

# DANCE NEWS

The First and Only Newspaper in U.S.A. Devoted to the Dance

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Vol. XXVI, No. 4

NEW YORK, N. Y., APRIL, 1955

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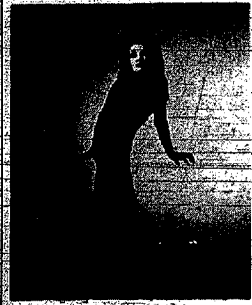
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PARIS, March 17.—Jack Monts, 24, an American dancer in the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas, was found dead with two bullet wounds in his head in a villa in Cannes. Nearby, also dead, was Jacques Huet, 29, a French friend of the dancer with whom he shared the villa during the company's season in Cannes; Huet was identified by the police as a Paris office worker and his death was called apparent suicide by asphyxiation.

As the Cannes police reconstructed the chain of events, Huet shot and killed Monts with a .22-calibre rifle sometime during the night of March 13. He then remained with the body probably until the morning of the 16th, when he plugged up the windows and doors of the villa's dining room, sawed out part of an illumination gas pipe and turned on the gas to die near the body of his friend.

The Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas was playing a successful six-week season in Cannes which opened Feb. 2. The season closed March 13 and the following morning at 8 the company took an autobus to the airport in nearby Nice for its flight to Cairo, Egypt, its next engagement. When the company arrived in Nice and boarded the plane it noticed the absence of Jack Monts. The theatre management in Cannes was hurriedly notified by telephone and asked to send someone over to see if anything had happened to the dancer.

### "He is Gone"

One of the stagehands rushed over to the villa. His bell was answered by a man who said: "You are looking for Jack Monts? He is gone."

And then he closed the door.

Two days later, in the afternoon of the 16th, neighbors of the villa noticed a strong odor of gas escaping through the shut windows and notified the police.

### Two Bodies

The police broke down a door and entered the villa to find Jack Monts' rigid body lying in a pool of coagulated blood on the floor of the dining room. Near the body lay another dead man, Jacques Huet, his body still warm.

According to the police it took Huet more than forty-eight hours to decide to commit suicide. But once he made up his mind he was very thorough about the preparations. As if not trusting the efficacy of the gas, Huet swallowed a number of sleeping pills. An empty bottle, which had apparently contained the pills was found under the washstand.

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Jack Monts, whose name was given by the Cannes police as John Muntis, joined the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas in August, 1954.

### Was Good Dancer

On Oct. 14, 1951 Jack Monts played the role of Orestes in Dale Edward Fern's dance adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's "Mourning Becomes Electra" at Amato Opera Theatre, New York. Reviewing the performance in the November 1951 issue of DANCE NEWS, Winthrop Palmer wrote:

"It is very agreeable to be able to say that Jack Monts acted the role of Orestes magnificently. Mr. Monts can dance as well as act, as those who saw him in the Tudor ballets at Jacob's Pillow last summer will agree."

In the seasons, 1952-53 and 1953-54 the late dancer was a member of the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in New York.

## Playhouse Books Five Events

The calendar of dance events for April at the Henry Street Playhouse (466 Grand Street, New York) includes the following:

- Apr. 1, High School Dance Workshop concert; Apr. 6, Playhouse Dance Workshop concert; Apr. 16, Midi Garth dance concert; Apr. 23 & 24, Playhouse Dance Company concert; Apr. 30, Edith Stephen dance concert.
- All performances begin at 8:40 except Apr. 1 which begins at 8 p.m. Information about reservations, etc. OR 4-1100.

## Primus to Close Students Series

Pearl Primus will make her first appearance since the birth of her child Sat. eve., April 16, in a program entitled Living Africa Tracing its Influence on the New World, at the Central High School of Needle Trades. She will be assisted by her partner, Percival Borde, who has recently arrived from Trinidad.

This will be the concluding event of the 1954-55 series of Dance Recitals for Students.

Later in the year Miss Primus is scheduled to go on a concert tour with a troupe of some twelve dancers, drummers, musicians and a singer under the management of Kenneth Allen Associates.

## CLUB TO DO SHOW

New York Ballet Club will hold its Fifth Annual Choreographers Night on Sunday evening, May 22 at Carnegie Recital Hall.

New ballets by Salvatore Alvarez, Benjamin Harkavy, Louis Johnson, and Si-Lan Chen will be given.

## Kayewholm On Terry Labs

The final two events in the series Dance Laboratory conducted by Walter Terry, dancer, will take place Apr. 2 and May 1, at 2:30 p.m. at the YM-YWHA, Lexington Ave. at 92nd Street, N.Y.

The April interview will feature Nora Kaye whose topic will be The Art of the Ballerina.

In May, Hanya Holm will be the closing attraction with an interview on Modern Dance on the Broadway Stage and in the Lyric Theatre.

A few single admission tickets at \$1.50, 2.00, 2.50 and 3.00 are still available.

## Walter Hicks, Co. At Henry Street



Walter Hicks

Walter Hicks and a company of 15 dancers and musicians will make their New York debut in a joint performance with Nala Najan and company, Sun, Apr. 12, at 8:40 p.m. at the Henry Street Playhouse, N.Y.

