

Best programme of ballet presented at Maynardville

A PERFECT moonlit evening, disturbed only by an occasional gust of wind, heralded the opening last night of the University of Cape Town's three nights of ballet produced by Dalcis Hewes on the open-air stage at Maynardville, Wynberg.

The two famous classics chosen, 'Le Lac des Cygnes' (Act II) and both acts of 'Giselle,' lent themselves admirably to the open-air setting, and both were admirably done.

If there was a little roughness at times, this could be attributed to the temporary stage.

Pamela Chrimes danced Odette in 'Le Lac des Cygnes,' bringing to it her accustomed assurance and fluent grace that are such a joy to the beholder.

She was very well partnered by Dudley Davies, as Prince Siegfried, who not only danced well, but gave sure support in the pas de deux.

The corps de ballet wove patterns of beautiful movement against the backdrop of willows.

Difficult part

THE name part of Giselle is a long and difficult one, for it entails both dancing and acting in three characters, as the innocent maiden, the mad girl and the ghostly Will.

Mavis Maastricht is to be congratulated on the excellence of her performance. She has a lightness and liveliness which give great charm to the first act; and if some of the spiritual atmosphere was missing in the second act, this was due perhaps to the lighting which was not eerie enough.

Once again Dudley Davies, as Albrecht, gave a first-class performance, as dancer and actor.

Pamela Chrimes was a stately Queen of the Willis, and Michael Albrecht, as Hilarion, a convincing villain.

They were well supported all through by the corps de ballet.

Praise, too, must be given to the costumes, by Gillian Parker.

The music was provided by the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra, conducted by Enrique Jorda. The players were happier with Adam's simple, poignant music for 'Giselle' than in Tchaikovsky's 'Le Lac des Cygnes.'

This is the best programme of ballet to be given yet at Maynardville, and is well worth seeing.

The performances are to aid the Athlone Training College for nursery schoolteachers.