

# It was a night to remember

by Margaret Brito  
WEEKEND NATION

IT WAS SHORT, but too sweet. The cultural banquet called City Nights last Friday highlighted dance, and patrons at the distinguished Frank Collymore Hall feasted from the melting pot of Barbadian culture.

It was truly a superb show. What made it so memorable was that each performing group had a story to tell. On Friday night, body language became more eloquent than the most passionate speech or the longest essay.

A most impressive number was done by the Barbados Dance Theatre. Theirs was a statement about the homeless, done to Gabby's Emmerton and Zamphir's Agatha. The stage was strewn with garbage. As the dance opened, heavy fog enveloped the stage, immediately transporting the audience to a back street early in the morning.

The dancers, dressed in rags, performed a powerful ballet.

Sometimes their movements were graceful, sometimes jerky and puppet-like, as they portrayed the variety of emotions experienced by the very poor — despair, helplessness, anger.

The dancers moved smoothly from scenes of deep despair, where they held up their hands in supplication to God and out to the audience in the beggar's attitude, to scenes of violence and confusion, where they pummelled each other and grabbed wildly for scraps on the ground.

It was a highly emotional dance, and each dancer assumed an individuality, dressed to portray the different types of people one might see in a deep slum.

Their statement could not have been lost on the audience, since it became involved in their performance. Several times, the dancers approached the edge of the stage to reach out, and with eyes, it seemed, like hunted animals, implored some sympathy. This was a truly professional piece choreographed by Gene Carson.

## Street-wise

The other dance which required the stage to be strewn with garbage was Street Bums by First Force. But in contrast to the mournful strains of Emmerton was the funky tempo of a song called Broken Glass.

Here were no lost souls, but two confident street-wise youths, performing with vitality all the break dance moves with which we've become familiar from the movies.

Their technique was certainly good, but not flawless. When the girls entered in their tight leggings and short tops, one became aware of a chemistry, or sensuality, as the young men gradually got into their groove.

It was a most enjoyable number, although the female dancers did not possess the discipline, or perhaps the experience, of the male dancers. But this is nothing that a little practice won't correct.

Some more practice is also required of the Pinelands Creative Workshop. The group made several mistakes due to the inexperience of its dancers. And the choreography might have been more creative. The dancers in their frilly vendors' frocks and head-ties performed routines and head-ties many times before.

A new interpretation to this aspect of Bajan culture would have been refreshing, and would have elevated that dance to the standard of many others at the show.

But there are some dances which are timeless and must

remain as they are.

There's always something special about the waltz and the tango. These were performed on Friday by the Modern Ballroom Club.

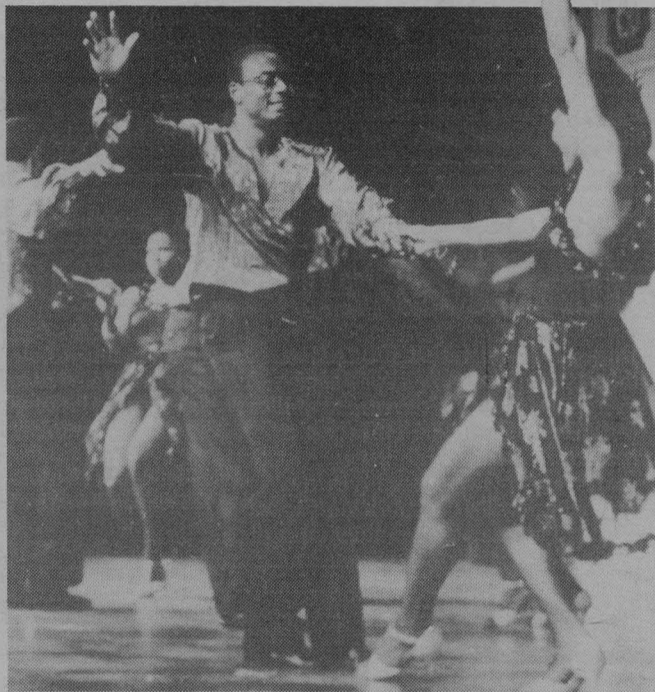
The appeal of these dances is often lost on today's generation, which prefers to dance with abandon. It's interesting to remember that the waltz was once considered a radical dance by conservatives of its day, just as perhaps break dancing is today.

