

## RIVERSIDE

Mary Clarke

# Dance Umbrella

TONIGHT IS the very last chance in this year's Dance Umbrella to see David Gordon and Valda Setterfield at Riverside (or anywhere else). Don't be frightened away by some of the advance publicity. The whole point about this gifted and engaging couple is that they are funny and witty and do not ask you to seek for any hidden depths in what they are doing. David Gordon performed with the late James Waring and some of Waring's off-beat but tender humour can be detected in the pro-

gramme. The other debt is to Merce Cunningham but the end product is their own.

The first piece, Close Up, could only have been devised by a loving couple. It is a series of variations on close embrace with the positions sometimes shown also in close-up on a large screen. One Part of the Matter, which follows, is a solo for Setterfield performed against a tape of her discussing the exact placings for the dance

Her actual movements do not correspond exactly, or rather never at the same time, with what the tape is telling her and the whole thing becomes a marvellous spoof of the over-serious modern dance choreographer. Should the right elbow, the left leg, the right wrist be at just this angle or at that? The voice-over song, Every Little Movement Has a Meaning, points up the absurdity. And Setterfield, remembered as a dedicated dancer with

the Cunningham troupe emerges as a born comedienne.

The Cunningham connection is closest in Audience With the Pope, which has Gordon in black, performing slow antics that could relate to medieval tumblers. On the screen are projections of David Vaughan, disguised as the Pope in attitudes and expressions that are anything but holy. The dance is accompanied by Vaughan's voice in solemn deliberation about the historical development and changing attitudes of an audience with the Pope.

The final dance, Chair, has Gordon and Setterfield each involved with a bright blue enamel folding chair in an infinity of positions. At the end they stand quite still in front of their chairs, sideways on to the audience, while the tape blares out The Stars and Stripes For Ever. Bliss.