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Danile Nagrin to Perform at the University of Dayton

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DAYTON, Ohio, November 18, 1971 — "This Everyman," wrote noted critic Walter Terry in the Saturday Review, "this mute speaker for you and me, finally gets through to us, as he generates feelings of helplessness, outrage, anger and rededication within us."

Terry's reference was to Danile Nagrin, whose individualistic dance style, has captured the hearts and minds of cultural people throughout the United States and Europe. Nagrin's most noted piece, "The Peloponnesian War," has brought most of these rave notices.

Dayton will get to see this dance/theater collage on Sunday and Monday, December 5 and 6, in the Boll Theater of the University of Dayton's John F. Kennedy Memorial Union. Both performances, which are part of the 11th University Arts Series, will begin at 8:15 p.m.

Wherever Nagrin has taken his dynamic interpretation of Thucydides' history of the 30-year war between Athens and Sparta, he has been acclaimed variously as a leader in the art of modern dance, a virtuoso technician, a brilliant performer and creator of an individual style. His 40 performances in New York City drew packed houses with many returning to see this artist work three and four times.

The same can be said for his invasions of New Jersey, North Carolina, Louisiana, Minnesota, Upper New York State, Ohio, England, Germany, The Netherlands, Washington, D.C., and Manila, The Philippines.

In Germany, critics hailed him with: "Announced as one of the best dancers in the world, the New York born Daniel Nagrin proved himself entirely worthy of his reputation," or "He has renewed the dance of Graham and Wigman with the music of American composers and given it world-wide meaning."

In London and The Netherlands they wrote that he had "fabulous command of his body, creates a blending of acting and dancing such as few people command, and his impact seems likely to play an important part in fostering a renaissance in the art of the dance."

Nagrin's first interest in the dance came at the age of 19 while in college. This was a rather late stage for a person to embrace such a demanding art form and often brings skeptical glances from knowledgeable persons. Nagrin was studying to be a psychiatrist at College of the City of New York when he decided to take up dancing seriously.

His success as an individual performer has brought him into films, on Broadway and as director of The Workgroup, which is touring nationally and is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Foundation on the Arts & Humanities. This group's work is described as "interactive improvisation is a starting point for all of the work and the dance forms which emerge are a blend of set structures and improvisations. The Workgroup tries to find dances, not to make them."

But it is Nagrin who stands front and center in all the work. As Jean Beatty Lewis of the Washington, D.C., Post recently wrote: "As a performer, Nagrin is stunning. He is a mime of the first order, a brilliant dancer, and his intensity in this long work is remarkable."