The Edward Villella Dancers

EDWARD VILLELLA

Roseanne Germer Sheri Little Carol Stone
Susan Strain Kim Vickers
Ric Abel James Caton Joseph Fritz
Paulo Manso de Sousa Oswaldo Muniz

Tuesday and Wednesday Evening, July 17 and 18, 1984, at 8:00
Power Center for the Performing Arts
Ann Arbor, Michigan

An American Salute

Prelude, Fugue, and Riffs
Choreography: Edward Villella Music: Leonard Bernstein
Kim Vickers Susan Strain Carol Stone
Ric Abel Oswaldo Muniz Joseph Fritz

TARANTELLA
Choreography: George Balanchine Music: Louis Gottschalk, arranged by Hershey Kay
Roseanne Germer Paulo Manso de Sousa

INTERMISSION

THE WALTZ PROJECT
Choreography: Richard Tanner
Music: Waltzes by Robert Moran, Lou Harrison, Joseph Fennimore, Ivan Tcherepnin,
Robert Helps, Tom Constanten, Philip Glass, and Morton Gould's
“Rag Waltz for Edward Villella—June 1984”
Edward Villella
Sheri Little
Carol Stone Susan Strain

“The Waltz Project” was commissioned for The Edward Villella Dancers by the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts, Albany, New York. These concerts mark the first performances of this lyric piece; its official première will take place in October in Albany.

These performances are made possible, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
STARS AND STRIPES  
(pas de deux)  

_Choreography:_ George Balanchine  
_Sheri Little_  

_Music:_ John Philip Sousa, 
_arranged by_ Hershey Kay  
_Oswaldo Muniz_  

INTERMISSION  

LEGS OF LAMB  

_Choreography:_ Edward Villella  
_Roseanne Germer_  
_Joseph Fritz_  

_Music:_ Joseph Lamb  
_Kim Vickers_  
_Paulo Manso de Sousa_  

_Sheri Little_  
_Ric Abel_  

_Carol Stone_  
_James Caton_  

_Susan Strain_  
_Oswaldo Muniz_  

_Sheri Little, Carol Stone, Susan Strain, Kim Vickers, Ric Abel, and Oswaldo Muniz appear courtesy of Ballet Oklahoma; Roseanne Germer and Joseph Fritz appear courtesy of the New Jersey Ballet; Paulo Manso de Sousa appears courtesy of Festival Ballet; and James Caton appears courtesy of U. S. Terpsichore.

Mr. Villella is presented by Prodigal Productions, Inc., New York City, Marcia Preiss, personal representative.

_Lighting design by Gary Cooper._

**About the Artist**

Edward Villella has the distinction of being the most celebrated male ballet dancer that America has ever produced. At a time when male ballet dancing had not received the acceptance it holds today, he was known the world over for the supreme artistry and virility of his dancing. Indeed, his illustrious career did much to popularize the role of the male in American dance.

He was born in Bayside, Long Island, in 1936. After an injury while playing baseball, he was sent to his sister’s ballet class, which his parents hoped would serve as a safer outlet for his natural athleticism. He entered the School of American Ballet, but at the age of 15 interrupted his dance training to complete academic studies and to pursue a degree at the New York Maritime Academy. He graduated with a varsity letter in baseball and the campus welterweight boxing championship.

In 1957 Edward Villella was invited to join the New York City Ballet, where he was immediately featured in such leading roles as the boy in Jerome Robbins’ _Afternoon of a Faun_. Promoted to soloist in 1958 and elevated to principal status in 1960, he has been identified with many roles and ballets in that company’s repertoire. Perhaps his most famous role was in the 1960 revival of Balanchine’s 1929 masterpiece, _Prodigal Son_.

Mr. Villella was the first American male dancer to dance with the Royal Danish Ballet and the only American to be asked to dance an encore at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. He danced _Stars and Stripes_ at President Kennedy’s inaugural; has given command performances for Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford; danced the role of Harry Beaton in _Brigadoon_ on Broadway and on television; and performed frequently on the Bell Telephone Hour, the Ed Sullivan Show, and the Mike Douglas Show. In 1975 he won an Emmy Award for his CBS-TV children’s ballet, _Harlequin_, and has acted as narrator of the “Choreography by Balanchine” series for PBS-TV. While a producer-director for the “Dance in America” series for PBS-TV, he directed _Bournonville Dances_.

In recent years Mr. Villella has been one of America’s leading spokesman for the arts, and for dance in particular. He has served as a member of the National Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Advisory Panel, and the Committee for Cultural Affairs for the City of New York. In great demand as a lecturer and master teacher, Mr. Villella was the 1981-82 Visiting Artist at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and the 1981 Ida Beam Visiting Professor at the University of Iowa. In 1985 he will be the Regents’ Lecturer at the Irvine Campus of the University of California. He has received honorary degrees from Skidmore College, Fordham University, Siena College, and Nazareth College of Rochester.

Mr. Villella is currently the artistic director of Ballet Oklahoma and the artistic advisor of the New Jersey Ballet. His lecture-performance, “An Evening With Edward Villella and Dancers,” tours annually to theaters and colleges across the country. His participation in this Festival—as performer, lecturer, and master teacher—marks his Ann Arbor debut.