

Canadians Said Lacking Faith In Their Talents

By **RENDRA LARGE**
OTTAWA (CP) — Canadian performers haven't enough faith in their own talent, says a young ballet dancer who came home to make her career after studying in England.

Stephanie Finch, 20-year-old native of Kelowna, B.C., has been a member of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's corps de ballet for the last two years. Before that she spent a year in London studying at the Arts Educational School and the Audrey de Vos School of Ballet.

"From meeting Canadian artists abroad I've found that people here have a great deal of talent. But they haven't enough faith, so they leave the country. Then they often don't want to come back."

Miss Finch, described as "star material" by J. S. Sawchyn, general manager of the Winnipeg Ballet, is one who did want to come back.

"I got very lonely in Britain and I found the schools too confining. The British dance environment is a very traditional one. I found I had to do either strict classical work or modern dance. I couldn't do both, the way I can in Canada."

Now a rising member of the Royal Winnipeg's corps of young and talented dancers, Miss Finch talked about her career before a performance here.

She said she would rather dance in Canada than in any other country.

"Being from the West, I'd always had my heart set on the Royal Winnipeg. It's everything I want in a ballet company. Our director, Arnold Spoor, is terrific and everybody in the company is so friendly."

Stephanie, a tiny, slender girl with big dark eyes and long black hair which she keeps wound up in a chignon, first studied ballet at the age of four in Kelowna.

"I was so bad that mother finally took me out of the class."

Later, when she was in Grade 4, she became interested in dancing, stimulated by a friend taking lessons.

Her first teacher was Mary Pratten of Kelowna. She then studied under such well-known Canadian teachers as Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally.

Each summer Stephanie went to the Banff School of Fine Arts for more training, and it was there that she first worked with choreographer Brian MacDonald, who has created two of the works on the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's fall program.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Finch, in 1962 offered her the choice of beginning a university course or studying in England. She chose England.

Though she found the experience useful, she still has a few doubts about passing up her education.

TOO CONFINING
 "In this profession you haven't much time to continue your education formally. You have to learn from the people you meet and the places you see. I think, too, that it's a bad idea to confine yourself too much to the members of the company. I like to meet people on the outside, too."

Rather serious in conversation off stage, Miss Finch sparkles in the glow of the footlights in such demanding ballets as Aimez Vous Bach and the high-spirited Les Winoops de Doo.



THE GLOW of the footlights reflect on the face of 20-year-old Stephanie Finch as she readies for a performance of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet on the stage of Ottawa's Capitol Theatre. The promising young dancer, a member of the Royal Winnipeg's Corps de Ballet, is a native of Kelowna, B.C. (CP Photo)

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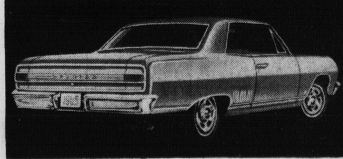
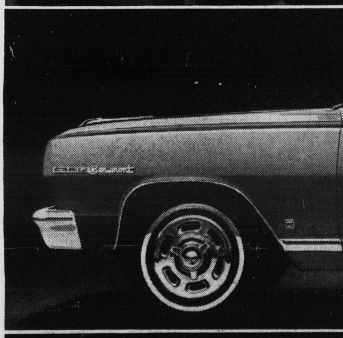
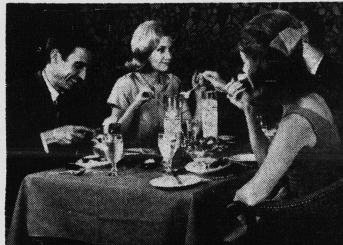
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