WJZ SAYS

Thanks!

WJZ-TV wishes to thank all of the people who helped to make the observance of Black History Month such a success. We extend special thanks to the Super Pride Markets and Kentucky Fried Chicken for sponsoring a series of vignettes that aired on our channel and spotlighted the contributions of Black Americans.

The Baltimore Museum of Art joins with WJZ in thanking these sponsors for their participation in the presentation of a series of special programs and activities celebrating Black History Month. Through this month long program of lectures, films, children's workshops, demonstrations and performances, Marylanders were able to share and enjoy the culture and personalities of a people who contributed to the advancement of our country. On behalf of all of our viewers and all of the families who attended, WJZ says thank you.

WJZ 13 Super Pride Markets Kentucky Fried Chicken

Kids Talk

Do you know this person?

He is known around the world as an accomplished teacher, choreographer and dancer. Born March 27 in New York City, he attended the city's famous High School of the Performing Arts, and later gained national prominence as the first black to be a premier dancer with the renowned New York City Ballet.

His career continued to soar, but took a different turn in 1968 with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The tragedy halted a planned performance in Brazil, and thrust him back to Harlem, New York where he first established a school of allied arts — which gradually evolved into an internationally acclaimed ballet company. "I felt that I had to give something back," he said.

The ensemble is known as the Dance Theater of Harlem, and he is the founder.

Do you know his name?

He is Arthur Mitchell

Beauty of movement comes to DC

They float through the air weightlessly. They balance on their toes with ease. They tell a story with their bodies.

Ballet dancers are artists just like those who paint pictures, sing songs, and write poems. Artists have a story to tell and they do it through the means by which the message can best be relayed.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem is coming to Washington, DC for a 12-day engagement at the Kennedy Center, March 14-26 when they will perform "John Henry," "Billy the Kid," and "A Streetcar Named Desire."

THE DANCE Theatre of Harlem comes to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., March 14-26.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem was founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, as his personal commitment to the people of Harlem following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. A true pioneer in the field the dance, Dance Theatre of Harlem established new horizons in the history of classical ballet, bringing to it a uniquely American perspective — one born and nurtured in New York City.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem began as a ballet school in a community without alternatives, where the resources of talent and creative energy were virtually untapped. It challenged the dance world at large to review its stereotypes. It opened doors for unprecedented artistic achievements and created an explosion of professional opportunity in dance, music and related theatre activities.

Today the company consists of dancers of all races, both male and female. Male ballet dancers are called "danseurs." Female ballet dancers are ballerinas. They work hard developing their bodies. They exercise regularly to stretch muscles and perfect complicated routines. Practice is essential.

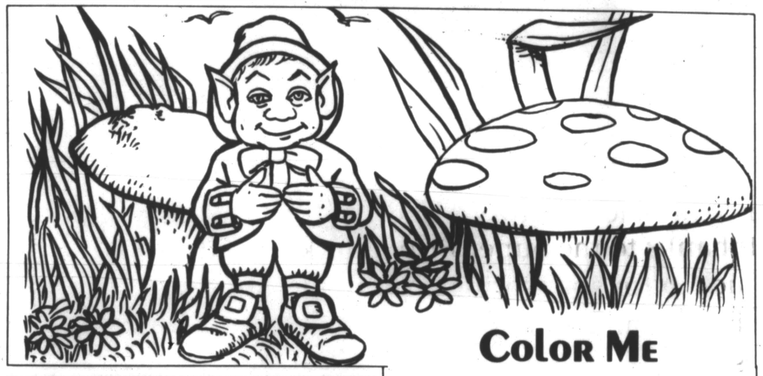
Most dancers start learning the basics when they are very young, often as young as four or five years old. In the beginning stages of the study, they learn the vocabulary and the origin of the art. They learn that ballet has its roots in France. They learn about the five foot and arm positions, "plie's" (bends), "jete's" (jumps), "arabesques" (lifts), pointing and flexing.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem School stands in the first ranks of the world's great ballet schools. Its mission is to offer students, especially those who are culturally and financially deprived, the opportunity to study and excel in dance and the allied arts — and through that study to gain a discipline and creativity that will serve them in all walks of life.

Based in New York, this school offers separate classes for children ages 3-8, 8-15, and adults.

After a few years of perfecting the basics holding onto a "barre" attached to the wall they move to the center of the floor and combine the isolated movements to make intricate steps to match the beat of the music and to tell a story. The ballerinas, at this stage, go from the traditional leather ballet slippers to satin "pointe" shoes with a flat cardboard interior that allows the ballerinas to stand on the tips of their toes to perform.

