

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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MUNCH BALLET TO BE PERFORMED AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. October 24, 1978. The North Carolina Dance Theatre, with the cooperation of the National Gallery of Art, will present the ballet, "Summernight," in conjunction with the opening of the National Gallery's special exhibition Edvard Munch: Symbols and Images, the most comprehensive exhibition by the Norwegian expressionist ever held in the United States.

The ballet, open to the public free of charge, will be performed at the Gallery in the East Building auditorium on Friday, November 10 (at 5, 6, and 7 p.m.) and on Saturday, November 11 (at 2, 3, and 4 p.m.).

"Summernight" was choreographed by Job Sanders, a distinguished Dutch choreographer and teacher, who was inspired to create his ballet after seeing the paintings and prints of Edvard Munch in Oslo. The subject matter of the paintings is closely related in spirit to the plays of Ibsen and Strindberg, depicting the plight and situation of women in the restrictive religious atmosphere of turn-of-the-century Norway. The ballet deals with a trilogy of women, representing "woman" in three stages of life. Sanders feels that the music of Arnold Schoenberg's "Five Pieces for Orchestra, Opus 16," fits the mood of his ballet perfectly.

Job Sanders, a native of Amsterdam, has performed with Balanchine's Ballet Society, the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and American Ballet Theatre.

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He has been a dancer and choreographer for the Netherlands Dance Theatre and artistic director of Ballet Classico de Mexico. Sanders has choreographed in Norway, Israel, the United States and throughout Europe. He presently resides in The Hague and is a member of the faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Holland in The Hague and Rotterdam.

The North Carolina Dance Theatre was organized in 1970 under the direction of Robert Lindgren, Dean of the School of Dance at the North Carolina School of the Arts, with the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. It is a professional touring company of fifteen dancers who perform classical and contemporary works, and is a professional affiliate of the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

The Dance Theatre has performed as far west as Texas and will appear in Alaska this coming year. Last season's touring schedule included the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, Wolftrap Farm Park, Virginia, and the American Dance Festival at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

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