



Photo by James Howell

Joffrey performer Gary Chryst

## Ballet corps—Joffrey's dream

By Val McPherson

There have been numerous reviews of performances of New York City's Joffrey Ballet. Hubert Saal said in *Newsweek* that "...there is a prime quality about the company, resplendent in their youth, their bouyant, scrubbed style, their confident and ardent spirit."

The successes of the Joffrey Ballet are due, in part, to Robert Joffrey, their artistic director and founder. Joffrey was born in Seattle in 1930. His father was from Afghanistan and his mother was of Italian descent.

Joffrey's first experience with dance came at the age of 11. He made his first solo debut at the age of 17.

Most famous dancers rise slowly to stardom. Joffrey, however, went straight to the top. While studying at the School of American Ballet, he was discovered by the late Gordon Hamilton and was inducted into Roland Petit's Ballets de Paris as a soloist.

Joffrey often dreamed of forming a company of his own. To do this, a dancer must be familiar not only with classical forms of ballet, but with all kinds of dance.

After studying modern dance, Joffrey became a soloist with the O'Donnell Ballet Company. In 1953, he appeared in the American Dance season at the Alvin Theater.

Joffrey's dream of his own ballet company was still alive. His other activities were discontinued as he began to concentrate all his efforts on the American Ballet Center which he had started. This center proved to be the birth of his own company.

In 1952 a group of Joffrey-trained dancers performed his works at the Young Men's Hebrew Assoc. The result was more appearances that year and the next with Ted Shawn's Internationally-known Jacob's Pillow festivals. Joffrey continued to concentrate on his choreography and the 1954-57 seasons saw his new works in the Ballet Theater Workshops and large-scale showings at the Phoenix Theater.

In 1954, an all-Joffrey program had been

presented at the YMHA, and Joffrey had gone to London to stage two of his works for Ballet Rambert. His dream finally came true in 1956, when his first small company went on tour. His fame in the world of ballet has been growing since.

The Joffrey Ballet will be performing in Lincoln Feb. 1 and 2. Their visit is being sponsored by the University of Nebraska and the National Bank of Commerce. The National Endowment for the Arts, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the Nebraska Arts Council and several community committees assisted in bringing the company to Pershing Auditorium.

Highlights of Friday night's performance include *Kettentanz*, a salute to the old Vienna of court balls and winegardens with music by Johann Strauss, Sr. and Johann Meyer, and choreography by Gerald Arpino; *The Moor's Pavane*, a portrait of how jealousy can shatter lives, with music by Henry Purcell and choreography by Jose Limon; *Parade* inspired by Cocteau and Picasso with music by Erik Satie and choreography by Leonide Massine; and *Interplay*, with music by Morton Gould and choreography by Jerome Robbins.

Saturday night's performance will feature *The Dream*, based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with music by Felix Mendelssohn and choreography by Sir Frederick Ashton; *Secret Places*, with music by Wolfgang Mozart and choreography by Gerald Arpino; and *Trinity*, a highly-acclaimed rock ballad choreographed by Arpino to the music of Alan Ridge and Lee Holdridge.

The Joffrey ballet will also give a school matinee on Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. It will be open to elementary and secondary school students.

The University of Nebraska Foundation is subsidizing a \$1 discount for students. Students with I.D. may purchase these tickets in Westbrook 113 until Friday.

After this week, tickets may be purchased in the National Bank of Commerce lobby, 13th and N Streets. Faculty and staff may save 10 per cent off the regular \$4 and \$6 cost of the tickets by using a Mastercharge card. Patron tickets are also available for \$10.

## Photo exhibit showing at Sheldon

By Diane Wanek

The first comprehensive exhibit of the photography of Ralston Crawford is on display at the Sheldon Art Gallery through Feb. 10.

Crawford has long been recognized as an important painter and lithographer. He is an exponent of the precisionist style, which means he presents his view via geometric analysis and refinement.

His photographic interests parallel his painting and printmaking. This exhibit of 225 photos was taken during 35 years. It includes shots in New Orleans, which reflect the world of jazz and musicians. A second series of New Orleans prints shows the city's cemeteries.

Other subjects are the bullfights of Spain and Mexico; the racetracks at Le Mans, Watkins Glen and Zandvoort; fishing ports in Maine and the Outer Hebrides; Coulee Dam; and one photo from his last visit to Lincoln in 1965.

Crawford will visit the Sheldon Art Gallery shortly before the exhibit closes.

## CORRECTION. . .

In Monday's special edition there was an incorrect phone no. in the **ARMY ROTC AD. . . Please talk to Russ Bayer at 472-2468** that's the correct number

## PIONEERS OF MODERN PAINTING

by Kenneth Clark

On Sunday and Tuesday afternoons at 3 o'clock the Theater will present Kenneth Clark's newest film series, *PIONEERS OF MODERN PAINTING*. In this series of six films, Lord Clark traces the lives and masterpieces of Paul Cezanne, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Edvard Munch, Henri Rousseau and Georges Seurat. Each film is 40 minutes long, in color, and no admission will be charged.

**SCHEDULE:** Edouard Manet, January 20 & 22; Paul Cezanne, February 10 & 12; Claude Monet, February 17 & 19; Georges Seurat, February 24 & 26; Henri Rousseau, March 3 & 5; Edvard Munch, March 17 & 19.

