

Batsheva goes independent

THE BATSHEVA Dance Company has now emerged as an independent public company. This will become official from April 1, with Kaj Lothman as artistic director and Linda Hodes as principal teacher. The leading dancers are Rina Schenfeld, Ehud Ben David, Rena Gluck and Rahamim Ron (who has rejoined the company). Batsheva de Rothschild, founder of the company, donated free use of the studios which the Batsheva company has always occupied and which she still owns.

At present the Batsheva company is doing a series of performances in various towns under the auspices of Children's Theatre. The programme includes ballets by Martha Graham, Talley Beatty and a demonstration devised by Judith Brin Ingber to explain modern dance.

Future plans include a Continental tour. The Batsheva Company has been invited to perform for a week at the Flanders Festival in Belgium and to appear in several German towns. It will also take part in the Ein Gev Festival (March 28) and the Israel Festival (July-August).

Additions to the repertoire will include a new work by Rena Gluck (to be premiered at Ein Gev), a new work by Oshra Elkayam-Ronen (for the Israel Festival) and a piece by British choreographer Norman Morrice (who has now left the directorship of Ballet Rambert). Revivals will be the late John Cranko's "Song of My People" and Anna Sokolow's "In Memory of No. 52436" which, together with Oshra Elkayam-Ronen's new work, will form a special programme to commemorate the 30th anniversary of liberation after the Holocaust. Another revival will be Glen Tetley's "Mythical Hunters" for which Scott Douglas (rehearsal director of the American Ballet Theatre) will come to Israel. Moreover the company has now started its own subscription series.

THE AMLI MUSIC library is to have the word "Dance" added to its name. It will be called The AMLI Library for Music and Dance in Tel Aviv. This was decided at an inaugural meeting which was attended by Mr. Max Targ the well-known philanthropist who has sponsored AMLI (the American Music Libraries for Israel) and is now taking an interest in the dance library for Israel. Also present was Anne Wilson of New York, who has been



Rina Schenfeld in "In Memory of No. 52436."

largely responsible for the idea of a dance library and for assembling material, the first shipment of which has already arrived.

Dance teachers are to be advised on the use of the library facilities at 26 Bialik Street, Tel Aviv, where ultimately, the library will occupy a whole floor.

THE PICCOLO Ballet will stage two performances of "Coppelia" in Haifa on March 19 and 20. The full-length choreography has been mounted by Lia Schubert. The dancers are numbers of the Haifa Dance Centre.

NIRA PAAZ has joined the Israel Classical Ballet which now has 12 dancers in addition to the co-directors Berta Yampolsky and Hillel Markman. Current programmes include famous classical works as well as new ballets by Todd Bolender and Gene Hill Sagan. DORA SOWDEN