

# VANITY FAIR®

October 1987

fanfair

## Gordon Plenty



MARY LLOYD ESTRIN

It's the dance pairing of the year: Mikhail Baryshnikov, kingpin of the classical style, and Valda Setterfield, Athena of the avant-garde. The occasion: a duet by David Gordon, part of this month's *Dance in America* special on PBS, "David Gordon's Made in U.S.A.," featuring Baryshnikov in three Gordon works (including *Murder*, the amusing A.B.T. hit mimodrama). The collaboration was especially convivial and marked by respect on all sides, with Setterfield the most frequent object of admiration. Gordon, her husband, speaks of her professionalism and memorable presence. Baryshnikov notes her control, her concentration, her "majestic" voice, her understatement. For him, her star quality seems a matter of mind. "There is," he says, "a very special dignity in her."

—MINDY ALOFF

*Mikhail Baryshnikov  
and Valda Setterfield  
in David Gordon's  
TV Nine Lives,  
airing this month.*