



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 02:23:52

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

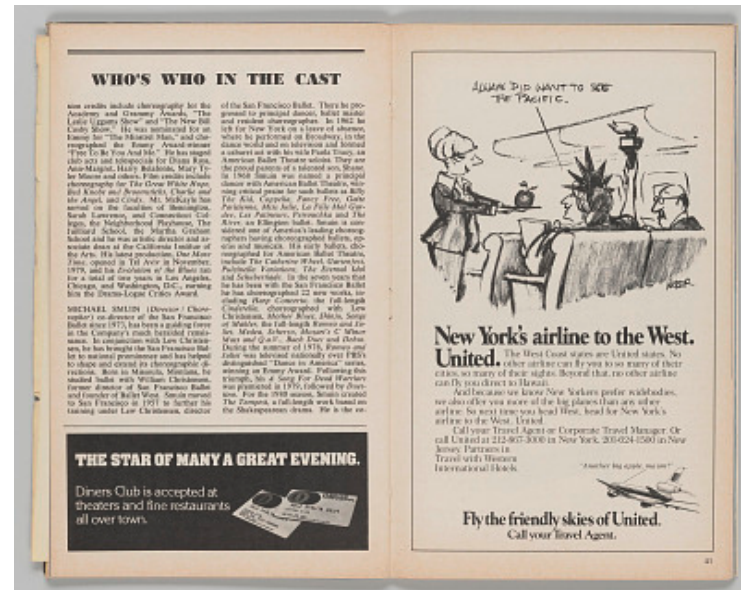
sion credits include choreography for the Academy and Grammy Awards, "The Leslie Uggams Show" and "The New Bill Cosby Show" He was nominated for an Emmy for "The Minstrel Man," and choreographed the Emmy Award-winner "Free To Be You And Me". He has staged club acts and telespecials for Diana Ross, Ann-Margret, Harry Belafonte, Mary Tyler Moore and others. Film credits include choreography for The Great White Hope, Bed Knobs and Broomsticks, Charlie and the Angel, and Cindy. Mr. McKayle has served on the faculties of Bennington, Sarah Lawrence, and Connecticut Colleges, the Neighborhood Playhouse, The Juilliard School, the Martha Graham School and he was the artistic director and associate dean at the California Institute of the Arts. His latest production, One More Time, opened in Tel Aviv in November, 1979, and his Evolution of the Blues ran for a total of two years in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., earning him in the Drama-Logue Critics Award.

MICHAEL SMUIN (Director / Choreographer) co-director of the San Francisco Ballet since 1973, has been a guiding force in the Company's much heralded renaissance. In conjunction with Lew Christensen, he has brought the San Francisco Ballet to national prominence and has helped to shape and extend its choreographic directions. Born in Missoula, Montana, he studied ballet with William Christensen, former director of San Francisco Ballet and founder of Ballet West. Smuin moved to San Francisco in 1957 to further his training under Lew Christensen, director of the San Francisco Ballet. There he progressed to principal dancer, ballet master and resident choreographer. IN 1962 he left for New York on a leave of absence, where he performed on Broadway, in the dance world and on television and formed a cabaret act with his wife Paula Tracy, an American Ballet Theatre soloist. They are the proud parents of a talented son, Shane. In 1968 Smuin was named a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre, winning critical praise for such ballets as Billy The Kid, Coppelia, Fancy, Free, Gaité Parisienne, Miss Julie, La Fille Mal Gardée, Les Patineurs, Petrouchka and The River, an Ellington ballet. Smuin is considered one of America's leading choreographers having choreographed ballets, operas and musicals. His early ballets, choreographed for American Ballet Theatre, include The Catherine Wheel, Gartenfest, Pulcinella Variations, The Eternal Idol and Schubertiade. In the seven years that he has been with the San Francisco Ballet he has choreographed 22 new works, including Harp Concerto, the full-length Cinderella, choreographed with Lew Christensen, Mother Blues, Shinju, Songs of Mahler, the full-length Romeo and Juliet, Medea, Scherzon, Mozart's C Minor Mass and Q.a.V., Bach Duet and Debut. During the summer of 1978, Romeo and Juliet was televised nationally over PBS's distinguished "Dance in America" series, winning an Emmy Award. Following this triumph, his A Song For Dead Warriors was premiered in 1979, followed by Duetto. For the 1980 season, Smuin created The Tempest, a full-length work based on the Shakespearean drama. He is the co-

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[[image - airplane]]
[[caption]] "Another big apple, ma'am?" [[/caption]]

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