

# Doing the Greeks to death

THEATRE

Mendel Kohansky

BATSHEVA'S latest programme contains four numbers, all choreographed by members of the company — a fact worthy of notice. Two of them (*Women in a Tent* by Rena Gluck and *Adam and Eve* by Oshra Elkayam) were reviewed in this column late last year. The new ones are *By Order of Creon* by Ehud Ben-David to the music of Daniel Shalit with Linda Hodes' set and costumes; and *Blind Man's Buff*, choreographed by Rina Schenfeld to the music of Elliot Carter with costumes by Galya Gat. The designers in both cases are dancers, members of the company, which shows a laudable trend.

*By Order of Creon* is the story of Antigone, the Greek heroine who would rather die than see the body of her brother left unburied as King Creon had ordered — not entirely without reason, seeing that the young man fell fighting against his own country. I can hardly see what attracted a young Israeli choreographer to this theme, nor what he could have discovered there after the theme had already been quite thoroughly treated by others, including Sophocles. The results, as could have been expected, are unimpressive in both contents and form. The most interesting part of the piece is the set in which an arrangement of heavy ropes represents a dungeon, as well as the costumes. The performances by Linda Hodes as the heroine, Ehud Ben-David as King Creon and Rahamin Ron as Antigone's betrothed are faultless.



*Ehud Ben-David's new work "By Order of Creon" performed by the Batsheva Ballet. At right: a scene from "Blind Man's Buff" choreographed by Rina Schenfeld.*

A pleasant contrast to the above is Rina Schenfeld's *Blind Man's Buff*, built on a "small" subject — children's games. The subject provided the choreographer with a fresh dance vocabulary of deceptive simplicity, and out of the simple games she created dramatic tension and revealed psychological truths which apply to adults as well as to children. The entire company performs with the competence we have come to expect of them.

