

«I Danzatori Scalzi» A new dance experience

An extremely different and highly original group of dancers — «I Danzatori Scalzi», performed at the Leichhardt Apia Club last Sunday night. This modern dance company was formed in Rome in 1972, by dancer-choreographer Patrizia Cerroni. Currently it is comprised of six female and four male dancers, of average age 23. Patrizia admits that she usually changes her group members every three years, believing that new people will inject new life into her own personal dance language. For the past ten years her group has successfully toured throughout Italy and overseas. In fact it is the only dance company in Italy that frequently tours overseas and this occurrence is one that appeals greatly to the Artistic Director Patrizia, who wants to deliver her dance to as many parts of the world as possible.

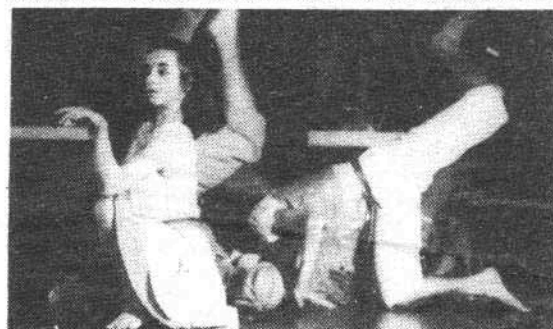
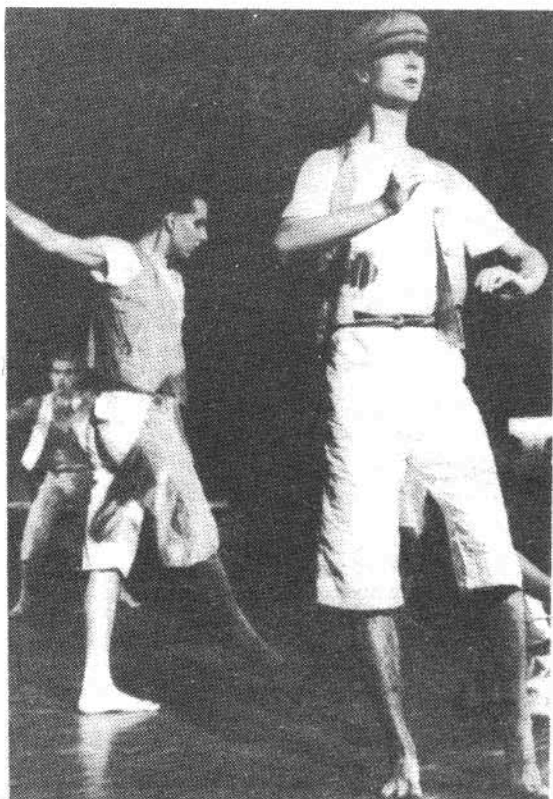
A long awaited desire for her to visit the 'great flat plains' she calls Australia, finally happened with the invitation to perform as part of the Italian Arts Festival in Melbourne. There they performed to hundreds of enthused spectators in the Victorian National Gallery. The Apia performance was organized by Associazione NOANTRI with the sponsorship of Alitalia, Alfa Romeo, Tarquinius Furniture, Villa Borghese Lounge and Vince Pleurick.

Patrizia prides herself on the originality of her dance, viewing it as a new language, a new form of communication that began twelve years ago and is still developing. Then, she used recorded music as a basis for the development of her dance numbers, today she travels with a live band of musicians, although not presently on this tour. She works with both a Jazz band and a modern group who play synthesized and electronic tunes.

As the floorboards pulsate with the best of the feet and the frenetic movements of the head and arms, it is clear that here we are being bombarded with an array of richly interwoven ideas. Although most of the numbers of the night were formally choreographed, by far the most stimulating to watch was the mostly improvised piece entitled 'Percussion-Discussion'. Based on a pre-established choreographic structure of encounters and correlations, the dancers move freely but precisely, knowing their strict vocabulary of their language, re-creating the relations of rhythm and movement to the Jazz music of Charlie Mingus.

This group is a reflection of the modern times. Twelve years ago Patrizia and the group were pre-occupied with expressing the anguish and sorrow of the then society. Today she feels that there is a need to promote feelings of joy and the search for expressions of peace and serenity. Depending on your point of view though, joy and sorrow are a part of each other and in a lot of cases a cause of each other.

For an audience which earlier in the week excitedly applauded the colourful folkloric group «I Ciava-



I Danzatori Scalzi at the Apia Club

(Photo: Monica Pellizzari)

rolì» from the Campania Region of Italy, the experience of this modern dance group has perhaps too spontaneous, and their performance too ritualistic for the Apia floor space. It is a pity that they had to contend with the clatter of knives and forks from the patrons, and the noisy competition provided by the 'breakforce brigade', a

group of boys jazzed up in black and white mini suits who were busting to perform at the edge of the stage, hopefully inspired by this wonderful group of visiting dancers. It is hoped that «I Danzatori Scalzi» will be performing at the up and coming Festival of Sydney, only this time at a more fitting and deserving space. Monica Pellizzari