Other forms of dance such as jazz, modern, ethnic, and tap follow a similar sequence of practicing isolated movements and then combining them. When dancers perform before an audience they tell the story the choreographer, or person who creates the dance, wishes to relay. This is done not only through the movements, but also through the music and the costumes.



Puzzling??

Dancing

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b C N N Z Y B e A Z S L X
E e A A F Q s i H T J J s
E T n K X i l a V p e t J
H T W d c e r A a c r M Z
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Y H P T Y H B c Z K N M A
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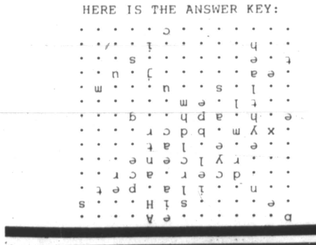
FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

Ailey	Harlem	ballet	bend
dance	exercise	grace	healthy
jump	leap	music	stretches

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:



Color Me St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day, when people adorn themselves in green and clovers, was celebrated March 17. Who was St. Patrick? And why do people all over the world celebrate this traditionally Irish holiday?

St. Patrick was the son of a Roman military officer. When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish raiders. He was enslaved for six years. He later escaped to study at Tours, France.

He declared that a vision urged him to return to Ireland as a missionary, which he did in the year 432 A.D. Then, for more than 60 years, he worked for the physical and spiritual welfare of the islanders. He also established missionary settlements.

Today, Downpatrick remains the great shrine to St. Patrick. His feast day is March 17 — the day of his death in 493 A.D. — and is an Irish holiday that is celebrated the world over.

(The Volume Library, Educators Association, Inc.)

Easter 'pets'

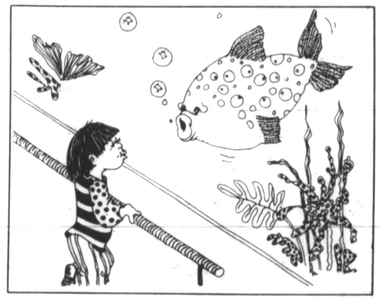
When Easter comes on March 28 the only Easter bunny in your house should be the one hiding Easter eggs, according to the Humane Society of the United States. Live rabbits—or chicks of ducklings—should not be given as Easter gifts.

"These animals simply do not make good pets," Phyllis Wright, HSUS vice president for companion animals said.

Wright noted that although rabbits can be kept as house pets, they pose their own problems." Too often, people get a cute little bunny with never a thought about how to take care of it. Rabbits need a special diet and require very specific care. They aren't just cats or dogs with long ears. "They can be litter-box trained, for example, but because they are relentless chewers they can't be left loose and unattended. Rabbits are susceptible to a variety of illnesses that require veterinary care, and they can also transmit infectious salmonella to humans," she said.

Wright said Easter "pets" frequently suffer from neglect or improper care in the weeks following Easter." When the family finally loses interest in these live 'toys,' the animals may be dumped in forests or ponds in the mistaken belief they can survive on their own. The animals die and the children learn nothing about the humane treatment of pets," she concluded.

Kids Calendar



The National Aquarium

The Aquarium is exciting outside and inside. It is a spectacular, seven-level structure, that houses fascinating and sophisticated aquatic exhibits.

The National Aquarium, 501 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Md., is open daily from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The cost for children ages 3-11 is $4.75 and $7.75 for adults. Students 12-18 only pay $6. For information call 301-576-3810.

To find out more about attractions for children see the book, "Going Places with Children in Washington, DC" by Noreen Tuross at your local library.

Ballet in Silver Spring

The Montgomery Ballet Company will perform "The Six Swans" on March 17-19 at Springbrook High School, 201 Valley Brook Drive, Silver Spring, Md. The story is about six beautiful young princesses changed into swans by a wicked witch, a brave and devoted younger sister, a handsome prince and all the classic elements. Dancers are local young people aged 11 through 18.

All performances will be presented at 2:30 in the afternoon except the March 17 performance which will be at 7:30 p.m. For information call 301-622-0260.

Peter Rabbit in dance

The heartwarming characters in Beatrix Potter's "Tale of Peter Rabbit" come to life in American Contemporary Ballet's version of the well-loved children's story at the Publick Playhouse, Hyattsville, Md. on March 21-23 at 10 a.m. and noon. To reserve group tickets contact American Contemporary Ballet at 301-338-0788.

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