

Special
Feature**Cub Interview • Ballet**

On Wednesday, March 5, 1969, the Erie Ballet Company presented a demonstration on ballet in the Reed Lecture Hall at Behrend Campus. Statia Sublette, the founder of the company, and Paul Hangauer, her dance partner, gave a synopsis on the history of ballet dancers. Some of these factors are the rhythm of the music, the choreography, the costumes, and the setting.

This can be better explained through an interview which Chuck Miller and I had with Mrs. Sublette and Mr. Hangauer before the demonstration. Upon entering the lecture hall, Chuck and I witnessed Mr. Hangauer tripping off the stage. This made us feel more informal towards the dancers because it showed us that they were human too. Thus the interview was more like a conversation with friends. The interview went like this:

Dom: First of all, we would like you to tell us a little about your background and how you got started in ballet.

Statia: That's very easy, my mother took me to ballet school so that I could have grace and poise but I fell all over the stage. Little did she know that I was ever going to take it very seriously and actually stay with it. ~~She had no intention of sending me in to be a professional dancer.~~

Chuck: How old were you when you started?

Statia: Five. I started at a terrible, terrible school and fortunately we had very fine friends in New York who visited us and said "This

child appears to have potential talent and she should be in a good school."

Chuck: Could you tell when you are five years old?

Statia: Oh, you can tell by rhythmic coordination, expressive ability. We went to find a professional school in Albany, New York and my home is in Schenectady then I went to a professional school when I was ten. I stayed in New York in that time. I've been with four opera companies.

Chuck: You studied over seas, didn't you?

Statia: Yes.

Chuck: In Sweden, wasn't it?

Statia: No, I taught in Stockholm as guest teacher there two years ago and attended two international. . . . Oh! Look at the extension cord we have (it was a bright orange extension cord)..

Paul: We're all set. (He was setting the stage in the background). Very good.

Statia: Two international seminars in Copenhagen. I was one of three American dancers and there were dancers from every country in the world and I danced with the Cuban Company. This was before Castro took over. I loved it there very much. Let's see, I worked with light opera and I staged musicals.

Dom: How long have you been with the Erie Company?

Statia: I founded it in 1951. I'm currently director of the dance department in Chautauqua and the Histor-

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