



BY OUR BALLET CRITIC

Richard Maitland and his Children's International Dance Theatre presented a ballet performance in aid of Bengal flood victims fund at the Fine Arts Theatre Hall on Wednesday evening. The show was attended among others by the Prime Minister.

Richard Maitland who arrived in Delhi about three years ago started his children's theatre, and he hopes to establish this theatre on a more permanent footing with regular performances. The children who appeared in his ballet are from countries as distant as Denmark and the Philippines.

'Ballet of the animals' was the longest and the most satisfying item of the evening. It included a large cast. The dancing by the 'animals' was jolly and done with a twinkle in the eye. The donkey and his braying was certainly comical and the sad slow helpless crawl of the turtle funny. The penguins were charming.

Harsel and Greter, the story of the children and a wicked step-mother created a fairy tale atmosphere. But the rejoicing at the end was a bit long drawn out. Ballet variations, by Larsen and Woodman were only samples of classical dance. Pas-des-deux by Maitland and Nanas, however, was more satisfying.

When the cat's away concerning the antics of a butler and the maid when the mistress is absent, created a good deal of laughter. Walter Gardner-Stanbridge as Lord Foppington was regaling. All in all, Maitland's ballet induced a light mood and lots of puckish merriment.

There will be another performance at 6-30 p.m. on Thursday.

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