

Gordon Dancers Take a Giant Step

BY MARILYN TUCKER

The old loft and studio performance days for David Gordon's Pick Up Dance Company are a thing of the past, and something has been lost in transition.

Gordon brought his company to Zellerbach Auditorium at UC

Berkeley this past weekend, the more congenial performing space of the smaller Zellerbach Playhouse apparently being unavailable.

The easy amiability of the talking/dance pieces, which Gordon pioneered, is missed. Now, except for Valda Setterfield's ravishing voice-over prologue on the awful aspects of the weather in "The Seasons," there's no talk whatsoever. Much of the movement still has its kitchen-sink informality, but the line is much more tightly structured. There is also an increased reliance on sets, changing costumes, props, other scenic devices and even the musical score to season the texture of the dances.

But Gordon going big-time is better than nothing and better than most. No one can beat him for wit, whimsy, irony and likability.

The company — and it is a company now, not just a revolving group of "pick up" players — presented three Gordon constructions, the word that Gordon uses for his dances.

There were two local premieres, "Transparent Means for Travelling Light" and "The Seasons" and a reprise of last year's "My Folks."

"Transparent Means for Travelling Light," set to various pieces by John Cage, could never have been done in a studio. The whole purpose of the dance seems to be the interplay of dancers and the physical aspects of the performing space, from pit to booms, lights, wings. Power Boothe, Gordon's fre-

quent collaborator, provided these "visual circumstances," providing an inventive counterpoint to the hand stands, splits, running, elephant walks and daisy chains of Gordon's movement.

"The Seasons" begins in a summer session of sunbathing and bodybuilding, then moves through the year, ending once more at the beach when the cycle is completed. The splendid lot of dancers float in and out, nothing is too well defined. You can tell the seasons are changing with the added-on layers of Santo Loquasto's filmy white costumes as well as the choreographic references to everyday events, like sunbathing or ice skating. This is reinforced further by Chuck Hammer's collage score, with snatches of everything from "Summer in the City" to the Meyerbeer music used for the "Les Patineurs" skating ballet.

The central focus of the piece seems to be the long winter stroll by Gordon and Setterfield, who carefully pick their way about the stage as if they might be walking on ice. The long walk could be taken as a metaphor for Gordon's and Setterfield's quarter-century marriage, to which Gordon has often alluded in the old talking/dance days.

This kind of humanity and warmth has always set Gordon apart from the pack. It is also the focus for the vibrant "My Folks," an homage to Gordon's Jewish upbringing on the Lower East Side. To the wonderful clang of Klezmer music, the dancers present a pageant of life, love and family that is immensely moving.

UA TANFORAN PARK

588-0291

Tanforan Park Shopping Center,
El Camino Real at Sneath Lane, San Bruno

- LIGHT OF DAY (PG13) 12, 4, 8
 - PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED 2, 6, 10
 - MANNEQUIN (PG) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
 - LADY AND THE TRAMP (G) 12:15, 2:00, 3:45 ONLY
 - THE GOOD WIFE (R) 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
 - Woody Allen's RADIO DAYS (PG)
12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
- BARGAIN MATS DAILY UNTIL 6 p.m.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

AMC OLD MILL 6 Mountain View, 948-1116
Central Expwy. at San Antonio

- Discount Prices for all shows starting bet. 4:45 & 6:15
- DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR (R) 5, 7:30, 9:45
 - MANNEQUIN (PG) 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15
 - PLATOON (R) 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
 - THE GOOD WIFE (R) 5:15, 7:45, 9:55
 - LIGHT OF DAY (PG13) 4:30, 9:45
 - HANNAH AND HER SISTERS (PG13) 7:15

AQUARIUS 430 Emerson, P.A. 327-3240

- HANNAH AND HER SISTERS 7:15, 9:30
- BETTY BLUE 7:30
- DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE 9:45 (separate adm.) 9:45

BIJOU THEATRE 640 Emerson, P.A. 322-5665

- PLATOON Stereo 7:30, 9:55

CENTURY CINEMA 10 Mtn. View 960-0970
Former Moffett Dr. loc.—Stierlin Rd. at Fwy 101

- ***Barg. Price shows starting before 4p.m.***
- OVER THE TOP (PG) 12:35, 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10:10
 - BLACK WIDOW (R) 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:50
 - FROM THE HIP (PG) 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10
 - CRIMES OF THE HEART (PG13) 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40
 - BEDROOM WINDOW (R) 3:15, 7:20
 - GOLDEN CHILD (PG13) 1:15, 5:25, 9:30
 - DEAD OF WINTER (R) 3:15, 7:15
 - GOLDEN CHILD (PG13)
 - OUTRAGEOUS