

INTERVIEW (cont.)

by D. Lamberti & C. Miller

Stasia: Paul, it's your turn.

Dom: Would you tell us a bit about your background?

Paul: Well, I guess. I'm from Buffalo, New York and I started dancing when I was about twelve, and like Stasia, I got stuck with a very bad teacher. At sixteen I finally realized that and I began jumping. Then I went to New York City when I was 18 or 19 years old. I studied there did summer stock, I worked with some off Broadway companies and did some television, and I got drafted.

Dom: What shows did you do on television?

Paul: I did an Esther Williams Water Spectacular, a Steve Allen Show, Herb Shriner Show, General Electric Show. Then I went to Fort Knox and went into the tanks which is pretty rough on a dancer. I sort of danced my way out of the tank and they were very happy to ship me over to Germany. Then I got into special services. It was great, because we did shows all over Europe. Then we were touring one show when I got called by some commander who sent me to Africa for three days for the Prince of Morocco. Then we came back to the States. I started touring with ballet companies. About five years ago I went back to Buffalo because of illness in the family. I stayed there and taught with Stasia in Erie, Youngstown and Chataquus. I free-lanced from there on.

Chuck: How is the Erie Ballet related to the Buffalo Ballet?

Paul: I got the inspiration to start a ballet company in Buffalo from Stasia because she has

an excellent, well formed company in Erie, and watching her operations here, I respected it so much. I started a company in Buffalo and tried to, in a small way, to follow in the footsteps of the Erie company.

Chuck: The Erie company is larger than the Buffalo company?

Paul: This varies. Unfortunately our purpose is to train and most people to want to go into dancing professionally. So when you get them ready, they leave you. So one year you have a very good year and the next year you have a very lean year.

Stasia: Are you kids coming tonight?

Dom: Yes.

Stasia: Now listen, I did you a favor didn't I, talking into your box. Right?

Dom: Yes.

Stasia: Will you polka with me?

Dom: Polka?

Stasia: Will you?

Chuck: I don't know how to polka.

Stasia: I'll do the whole thing. I've got this huge skirt and they won't even see your feet.

Paul: You'll have to sit in some place where it's convenient, like an aisle seat.

Stasia: What is your first name?

Dom: Dom.

Chuck: Chuck.

Stasia: Chuck?!!

Chuck: Yea.

Stasia: Okay. You don't have to sit next to each other, do you?

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