Hicks, who with several members of his company is currently appearing in House of Flowers, toured South America and the West Indies for three years with great success, except for several months during which they were stranded in Haiti. The dancers put this time to good use, however, by studying voodoo dance rituals in villages near Port au Prince. The April performance will introduce some of this material to Manhattan, along with dances from Cuba not seen here before. Nala Najan will be assisted by Yedida and Lalli in dances from India. The performance is being managed by D. D. Livingston.

## EDITH STEPHEN

Edith Stephen, assisted by Astri Bronn, Edward Kalata, Dolores Marcus, and Erna Lindner, will present her dance concert Sat. eve., April 30 at the Henry Street Playhouse, New York.

The program is entitled Dreams and Realities in the Shape of Time. It will be danced to music by Morton Feldman, Meyer Kupferman and Moondog. Harold Pearlstein will be the pianist, Rosalind Musoline the singer and Bert Neff the narrator.

Tickets are \$1.50 and 1.80.

## Louis Horst Honored at Capezio Award Luncheon



The dais at the Capezio Award Luncheon: (seated) Doris Humphrey, John Martin, Louis Horst, Eli Wallach; (standing) Dr. William Schuman, Walter Terry, Anatole Chujov, Martha Hill, Ben Sommers. (Photo Walter E. Owen)

Louis Horst, recipient of the fourth annual Capezio Award for services to the dance, was honored with a luncheon at the St. Regis Hotel on March 15.

The award cited "his unique contribution to the modern dance as composer, accompanist, teacher, and general force for progress." As usual, a check for \$500 accompanied the award.

Former pupil of Louis Horst at the Neighborhood Playhouse made the presentation speech. He was Eli Wallach, eminent actor now starring on Broadway in Teahouse of the August Moon. He recalled his days as a student and how, with an unerring eye, Louis Horst always detected exactly what passage of his dance composition he had not bothered to work on but was improvising and how invariably this was the passage he would be asked to repeat.

In accepting the award, Louis Horst said he was not going to pretend to a false modesty and make a rebuttal to the Award Committee's decision. He was very proud that, through his modern dance was being honored, for he felt that the Award was an acknowledgment of all the pioneering that he had watched and in which he had taken part during his forty years of association with the movement.

### Some Guests

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New ballets by Salvador Alvarez, Benjamin Harkavy, Louis Johnson, and Si-Lan Chen will be given.

## Kaye/Holm On Terry Labs

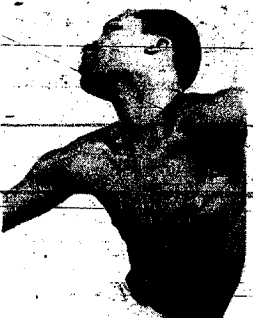
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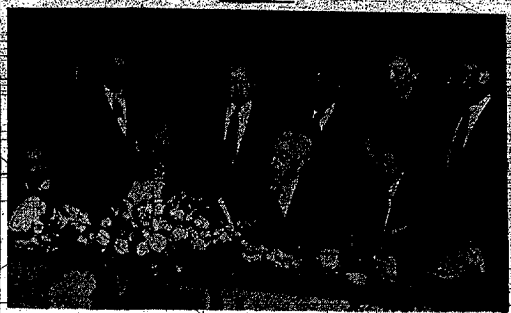
## EDITH STEPHEN

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The program is entitled Dreams and Realities in the Shape of Time. It will be danced to music by Morton Feldman, Meyer Kupferman and Moundog. Harold Pearlstein will be the pianist, Rosalind Musolino the singer and Bert Neil the narrator.

Tickets are \$1.50 and 1.80.

## Louis Horst Honored at Capezio Award Luncheon



The dais at the Capezio Award Luncheon: (seated) Doris Humphrey, John Martin, Louis Horst, Eli Wallach; (standing) Dr. William Schuman, Walter Terry, Anatole Chujov, Martha Hill, Ben Sommers. (Photo Walter E. Owen)

Louis Horst, recipient of the fourth annual Capezio Award for services to the dance, was honored with a luncheon at the St. Regis Hotel on March 15.

The award cited "his unique contribution to the modern dance as composer, accompanist, teacher, and general force for progress". As usual, a check for \$500 accompanied the award.

Former pupil of Louis Horst at the Neighborhood Playhouse made the presentation speech. He was Eli Wallach, eminent actor now starring on Broadway in Teahouse of the August Moon. He recalled his days as a student and how, with an unerring eye, Louis Horst always detected exactly what passage of his dance composition he had not bothered to work on but was improvising and how invariably this was the passage he would be asked to repeat.

In accepting the award, Louis Horst said he was not going to pretend to a false modesty and make a rebuttal to the Award Committee's decision. He was very proud that, through him, modern dance was being honored, for he felt that the Award was an acknowledgment of the pioneering that he had watched and in which he had taken part during his forty years of association with the movement.

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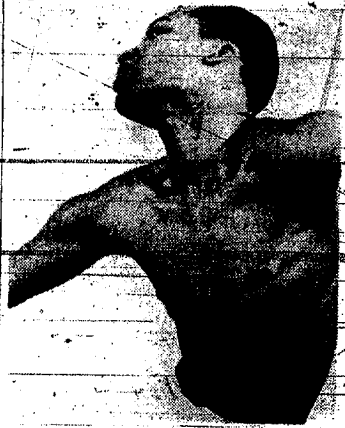
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## Louis Capezi



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