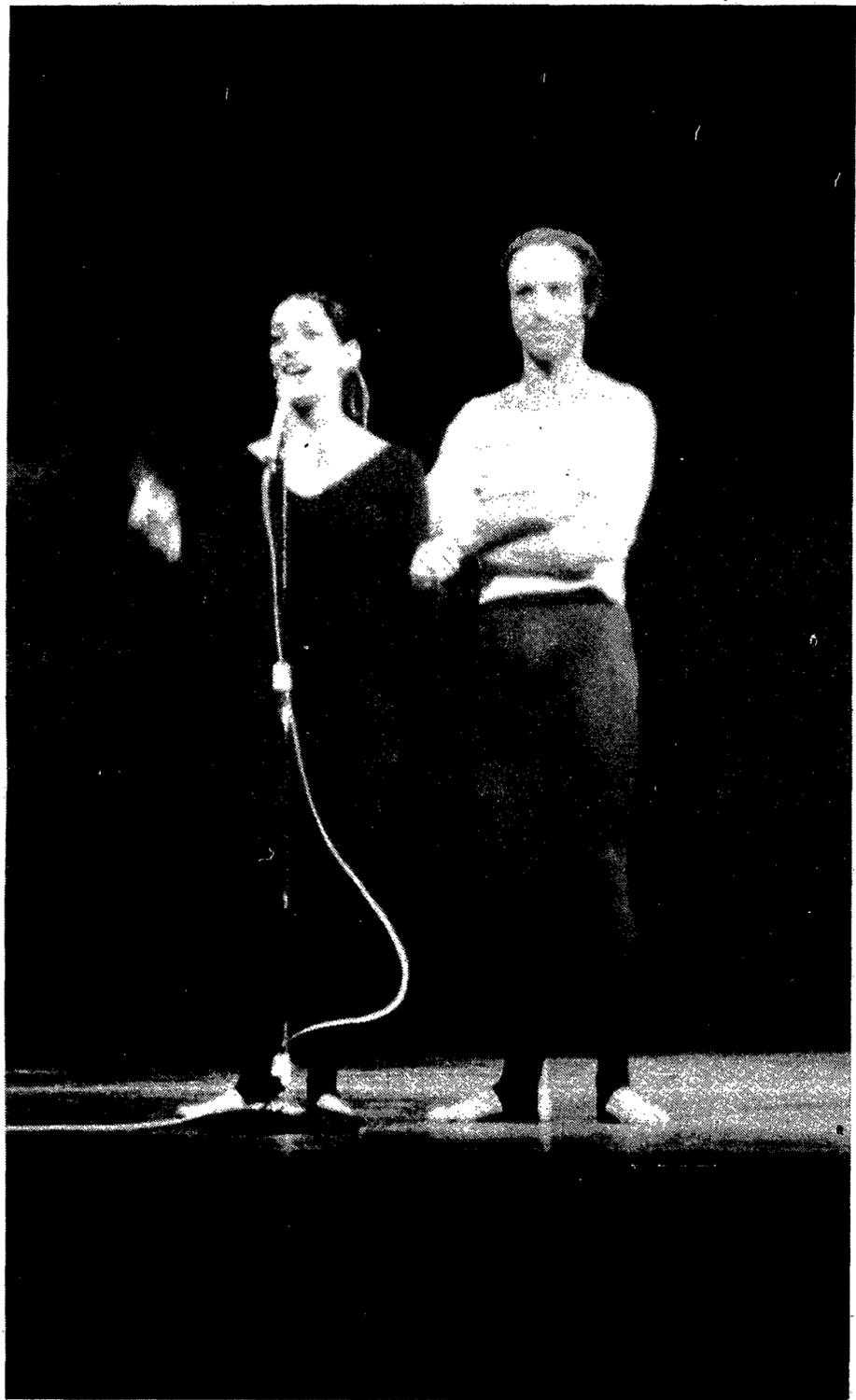
The 5 by 2 dance company likes to perform a repertoire of dances. This includes a diversity of styles of dance. They perform a wide variety of dances, some from the past, and some contemporary, the dates ranging from 1928 to the present.

The dancers performed several sections of a variety of pieces. Their dance was very graceful and emotional. Since Mr. Becker and Ms. Kosminsky have danced as partners for many years, they are sensitive to each others feelings. They care for each other and it shows in their dances.

One of the most impressive dances performed, in part, was "There is a Time" by Jose Limon. Ms. Kosminsky performed sections of this with Mr. Becker and Danny Ezralow. The dance started with a biblical quote. The words, the music and the dancing all intertwined to make a very pleasant experience.

A dance called "A Cold Sunday Afternoon" by Cliff Keuter was another of the 5 pieces performed, in part. Ms. Kosminsky called this dance their "prop piece" because they use blankets, pajamas and other props to perform the dance. This piece was about being cold and the dance is centered around a kiss. The section performed was funny and fast moving. It would have been nice to see the whole dance performed.

The lecture got down to some of the little things the dancers worry about before and during a dance. Ms. Kosminsky mentioned a dance where she has to wear a hair piece. She mentioned how she is always afraid that it might fall off. They also talked about costumes. Usually the costume adds to and becomes



(Photos by Bill Echols)

a part of the dance, but it was mentioned that at times a costume, for example a flowing skirt, can get in the way. This type of discussion gave them a more natural appeal. It wasn't as if they were the dancers and we were the audience because the atmosphere was relaxed and unstructured.

The final part of the lecture consisted of a question and answer period. Some of the questions asked were, "How long do you spend learning a piece?" and "Do dancers like you die young?" Ms. Kosminsky's

reply to this last question was, "No, we live to a ripe old age."

Throughout the lecture/demonstration Ms. Kosminsky and Mr. Becker held the audience. They had an appeal. It stemmed from their dedication and interest in teaching the audience about dance, but even more important it was their humorous approach to lecturing. Throughout the session the audience laughed, and at the same time learned more about Modern Dance.