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Stephen Grover

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**Joffrey Performs Like a Corporation To Raise $1.5 Million**

**Ballet Company’s Prospectus Outlines Financial State, Rigors of Dancers’ Lives**

*Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

NEW YORK — In an attempt to raise $1.5 million to finance special projects this year commemorating the company’s 20th anniversary, The Joffrey Ballet is using an important corporate tool: the prospectus.

The Joffrey Ballet’s prospectus is unusual on several scores. It both sets forth the company’s current state of finances and, as full and completely as a publicly held corporation is required to do, graphically depicts the rigors of life in a modern ballet company.

Assuming, for example, that the entire $1.5 million is raised, Joffrey—or The Foundation for The Joffrey Ballet Inc., as the nation’s third-largest ballet company is formally known—would like to spend $500,000 on a new rehearsal studio.

According to the prospectus, the company’s present studios in Greenwich Village and Lincoln Center, where it rents at an annual cost of $15,000, are inadequate. “The rehearsal rooms are undersized, underheated, and interspersed with structural columns,” the prospectus states. “The wardrobe rooms are badly overstocked, and the changing rooms, although aesthetically antiquated. The studios are not only inefficient from the point of productivity but also are depressing and dehumanizing in a creative environment.”

**Dancers Underpaid**

About $700,000 of the money raised would go toward general operating expenses. Last year, the prospectus notes, “During calendar year 1975, average dancer remuneration was $11,775.”

It adds: “Dancers are underpaid in view of their talent and training and the unique demands of their profession. There is perhaps no other human activity involving the same combination of physical vigor and mental discipline. The ballet dancer’s performing career is among the best short-lived. Moreover, unless he is in excellent form, he leaves the floor, and the margin for error is very small. Dancers are ‘divine athletes’ in the words of Martha Graham, but the lowest paid major league baseball, football or basketball player may earn more in a month than the highest paid Joffrey dancer will earn in a year.”

James E. Siegel, the ballet company’s finance director, says “these conditions are appalling, but we felt the public should know about them.”

The prospectus also explains why Joffrey “must necessarily incur an operating deficit” in each of its fiscal years, which end Aug. 31. “Dancers cannot rehearse and perform all year round due to the physical demands of their profession,” the prospectus states. “The optimal number of weeks of activity is 41 to 43. Dance companies require a great deal of rehearsal time to maintain the standard repertoire and to prepare new productions.”

**Income Isn’t Enough**

Moreover, the prospectus says, “the Joffrey does not earn any income during dark weeks and rehearsal weeks, which constitute half the year. Income is generated during performance weeks, but even such income does not fully cover performance-week and other operation-related expenses.”

In this connection, the prospectus states: “During its current fiscal year, the Foundation expects to have total operating expenses of approximately $1,140,000, about 63% ($700,000) of which will be offset by box office receipts, performance fees, and other earned income. The remaining $1,140,000 (47%) of the Foundation’s expenses must be raised in the form of grants and contributions from government agencies, foundations, corporations and individuals.”

Joffrey would like to spend the remaining $300,000 of the additional $1.5 million to finance an original, full-length, annual Christmas season production of a new ballet to be entitled “Cinderella.” The prospectus says: “Cinderella will be the Joffrey’s first full-length production. It is not only the most ambitious but the most important project in the history of the company, for several reasons. First, the ballet should have great box office appeal and thus contribute to the company’s financial stability. Second, it will introduce a new generation of followers to the Joffrey. Third, it will increase the visibility of the Joffrey in the New York metropolitan area, which should prove beneficial for fund-raising purposes.”