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DELHI TOWN EDITION.

The Statesman

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REG. NO. D-687

DELHI, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1960



Richard Maitland's International Dance Theatre (Fine Arts): Mr Maitland is not only a splendid dancer, in many styles, from the purely classical to the latest American stage dancing, he is also a fine producer, an inspired teacher and an inventive choreographer. It is, in fact, difficult to describe the charm of his "inaugural" ballet show. The little children, some of them no more than visible to the naked eye (they are so small), are entirely enchanting; and not only do they dance well, with a feeling for grace and a sense of rhythm, but they seem to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

The advantage this Western style of teaching children to dance has over the Indian classical systems is that it is so suitable to the childish mind. In Bharata Natya there is only one way of teaching babes and adults: in Western stage dancing simplicity prevails, and the little children learn, to perfection, their little dancing art.

There are, to be sure, older dancers too, well in their teens, and Mr Maitland and Mrs Ruth Woodman must be congratulated on the obvious results of their teaching. But first and foremost bouquets must be handed to the production, the delightful little ideas that make excellent short ballet items, and to the two chief dancers: Mr Maitland and Mrs Woodman.

Dresses, lighting and stage sets are all full of the professional touch, however simple they be; some of the young ladies' tutus and leotards are very much professional, indeed. And a word of admiration to Mrs Chris Rosenfeld for a hilariously comic outfit and a most amusing little performance.

The shows are in aid of the Bengal Flood victims. There is another show today, at 6-30 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre.