## "The Arrival of An American Tail'is a Time for Jubilation.

Fievel takes his place in the animated pantheon with Jiminy Cricket, Dumbo and The Seven Dwarfs."

-Gene Shalit, "The Today Show"





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-Joel Siegel, ABC-TV



# Winter comes and goes with Gordon in B'klyn

### By CLIVE BARNES

DAVID GORDON, who has finished over the weekend his Brooklyn Academy of Music season, as part of BAM's avant-garde-ish Next Wave Festival, calls his company the Pick Up Company.

Well, his program - which I enjoved a little more than I somewhat gloomily expected - certainly picked up over the course of the evening.

The opening seemed transcendentally trashy - and more significantly it was highly boring.

Mr. Gordon himself, oddly garbed, emerges on a lift from the orchestra pit accompanied by a discount store's worth of TV's (all functioning tantalizingly) and other assorted electrical paraphernalia.

He strides into a ballet of seeming void, called "Transparent Means for Traveling Light." It is accompanied by some collagestyle musique concrete by John Cage, which is old-fashioned in that way that only the truly trendy can achieve.

But all that was the bad news. After a merciful intermission something like gaiety intruded on the proceedings.

Gordon hesitates to use the word choreographer for himself probably wisely - preferring to say "works constructed by David Gordon." His next "construction" was "My Folks," a cheerful piece.



Andrew Eccles

Valda Setterfield in David Gordon's "My Folks."

with happy (mostly) klezmer music, and celebrated his upbringing on New York's Lower East Side.

I say cheerful, although solemnity is the order of the company; hardly anyone ever cracks a smile. But this particular ritual, utilizing enough fabric to start a small Rag Trade, did have a lot of ethnic charm.

It must be admitted however that the dance element - the more significant "visual devices" were by Power Boothe - was not much more interesting than might have been expected from an ambitious high-school production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

The evening ended with Gordon's latest "construction," which he calls "The Seasons."

It starts with an ironic little poem spoken by his wife and principal dancer. Valda Setterfield. and continues as a festival of the seasons beginning with summer and ending with spring.

The dancers wander and swirl across the stage, changing into appropriate costumes. The music by Chuck Hammer lacks nothing in steam, and is a collage made of such fragments as Weill's "September Song" and Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring."

The highlight is Winter, where Mr. and Mrs. Gordon do a prancing slow duet like skating horses to a combination music of Tchaikovsky's "Winter Memories" and Constant Lambert's arrangement of Meyerbeer for "Les Patineurs."

The dancers all looked very good - what little one could of see them amid the construction work.