

On Your Toes

by Linda Giancaspro
And Nina Power

It was with great pleasure that we accepted an invitation to the private showing of the Joffrey II Choreographer's Workshop held at the City Center on February 19. The showcase was offered in memoriam of its director Richard Englund who died on February 15.

The first piece, *Vigil*, with music by Charles Ives and choreography by Diane Coburn Bruning was a progressively modern dance done with all but one dancer on their knees. Although this piece did create many beautiful images on the floor, using the floor solely on ones knees did present many limitations.

Sonata No. 2 with music by Johannes Brahms and choreography by Daniel Pelzig was a perfect choice for this young, talented

troupe. It was here that the dancers displayed marvelous training and technique. The boys were sound in their partnering skills, the girls were lovely and expressive bringing the Brahms selection to life. The lead couple, Cheryl Madeux and Oscar Ruge did an excellent job of portraying a loving partnership.

Christopher Freeman entered the stage circling with wonderfully placed arabesques to begin the final piece *Three Nocturnes*. With music by Frederic Chopin, the choreographer, Mark Haim chose to present the company in a walk through life. The concept "life goes on around you" seemed to be the meaning behind this piece. As dancers slowly walked in a never ending circle around the edge of the stage each took their turn in the center of what seemed to be the dance of life.