

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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AMHERST BALLET THEATRE COMPANY RETURNS TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART FOR SPECIAL FAMILY PROGRAM

Washington, D.C., April 17, 1989 - The Amherst Ballet Theatre Company returns to the National Gallery of Art on Saturday, April 22, for two dance performances inspired by the paper cutouts from Henri Matisse's book, Jazz. This special family program, Matisse's Circus, weaves the cutouts' shapes and colors into costumes and sets with a theme based on Pierrot's heart and music from Barnum & Bailey's Circus. A recorded narration on Matisse's philosophy of life is played at intervals throughout the production.

Director and choreographer Therese Brady Donohue first brought the ballet company to the Gallery in March 1987 with a presentation, After Miró, based on Spanish artist Joan Miró's paintings from the 1940s and 1950s. Donohue, a former student of Mary Day's and the Washington School of Ballet, founded the Amherst company ten years ago. The company consists of dancers in junior and senior high school who are professionally trained in ballet, modern dance, and jazz and given the opportunity to perform, choreograph, and teach by the time of graduation. The company performs regularly in public school systems as well

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as in Yugoslavia and Austria and at the National Gallery of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Following the free performances on Saturday, each child who attends will be given a packet of material to create their own paper cutouts at home. Families with children ages 6 to 12 are asked to reserve places for either the 10:30 a.m. or 2 p.m. productions in the East Building Auditorium. Please call (202) 842-6249 weekdays for reservations.

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