But these dances were performed with great finesse on Friday. Watching them, one involuntarily pictured in the mind's eye great halls with sweeping staircases and glittering chandeliers, and all their attendant romance and intrigue. It was also easy to imagine the passions which might have been aroused by dances like the fiery tango and samba.

These, along with the jive and the cha-cha-cha were superbly executed by the Modern Ballroom Club, and what's more, the dancers thoroughly enjoyed performing them, which couldn't fail to impress the audience.

Another great act was the Luther Thorne Memorial School Dancers. Theirs was an African dance done to Tambu's Shaka. One was struck by the vitality of the young dancers. Their steps were simple, but tightly choreographed. There were two sets of dancers, those wearing print dresses, portraying modern Africa, and those in grass skirts symbolising the traditional Africa. And there was a witchdoctor — cute little Natash Dottin — who danced solo.

The dance was a tribute to Nelson Mandela and the principle of unity he espouses. This



SUPERB ballroom dancing by the Modern Ballroom Club.

unity theme was emphasised at the end when the dancers formed a semi-circle to receive a blessing from the witch doctor.

The children must be commended for learning their dance so well. There were few mistakes, and their smiling faces were a joy to watch. There was also some real talent, and they should be encouraged to continue to dance. The choreography was done by Donne Hunte-Cox, a member of Dance Experience which also performed on Friday night.

Theirs was a number called Looking Back With Pride, a tribute to our Independence. It opened with female dancers in our national colours. They danced to Mark Lorde's My Country sung by Mary Sayers, a patriotic and somewhat nostalgic song. Suddenly the audi-



DANCERS from the Pinelands Creative Workshop displayed much energy.

Gift Ideas for that Special Someone

## THE CAR BOUTIQUE

Double Wiper Blades (red, white, black) .....	\$35.70
Car Vacuum Cleaners .....	\$79.95
Car Fans .....	\$34.95
Mag Lock Nuts .....	\$29.95
Carpet Mats (4 pc. set) from .....	\$69.95-\$124.95
Spoilers from .....	\$250.00-\$350.00
Mirrors (cars and trucks) .....	\$24.95-\$126.95
Mini Alarm Ignition Switch .....	\$125.65
Booster Cables .....	\$38.75
Cigarette Lighter & Map Light .....	\$19.95
Tyre Foot Pump .....	\$24.95
Tyre Air Compressor .....	\$99.95
Fog Lamps .....	\$79.95-\$257.00

And many many more items

Call us at 427-6985

Or visit us at two locations

**COURTS SHOPPING PLAZA**

&

**SHELL BANYANS BAY STREET**

Get free Cup Holder with every purchase over  
\$25.00 until Christmas

## A GRAND SUPPER

in aid of School Funds  
sponsored by

The Headteacher, Staff & Parents of  
**HALF MOON FORT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

at The School Grounds,  
Clinkett's Gardens, St. Lucy

on Saturday, 10th December, 1988.,

beginning at 8:00 p.m.

CASH TICKETS: \$15.00

- Music and Entertainment will be provided
- DOOR PRIZE
- Refreshments on Sale

Space kindly donated by

**GARDINER AUSTIN & CO. LTD.,**  
agents for B.P. Lubricants.

# BRANCKER'S

## TILES SPECIAL

for Christmas

8 x 8 ceramic tiles from \$1.19 each.

12x12 ceramic tiles from \$3.45 each.

12 x 12 vinyl tiles from \$1.15 each.

Christmas Decorations  
Bargain Tent in front  
of store from December 8 to 23.

Open late today  
till 7 p.m.  
Open tomorrow  
Saturday till 1 p.m.