

# "Les Sortileges" in action

Canadian folk dance ensemble concludes successful tour

By Karlheinz HARTUNG

During July in the surroundings of the HasBahce at the Yildiz Saray, the Canadian folk dance ensemble successfully performed its first show. Right from the beginning, with its comic pantomimic dances of the "Moose Hunters" the ensemble caught the undivided attention of a receptive audience of foreigners and local people.

In a two hour program the 22 dancers, 11 young handsome men and 11 pretty girls, performed a very skillful program of a great variety of Canadian folk-dance dances, especially featuring dances from Quebec.

Whereas sometimes watching folklore dances might be somewhat boring, not so with Jimmy Di Genova's troupe. Again Mr. Di Genova, the director of the troupe, has shown what skill, experience and hard work can produce, together, of course, with the deep devotion and love for music on the part of the dancers themselves. Rhythm and music seem to be a

part of them, and the dances just come naturally, the dancers live them.

Among the dances which received special attention were the "Dance of the Woodcutters", in which they play around dangerously with broad axes and a two handled saw, the "Dancers of the Captains" in which two nautical caps are passed along from one dancer to another and the "Dances of the Brooms", which they handled with charming speed like matchsticks.

However, the grand finale was the Turkish dances in Turkish costumes. And here again the ensemble surpassed itself. So it came as no surprise that right from the first steps the audience was carried away enthusiastically and joined spontaneously in clapping to the rhythm of the music. The performance was so real that one hardly could imagine that the dancers were "Canadians".

The final cheers and applause was a rightful reward for the ensemble and last but not least also for their Turkish teachers, Bora Ozkok and Ugur Kava.

"I am very pleased" said Mr. Di Genova, "to be here in Turkey and to present our folk dance. Turkey and Canada are so far away from each other and little is known of each other's cultures. So I believe that our performances will be a beneficial contribution to understanding each other and that they will be a bridge for further cultural interchanges." Mr. di Genova also expressed his appreciation for the warm and friendly welcome his troupe received from the Turkish people.

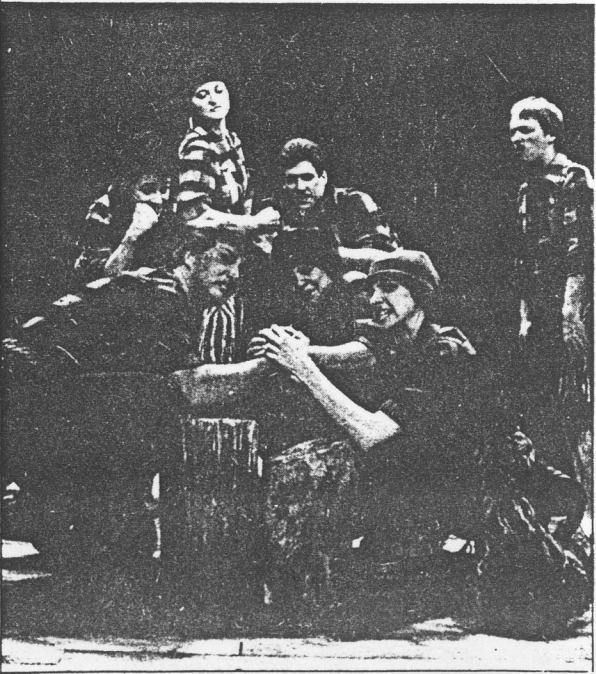
"This time we found that we had much closer relations with the Turkish people, because our dancers stayed with Turkish families for two of our visits here. In the future we hope to enrich our program with more Turkish dances from other areas of Turkey," said Mr. Di Genova when the dance group left for Canada from Yesilkoy Airport on the 22nd of this month.

Over 7,000 people watched "Les Sortileges" perform in Ankara at the Turk Ocagi, in Istanbul and in Silifke, and the troupe has been a great success everywhere.

Participation in the 11th International Festival in Turkey is another milestone for this famous ensemble which is now in its 11th year of performance. Unfortunately only 22 dancers could participate here in Turkey. Mr. Di Genova would like to have brought more, "but it is too expensive to bring them all," he added with a feeling of sorrow, and we can sympathize with his feelings.



"Dance of the Captains" a dance from Quebec



Scene from a Canadian folk dance



A dance from Bitlis. The group demonstrates great skill in their adaption to Turkish rythms and steps