

A FAIRY TALE FLOATS PAST

By Jemima Kallas

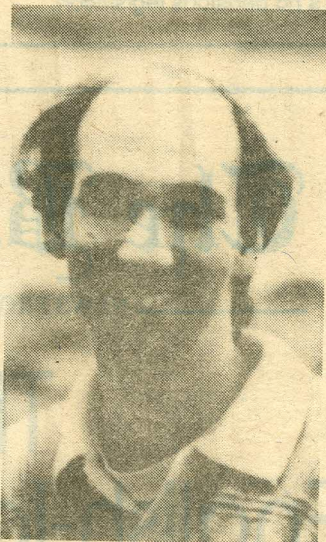
The pretty 19th century narrative ballet *Fairytale in Pictures*, with choreography by the great August Bournonville has been reworked especially for the Estonian Theatre ballet company by the American choreographer Kenneth Oberly into an evening of charm and grace. All the classic ingredients are there: bevvies of flirting village girls, soldiers as pliant as reeds playing marching games in romantic red costumes, two docile children in leading roles, suitors showing off as others watch, and plenty of pirouettes from Rosalie, the brilliant ballerina.

Maybe the intelligent Kaie Kõrb, Estonia's leading ballerina, who danced Rosalie on the first night, wasn't the best choice for a role in this affectionate, floaty ballet, whose characters step from the pages of Hans Andersen and are smoothed out with innocence. The role needs a dancing tutu rather than Miss Kõrb's arresting personality but it was well served on the first night by the grace of Juri Jekimov playing the lovely stripling, the soldier Oscar, for whom Miss Kõrb endures the unpleasant attentions of her suitors.

The fairy tale nearly comes to a terrible end as Rosalie collapses in a cloud of smoke and the stage of the Estonia bursts into two columns of flame, but the fairy godmother ensures all ends in kisses.

Now that *Fairytale in Pictures* (*Armastuse Muinasjutt*) has entered the repertoire, it will ap-

pear regularly at the Estonia Theatre. Kenneth Oberly is delighted to be working with this small company because of their training and discipline: "they can ~~can~~ change quicker than dancers from the west, who are not so stylistically trained. They are used to working intensively. One can really coach them". His next joint venture with the Estonia is likely to be a modern ballet.



Kenneth Oberly, choreographer, who is delighted with the dancers' training and discipline



HARRI ROSPU

The pretty ballerina isn't in love with the man with the moustache whose hands have wandered round her waist (above Kati Ivaste as Rosalie and Toomas Rätsepp as Montplaisir). He's just one of five men who dance attendance so gayly round the premiere danseuse in the newly revived ballet *Fairytale in Pictures* which has just been premiered at Tallinn's Estonia Theatre