

## 1968 BENNINGTON COLLEGE DANCE TOUR GROUP

### PROGRAM BIOGRAPHIES

MARTHA ARMSTRONG, a senior at Bennington, has lived in a variety of places: White Plains, New York; Benton Harbor, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; and finally in Charlotte, North Carolina. She has studied dance at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, at the Stone-Camryn School of Dance in Chicago, and at the Connecticut College Summer School of Dance. Before coming to Bennington, Marty had danced with the Chicago Contemporary Dance Company, Inc., and had opened her own school for the summer just before college. Although very interested in performing and choreography, Marty enjoys teaching most. She has spent her free time teaching children of various ages at the following schools: Park School's Summer Educational Enrichment Program in Brookline, Massachusetts, Francis W. Parker in Chicago, Chatham Hall in Virginia, Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont, and her own school in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Marty hopes to continue teaching under-privileged children after graduation. Her outside interests, when she has any spare time, include science and sewing. The focus on the first is in biology, and in the second on her own wardrobe. Marty is lecturer and teacher of master classes for the tour.

HOLLY BARRETT, a junior at Bennington, is from Kenilworth, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Outside of Bennington, she has studied dance with Trudl Zipper, Suzanne Wente, and Patricia Boyer. She has taught dance at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, and at the Garrison Forest School in Garrison, Maryland. Holly's main interests other than dance are political science, jazz, and the other arts. A knee injury has prevented Holly from travelling with the tour group, although she has worked along with Wendy Summit as co-chairman in booking the tour over the past ten months. She is spending this winter in Boston, teaching dance to children in Roxbury.

BRENDA KYDD spent the earlier years of her life in Columbus, Ohio. When she was nine her family moved to Philadelphia. She began dancing at the age of twelve in a children's ballet class. She continued dancing through junior high and high school in extra curricular activities. After being accepted by Bennington, she studied with Terez Nelson in Philadelphia during the interim after high school graduation. Since then she has studied with Mary Anthony in New York City. Her other interests are working with under-privileged children, reading, and sewing-- when she can, she makes most of her clothes. Brenda, a junior, is the Publicity Manager of the tour.



PENNY LARRISON, a sophomore at Bennington, has been dancing since the age of five when she began creative classes in suburban New Jersey. She studied ballet briefly with Florence Lessing, again in New Jersey, before devoting herself entirely to the contemporary form. From her sophomore year in high school until entering Bennington, she studied intensively at the Valerie Bettis Studio in New York City. Summers of the past four years have been spent as assistant instructor of dance at Holiday Hill Day Camp in Mendham, New Jersey. She has been teaching several types of dance, including under-the-table dance stretches known as Tumbling to the boys. Campers ranged in age level from pre-school to age thirteen and fourteen. A decided interest in the field of combined visual and performing arts is developing at present in Penny through experience with ceramics and stage design. The future is a bit uncertain. Perhaps performing will be the first aim after graduation, but teaching at the grammar and pre-school levels is the ultimate goal. Penny is in charge of sound for the group.

LISA NELSON was born in New York City. She started studying dance and choreographing dances when she was six years old at a local dance school in Queens, New York. When she was nine, she joined a creative performing group for teenagers directed by Nadya Romanoff, which performed in schools in three boroughs of New York City. She studied modern dance and ballet at the Juilliard School for Music and Dance,



under Pearl Lang and Alfredo Corvino, for five years before coming to Bennington. Her main interest is in choreography, and she attended a special choreography class at Juilliard. She also spent two summers at Connecticut College School for Dance in New London, Connecticut. Lisa has studied the classical guitar for four years and performed at the Spanish Pavilion of the 1964 World's Fair in New York. Lisa has also travelled through Canada on bicycle and lived in San Miguel, Mexico for a summer. A sophomore at Bennington, she is keeper of the Tour Log.

WENDY PERRON started dancing at an early age, with her mother as her first teacher. She soon began taking formal ballet lessons with Irine Fokine in Ridgewood, New Jersey, where she has lived most of her life. For eight years she studied intensively there and performed often with the Irine Fokine Ballet Company. During her last two years of high school, Wendy took classes regularly at the Robert Joffrey School and the Martha Graham School in New York City. At Bennington, she became more involved in modern dance, while also continuing other interests, including literature and psychology. In addition to her training with the Bennington dance faculty, Wendy has studied with David Wood, Bertram Ross, Betty Jones, and Paul Sanasardo in recent years. Part of this study took place at the Connecticut College Summer School of Dance in New London, Connecticut. Last winter, during Bennington's Non-Resident Term, she taught modern



dance to high school students at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School. Now in her junior year, Wendy is acting as co-regisseuse for tour.

VERNA RAKOFSKY, a native of New York City, is presently a junior at Bennington. Apart from her work there, she has studied at the High School of Performing Arts, the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, the New Dance Group, Henry Street Playhouse, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet School, Connecticut College School of Dance, and U.C.L.A. She has, in addition, studied voice and piano, taught dance to children at settlement houses in New York, taught mentally retarded children, worked at Harvard University as a research assistant in Physical Anthropology, and did summer work in existentialism at Columbia University. She has performed at the New Dance Group, with the School of Performing Arts, and with Jean Erdman's dance company at U.C.L.A. Upon graduating from Bennington, Verna plans to do modern dance concert work, teach and choreograph in New York City. She is wardrobe mistress for the group.

