

Graduating Class Of Performing Arts In Dance Program

The School of Performing Arts exists as a city commitment to one of its most famous industries, the stage. Each year it graduates young men and women trained in dance, music and acting into professional careers. On Saturday it showed the current graduating class of dance majors at the High School of Printing auditorium.

The show-stopper was a piece choreographed by Suzanne Walker called, directly enough, "Show Stopper." It was designed for eight young women—Karen Ackerman, Mary Beblowski, Barbara Ellioraga, Leslie Halpern, Lucy Popper, Pamela Risenhoover, Ora Torres and Annette White—and carried them through some simple barre exercises to a high-kicking chorus line. It was sharp and bright, and showed its young dancers off well.

The late Doris Humphrey's "Water Study" was performed with the undulating flow that makes for its visual sumptuousness. It was restaged from a Labanotation score, making one grateful for notation, by Charlotte Wile with the assistance of Penny Frank of the school's dance faculty. Miss Frank's own "A Light Wind" was a playful romp that tossed dancers back and forth gracefully in ever-changing patterns.

Ethnic dance was represented by Sun Ock Lee's stately setting of a Korean court dance, Matteo's Spanish "In the Spirit of the Jota" and Robert Powell's "Vahine." Mr. Powell, who was far better known as a dancer with the Martha Graham Company, here presented a delicate South Pacific study. It received an accomplished performance if not a particularly brilliant one, as did the program in general. It was an afternoon of competent but not dazzling individual dancing.

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