

# Media Transcripts, Inc.

41 West 83rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10024, (212) 362-1481

RECEIVED  
11/18/87

**FOR**

WNET/13  
356 W. 58th St.  
New York, NY

**PROGRAM**

MADE IN THE USA  
David Gordon with Jim D'Anna

**STATION**

**DATE**

**CITY**

ANNOUNCER: Dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov pokes fun at American popular culture in a dance special broadcast tonight on many public television stations. The program, titled "Made in the USA", features three comic dances created especially for Baryshnikov by modern dance choreographer, David Gordon.

Gordon has been praised for his witty combinations of movement, dialogue and props. Jim D'Anna reports.

JIM D'ANNA: David Gordon says that making dances for Mikhail Baryshnikov is always a challenge because the ballet star likes projects that involve risk.

DAVID GORDON: I think you have to

Media Transcripts, Inc.  
PROGRAM

WNET/MADE IN THE USA-Gordon/D'Anna Page 2.

be very brave or very foolhardy to take on making work for Misha that will be... interesting and challenging for him.

D'ANNA: "Made in the USA" was begun at Baryshnikov's initiative. He had already danced in David Gordon's ballet, "Murder", which Gordon had made for Baryshnikov's American Ballet Theater. Baryshnikov wanted a new work, a TV duet for himself and Valda \_\_\_\_\_. Baryshnikov, who is an actor with three feature films to his credit, wanted it to have dialogue. Gordon supplied them with a script, based on Valda's youth in convent school in World War II England, and Misha's memories of American movies that he saw in the Soviet Union.

GORDON: The script was based on... conversations which I pushed for in rehearsal. Today, we will talk about... and I would push, and be asking questions off on the sidelines while they danced, and they would answer those questions, and then from all of that, I put together a.. script in which

the conversation could go on from beginning to end.

(PIANO)

BARYSHNIKOV: Movies, I love movies. You know, "Some Like it Hot" in Russia was called ... "Jazz Band, all the Girls". Funny.

VALDA: You saw "Some Like it Hot" in Russia?

BARYSHNIKOV: And MGM musicals. We saw them without titles and cast lists, because we took them from the Germans after the war. And Fred Astaire and Cagney dancing. I saw "Public Enemy" when I was thirteen.

VALDA: You say American gangster movies in Russia?

BARYSHNIKOV: Are you kidding? Russians love movies. Walt Disney... was Stalin's favorite moviemaker.

VALDA: Is that true? That's not true.

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

BARYSHNIKOV: What's so strange?

VALDA: Dammit. The nuns only let

us see "Scott of the Antarctic" and "The Song of Bernadette".

D'ANNA: At the end of their duet, Valda tells Misha to go west, and "Made in the USA" segues into a dance with western motifs called "TV Nine Lives". It was originally made for four male members of Gordon's own dance troupe, the Pickup Company. Gordon says they were more than happy to accommodate Baryshnikov.

GORDON: The four guys in the company, when they found out that Misha was going to do the piece with them, began to basically give up parts of their parts, so that Misha could have the moves that they each had, and so the four-man piece was turned into a five-man piece, and everybody gave up some percentage of their role to him, and they taught it to him.

D'ANNA: "Made in the USA" concludes with a spoof on murder mysteries called "Murder".

The ballet has comically eerie costumes and sets by designer Edward Gorey. Baryshnikov and 23 dancers from American Ballet Theater are joined by Valda Setterfield, who delivers David Gordon's prologue.

VALDA: The sword gleams near the still body of the woman in white. The door opens slowly. Miss Smith, the temporary secretary of Lord and Lady Smith, shuts the door behind herself, turns and espying the woman in white, groans, reels, and falls into a dead faint at her feet.

Smith, the butler, having heard the muffled thud of the fainting, falling, temporary secretary, hurries in. Surveying the scene, he spies the sword, and gasping, he tilts toward the two ladies lying motionless before him. Smith stops stock still at the sound of approaching footsteps. The door opens slowly. Lady Smith sweeps in, starts at the grizzly spectacle, and in a hoarse whisper lisps, "Thmith, what

have you done?"

D'ANNA: In "Murder", Baryshnikov plays a butler.

GORDON: One of the things that I think is astonishing about Misha's performance in "Murder" is that, in fact, what you are getting is a very carefully .. monitored... melodramatic performance, not a comic performance. And that melodrama that... that he is acting out, is.. in fact, enhances the comedy of the piece.

D'ANNA: David Gordon says that he's not an authority on acting. But he's still willing to assert that Mikhail Baryshnikov is not only a superb stage performer, he's a natural for the movies.

For National Public Radio, this is Jim D'Anna in New York.

(MUSIC)

END.

\* \* \*