

Daily Variety

September 19, 1986

## BALLET REVIEW

### Joffrey Ballet

#### THE GARDENS OF BOBOLI

(Dorothy Chandler Pavillion; 3197 seats; \$35 top)

Mark Haim's "Gardens Of Boboli" is a sensuously romantic experience. The muted turquoise and lavender tones and the precise, lyrical rhythms immediately take one into this exquisite classically modern ballet.

Excellent choreography brings out the best in the dancers, and this is no exception: the company has never looked or performed better. How fitting that the Joffrey has chosen this bright young choreographer's new one-act piece to premiere in its 30th anniversary season.

The movement is clean, compact and angular, yet flowing. Set to the classical sounds of Albinoni, the six movements enable the nine dancers to work as a tight ensemble. The piece is also quite strong in the pas de deux and pas de trois sections.

Whether dancing as a soloist or in her pas de deux with Tyler Walters, Leslie Carothers shimmers and Walters is equally as charismatic.

Parrish Maynard, Peter Narbutas and Roger Plaut are excellent in their pas de trois, which creates human body sculpture seemingly influenced by "Pilobolus."

Penelope Curry diffuses shimmering light on Sally Ann Parsons' wonderfully muted water-tone costumes, creating sea nymphs who swim in this magical garden.

Also on the program, "Cloven Kingdom" is an excellent satirical piece with tones of T.S. Eliot's "The Cocktail Party." Paul Taylor's choreography takes one into the surreal world behind the cocktail chatter. The company is quite strong in this piece, as are the superb visuals.

Two of Gerald Arpino's works completed the program, including his stunning modern classic, "Round Of Angels." Set to Mahler, it was beautifully danced by Carothers and an excellent ensemble of men.

*Pros.*