

**A GREAT  
HOLIDAY  
GIFT!**

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Turner

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CAPADES**

MADE IN AMERICA

Starring:  
**Dorothy Hamill**

**MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.**

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**THU. JAN. 21 - SUN. JAN. 24**

**THU. JAN. 21 (1/2 PRICE)**  
Fri., Jan. 22 10:30AM\*\* 7:30PM\*  
Sat., Jan. 23 11:00AM\* 3:00PM\*\* 7:30PM\*  
Sun., Jan. 24 1:00PM\* 5:30PM\*\*

**# OPENING NIGHT  
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**THU. JAN. 28 (1/2 PRICE WITH COUPON)**  
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Sat., Jan. 30 11:00AM\* 3:00PM\*\* 7:30PM\*  
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**WED. FEB. 3 (\$5 OFF WITH COUPON)**  
Thu., Feb. 4 10:30AM\*\* 7:30PM\*  
Fri., Feb. 5 10:30AM\*\* 7:30PM\*  
Sat., Feb. 6 11:00AM\* 3:00PM\*\* 7:30PM\*  
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**# waldbaums**

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Tickets \$16.50, \$14.00, \$9.00 available at respective  
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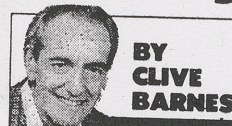
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HELEN HAYES THEATRE • 240 W. 44th Street



**FINE ART:** Previously unimpressive, David Gordon has a new play that hangs together. Andrew Eccles

## It's a great 'Mysteries'

**N**EVER in a leap year of Tuesdays would I have described myself as a fan of David Gordon. And I have a pocketful of reviews to prove it. Yet after many dry seasons of being underwhelmed by Gordon's dance and theatrics, I



**BY  
CLIVE  
BARNES**

### PERFORMANCE ART review

find myself oddly reversed, as the French almost say, upset, overturned and altogether mightily impressed.

The cause of this change of heart is his pungent and engrossing theater piece, or chunk of performance art, whatever, called "The Mysteries and What's So Funny?," which arrived at the

Joyce Theater on Wednesday night and will remain there through Jan. 3.

With glassily poetic connecting music by Philip Glass — there are even a couple of songs — and a uniquely bizarre and bustling visual design concept by the painter Red Grooms, "The Mysteries" is an attempt to give us the dirt on survival... or lack of it. Which, of course, is what's so funny.

Gordon's play — for that, all terminology to one side, is what this actually is — is an interweaving narrative on two levels. On the one level is the life story (or work story; life and art were one sweet mystery to him) of the artist Marcel Duchamp from surprise success to divine inertia.

We see his famous painting, in five moments, of "Nude Descending a Staircase," then his career careens serenely throughout the piece, offering such surreal highlights as his mustachioed Mona Lisa and his autographed urinals, until his end as a peaceful octogenarian in New York, looking back on a happy life of empty fulfillment.

But the elusive and charming Duchamp (Valda Setterfield) is only part of the story, for contrasted to this life of sybaritic art for art's sake is a family whose art is to live life for life's sake.

Rose (Karen Graham young and Lola Pashalinski old) and Sam (Scott Cohen/Jerry Matz ditto) are a couple mastering the art of staying together. With Rose's mother Fanny (Jane Hoffman) and their "Only Oldest Child" (Norma Fire) they all do battle unto death, quite remote from and yet — in Gordon's keen eye for the comic chaos — quite related to the effortless Duchamp.

With Grooms' continual and dazzling visual inventiveness — a parade of painted placards, doorways, arches and simple objects waved, carried and pushed by the entire cast — Glass' meditative musical underpinning, and Gordon's fleshily onion-style of overlay upon overlay of ideas, thoughts and feelings, the total work emerges as a miasma of meaning.

You feel you have been told something of enormous importance, which you'll work out later and ponder in leisure. I hope I do — but whatever I finally take away from gentle shocks of my afterthoughts, certainly I shall retain grateful, happy memories of an oddly enchanted evening and a totally enchanting cast.

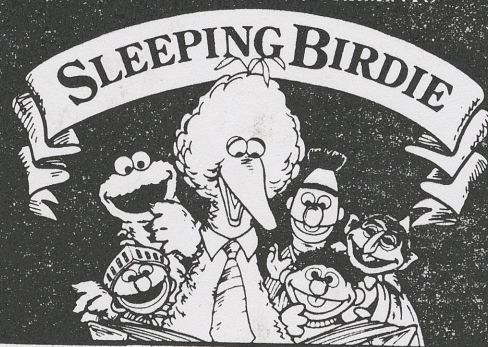
Joyce Theater, 178 Eighth Ave., at 18th Street, (212) 242-0800. Through Jan. 3.

### Covenant concert

**A** CONCERT to benefit Covenant House will be held Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Lone Star Roadhouse, 240 W. 52nd St.

The New York Boys Choir, along with Lorraine Ferro, Abbe Rivers and Derrick Jordan, will perform. Admission is \$5 and canned-food donations will also be accepted. Information: (212) 727-4113.

**SESAME STREET LIVE PRESENTS**



**NEW YORK POST**

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Official Rules:  
— To enter, send a postcard with your name, address, day & evening phone number to NY Post, Sesame Street Contest, Knickerbocker Station, P.O. Box 800, NY, NY 10002.  
— Grand Prize tickets on Sat. 1/2 5:30 pm, Fri. 1/8 10:30 am and 2 pm. Runners-up tickets on Sat. 1/2, 5:30 pm and Fri. 1/8, 10:30 am.  
— Winners will be selected and notified by phone on Tues. 12/29. All entries must be postmarked by Wed., 12/23.  
— Employees of NY Post, MSG, C.T.W., and Yee Corp. are ineligible.

**DEC. 16 - JAN. 10**

Info: 212-465-MSG1

**The Paramount**

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