CATHERINE STERN is originally from New Orleans and went to high school in Colorado. She began dancing at Bennington and is now a senior there. Outside of Bennington she has studied at Connecticut College with Sally Stackhouse and Lucas Hoving and in New York with Merce Cunningham and Nina Fonaroff. Her other interests are Political Science,



Anthropology and baking bread. She is spending her Non-Resident Term in New York studying dance and working.

WENDY SUMMIT is a senior at Bennington. Although she has danced virtually all her life, she did not start training intensively until her high school years, when she choreographed for several musicals produced by the school choir. During this time and during her time away from Bennington, she has studied at the schools of Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham, Paul Sanasardo, Nina Fonaroff, and the New Dance Group, all in New York City. She danced for two summers at the Adelphi University Dance Workshop, and another with the Sophie Maslow Dance Company in a special creative arts program. Following her strong interest in working with children, Wendy spent one Non-Resident Term working in an institution for the retarded, and another with hospital children, all patients of leukemia. When she graduates this June, she plans to live in New York, dance professionally, and continue her work with children. Wendy is co-chairman and social liaison of the group.

LINDA WILDER comes from Baltimore, Maryland. She studied music and dance for many years at the Peabody Conservatory Preparatory Department in Baltimore before coming to Bennington. She spent five summers at the Junior Conservatory Camp in Lyndon Center, Vermont, and she has attended summer sessions at Connecticut College School of Dance. Linda graduated from Bennington as a dance major in June, 1967, and now lives in



New York City, where she continues to study dance at the Merce Cunningham Studio and the Thomas-Fallis Ballet School. Linda went on the Bennington College Dance Tour in 1966 and was keeper of the Log.

MICHAEL F. KALINOWSKI, Stage Manager for the Tour, is originally from Weisbaden, Germany. Before receiving a Drama Fellowship to Bennington, he studied at American University in Washington, D.C. and at New York University's School of the Arts, both on scholarship. He has acted in numerous plays across the country, with many companies, including the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival. He worked as House Manager for the National Theatre, also in Washington, D.C., and this summer directed A Delicate Balance in Wisconsin. In the 1964 Ohio State University finals, he was given the award for "Best Actor" for Under Milkwood. He organized and chaired the National Student Committee on the Arts, now chaired by Lynda Bird Johnson. Michael's experience outside the theatre includes work as an advertising consultant, as a systems engineer with IBM, and experimental research in psychology at the NYU Medical Center. After finishing at Bennington, he may respond to an invitation by Marcel Marceau to study with him in Paris.

FRED MATHEWS has spent most of his life in Pueblo, Colorado. In high school he was active in student government and sports. Outside of school he was a philatelist and avid homing pigeon



fancier. In 1963 he entered the University of Colorado as a pre-med major. It was there that he began dancing and was soon offered a scholarship to attend Stephens College as a special dance student. His next three years were spent there studying with Harriette Ann Gray. Those summers he studied at Perry-Mansfield Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where he taught for the first time last summer. In 1967 he came to Bennington where he hopes to complete his undergraduate work. After graduation he plans to form a small dance company in the West. Fred is Business Manager for the Tour.

ANDE PECK has lived in upper New York for many years. He began his college studies there, majoring in English and education. At the age of twenty he started dancing. He first studied with Harriette Ann Gray at Stephens College in Missouri and at the Perry-Mansfield Camp in Colorado. He came to Bennington in 1966. Professional horseback riding and swimming have also been important to Ande. He has travelled through all of the United States and many parts of Europe. After graduation, he hopes to continue work in dance in Europe or in New York. Ande acts as co-regisseur for the group.

WHITTAKER SHEPPARD is a brilliant young star rising on the modern dance scene. He is a suave, debonair gallant interested in groovy people, times, and cars, in that order. He has studied with many of the greats of the dance world-- Martha, Jack, Joe, Jane, and Viola. He has danced as a principal for modern dance groups everywhere. After seeing Mr. Sheppard move



with his quick, sure, dramatic and sensuous technique, those who have seen him can quote to audiences who have not yet been thrilled by this spectacular young dancer the Beatles' famous words, "A splendid time is guaranteed for all."

While some of the above is true, much of it is not to be taken seriously. However much Mr. Sheppard, or Harry as he is better known to most, would like his biography to read this way, he is in actuality a (would you believe) serious young man who has been on fellowship to Bennington for three years. Prior to coming to Bennington, he studied ballet for a year and a half with James Jamieson. He has since studied with Merce Cunningham, Paul Sanasardo, Erick Hawkins, Robert Joffrey and at the studios of the National Ballet Company, and the Washington School of Ballet. During 1967, he was awarded a performing scholarship to Connecticut College School of Dance in New London, Connecticut. He has danced professionally for the Contemporary Dance Company of Washington, D.C., and for the Hartford Conservatory in Connecticut. Outside of dance, Harry is interested in music and economics, (groovy people, times, cars, money, rising stars, etc., etc...)