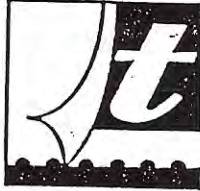


REVIEWS



HEATER

A dose of culture is always great, and even more rewarding for families when the program is especially geared to adults and children. This past fall, Dance Theater Workshop (DTW) introduced a new series — Family Matters — with exactly this in mind, presenting four Saturday afternoon performance events devoted to young audiences throughout the 1993-94 season. Says DTW director David White, "Family Matters is dedicated to broadening the imaginative and creative experiences of today's youth."

We attended the second presentation, "Dances by Very Young Choreographers", directed by Ellen Robbins, a NYC dance instructor acclaimed for her work with children. As we watched the 15 solos, choreographed and performed by dancers ranging in age from seven to 16, my girls were continuously delighted, and I was duly impressed. These weren't just cute dance students; they were young modern dancers using their bodies, and their unique voices, to communicate joy, malice, love, silliness, pride, conflict, and much more. We were all inspired by the individual accomplishments, and by the show as a whole, and we left intent on returning for more.

The series continues on January 22 with

singer/storyteller Tiye Giraud, and in April with choreographer Tim Hadel. Performances are at 3pm; tickets are \$12 adults, \$6 children under 12. In May, Family Matters offers a two-day workshop for teens ages 11 to 17 in modern and hip-hop technique.

Family Matters is presented in DTW's Bessie Schonberg Theater at 219 West 19th Street. Call (212) 924-0077 for reservations and information.

— Susan Hodara,
with Sofie (7) and Ariel (5)

Tired of the same old fairy tales? Here's a "new" one — a story New Yorker Leon Van Leeuwen wrote in his spare time several years ago, and which is now in musical form: "OLAF who never walked, but always danced". The title sums it up: Olaf is a boy who lives for his dancing feet, but there are those who say that's not normal — his parents, his girlfriend, all the merchants who won't give him work for fear of his knocking over goods or distracting customers. Finally, he's taken in by a dance-loving Queen, who attempts to find him a dancing girl to love. There's a happy ending, a moral to share, and for ages 5 to 8, a fun little musical that includes nice costumes, some spirited song-and-dance numbers, and some good old-fashioned fun. At the Emily Dickinson Theatre in P.S.75, West End Avenue and 95th Street (enter on 95th). Tickets: \$8 adults, \$6 children. Reservations: (212) 666-1716. Weekends through January 16, at 2:30pm, with an additional 7pm performance on January 14.

— H.R.F

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