

Choreographer puts dreams on stage

By JULIE GOLDSMITH
News Correspondent

Alfonso Figueroa gets up in the middle of the night, jots down his dreams and gives them titles. "Sexy Sadie," "The Chase," "Helter-Skelter" are but a few.

As a guest choreographer for Indianapolis Ballet Theatre's concert at Clowes Hall on Saturday, Figueroa has created a dance based on years of dream notations.

The Scott Chamber Players also will perform with IBT. Premieres include works by Toni Pimble, George Verdak, Dace Dindonis and Figueroa. Also, Fokine's "Spectre de la Rose" will be staged.

"All of the things we dare not do or say, that we want in our conscious life, spills from our guts into our dreams," said Figueroa.

While the titles of his dreams will not be indicated in the program, his material can be seen in 22 minutes of dancing. His ballet called "Visions" is set to Prokofiev's "Visions Fugitives" for piano.

"I dreamt the 'Helter-Skelter' one after a board meeting of the Birmingham Ballet," said Figueroa, who directed the company from 1975-78.

"There was a touring problem, a publicity problem, a payroll problem," he added, taking out his wallet to mime board members making donations for the company's survival.

Figueroa has distilled his

dreams into universal themes in which he believes everyone can relate. "Who has never dreamt that they are being chased, but they can't run, or that they are lost?" he said.

He will use "The Chase" to show characters that represent his different feelings. In the dance a man pursues a woman, a woman pursues a man, and they continue to exchange roles throughout the sequence.

Of the 28 ballets he has created, this is the first one in which he has used his dreams for an inspiration. Besides being an important source of creative material, dreams can be helpful to gaining personal knowledge, Figueroa said.

"Your problems are resolved in your dreams if you're willing to be patient enough to remember them," he said.

Looking relaxed and comfortable in his tan corduroy slacks and brown corduroy blazer, Figueroa, 47, is a long-limbed former dancer. A native New Yorker, he has been a principal dancer with the Feld Ballet, Boston Ballet, American Ballet, Alvin Ailey Dance Company and Pearl Lang Dance Company.

Figueroa increased his attention to directing and choreographing after sustaining a knee injury. Eight years ago, he and his wife, dancer Janet Moran, began a family and moved out of New York City for Peoria, Ill. He directs the Peoria Ballet Company.

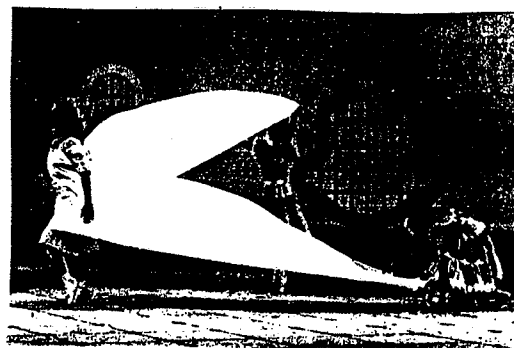
His family life will come into play in one of the dances that deals with fear. He has come in touch with his feelings of fear as a result of having children. Having grown up in East Harlem, N.Y., Figueroa thought he was immune to fear from his regular exposure to guns and knives.

"Up until the time I was a parent, I wasn't really afraid of anything. If you have children, that changes, because all of a sudden your fears compound themselves," he said. "What if I die?

IF YOU GO...

- WHEN: Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.
- WHERE: Clowes Hall, Butler University
- COST: Tickets \$8 to \$22.
- INFORMATION: 921-6444.

What if they die? What if the mother dies? What if you lose your job?"



Sara Viale is featured with Indianapolis Ballet Theatre.