

# Open-Air Ballet Arrangements

PREPARATIONS are in full swing for the open-air performance of ballet which will be presented in the grounds of Maynardville, Wynberg, on Friday night by the U.C.T. Ballet under the direction of Dulcie Howes. The music will be provided by an orchestra of about 40 players conducted by Dr. Erik Chisholm. The programme consists of "Les Sylphides" and the Dulcie Howes ballets "St. Valentine's Night" and "Les Diversions."

The property of Maynardville was purchased recently by the Cape Town Municipality, and Friday night will be the first occasion on which it will be thrown open to the public. If the experiment is a success, there are possibilities of a permanent open-air theatre.

## THREE TERRACES

To maintain the sylvan effect the natural forest background, additional trees will be placed around the stage. To ensure that every spectator will have a perfect view of the point-work in the ballets, the audience will be seated on three terraces looking down on to the stage.

The lighting for the ballet, as might be imagined, will be very complicated. Special lines are being laid by the Cape Town Municipality, and operations will be supervised by Mr. E. Marshall, who is responsible for the lighting at the Little Theatre.

The idea for the performance was brought from Scandinavia by a member of the committee of the Athlone Nursery School Committee, who are responsible for the arrangements. All proceeds will go to the Community Chest. Tickets may be obtained from Polliacks or the NU-Pharmacy, Claremont.

## Success of Ballet in the Open

CAPE TOWN has seldom seen a lovelier performance of "Les Sylphides" than that danced by the University Ballet under the stars at Maynardville, Wynberg, on Friday night.

In spite of threatening skies, the rain held off for this ballet, a slender sprinkling of stars, and a backdrop of cascading willows created a dreamlike setting in perfect keeping with the racefulness of diaphanous costumes and the dancers' mothlike movements.

It is no small tribute to the dancers that a heavy drizzle during the last ballet, "Les Diversions" (by Dulcie Howes, company's director), did not distract the large audience, and that no one attempted to take shelter until the final "curtain".

Another Howes ballet on the programme, which was specially selected for its suitability to outdoor presentation, was "St. Valentine's Night", also seen to greater advantage in a woodland setting.

The orchestra was under the baton of Dr. E. Chisholm and the proceeds of the performance, which was arranged by the Athlone Nursery School Committee, will go to the Community Chest.

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# U.C.T. Ballet "Better Than London"

THE Cape Town University Ballet's open-air ballet performance at Maynardville was better than the open-air show at Regent's Park, London, and equal to anything ever seen in England. Mrs. R. Caradoc Davies, one of the organizers, who attended last night's dress rehearsal, told the Cope Times. The open-air ballet, which will be staged on the oval terraces at Maynardville to-night only, is presented by Dulcie Howes, and accompanied by a 40-piece orchestra conducted by Dr. Erik Chisholm.

## FINE VIEW

Mrs. Davies said: "The terraces, from which the audience looks down on to the dancers, give a fine view of every movement, and the lighting is superb. "This is something South Africa has never seen before."

To-night's performance is in aid of the Community Chest. Seats may be booked at Polliack's or at the New Pharmacy, Claremont. The performance will not be repeated.

\*Teacher Training and the Athlone Nursery School