

# Martin Bernheimer Los Angeles Times

Aman is Los Angeles' own folk ballet — Aman brings to the stage the color and excitement of this country's multi-cultural dance heritage. Drawing upon the folkloric resources of the world, dancers, singers and musicians perform in hundreds of magnificent costumes — creating a spectacular and exciting theatrical experience.

Aman's Music Center Presentations concerts have become an annual event. Throughout the year Aman presents dance concerts in western states communities, many of which seldom see big professional performing arts events.

In December 1977, Aman's audience was expanded dramatically when an hour-long special of the company in performance was broadcast locally by Los Angeles public television station KCET. This production has received two Emmy Award nominations.

Aman is a veritable museum of hundreds of authentic ethnic costumes and musical instruments. Many were purchased in the villages where dances performed by Aman were first learned. Others have been painstakingly reproduced from heirloom originals. Up to 300 costumes and 75 musical instruments are used in an Aman full company concert.

## AMAN SERVES THE COMMUNITY

. . . and serves it well.

Current local activities include Symphonies for Youth — Aman danced specially choreographed works with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Performances for Young Audiences and Performing Tree.

Workshops with children at the Marianne Frostig Center.

Aman has delighted audiences of these representative community organizations:

Junior League of Los Angeles Los Angeles Women's Chamber of Commerce International Committee, Los Angeles Philharmonic Association

World Affairs Council, Orange County Chapter

Hadassah, Beverly Hills Chapter

"This group of dedicated and committed artists has supplemented the educational program at a number of our Los Angeles City Schools. The response from students, parents, and staff to the efforts of the Aman Dance Company has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic."

"Aman presents an opportunity for youngsters to learn about the culture and peoples of distant lands through the medium of the dance. It is indeed a rich multicultural educational program which can excite the youngsters' imaginations and motivate them to learn even more in the

classroom."

Kathlen Brown Rice

Kathleen Brown Rice Board of Education City of Los Angeles







We are proud of the fact that since their formation in 1964 the Aman Dancers have become one of our city's leading dance companies, gaining national recognition for their excellent concerts.

Now they can be our good-will ambassadors bringing the best wishes from us all to audiences wherever they perform. Aman is an important part of Los Angeles' cultural life and we are proud they are part of the impressive list of America's top touring dance companies.

Sincerely,

Dom Bradley

Tom Bradley Mayor



Los Angeles is made up of more different ethnic communities than any other city in the United States. This internationality is reflected on our campuses, and Aman grew from these roots at UCLA.

When Martin Bernheimer first saw the company, he wrote in the Los Angeles Times:

". . . I knew the company gradually had been building a vast, faithful, discerning audience since 1964, when it first ventured a few halting steps with five lonely dancers.

"Of course, I had seen the glowing Aman reviews, had learned about the successful tours . . . but I hadn't witnessed the Aman in action. My loss.

"The company, I finally discovered, is every bit as good as its reputation."

The deeply-felt love of ethnic music and dance that found expression in the creation of Aman continues to fulfill ever-widening expectations. In America, where many people have come from an Old World to the New, folk songs and dances are a spiritual strength and a means of cultural survival. Ethnic folk-lore represents affirmation of traditional values — a concept that is growing more and more important in this world of blurring identities.



TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, AMAN NEEDS YOUR HELP. JOIN THE GROW-ING LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS WHO SUPPORT AMAN'S MANY COMMUNITY SERVICES.



## **GOALS AND DREAMS**

### NEW PRODUCTIONS

New productions are the lifeblood of all dance companies. It is essential that Aman premier new works each season. An ever widening repertoire, drawn from new and different countries, increases performance vitality.

Pre-production costs as well as costume and instrument prices are spiraling every year.

Financial support for these dance ventures is an on-going Aman goal.

#### A HOME BASE

Aman needs its own rehearsal space! At present the dancers use public school gym facilities, none of which have mirrors. Space is utilized wherever it can be found in the city for the many rehearsal schedules.

Aman needs a place for costume production and storage. Presently costumes are not even centrally located.

A site for workshops and classes would be an important part of a Home for Aman.

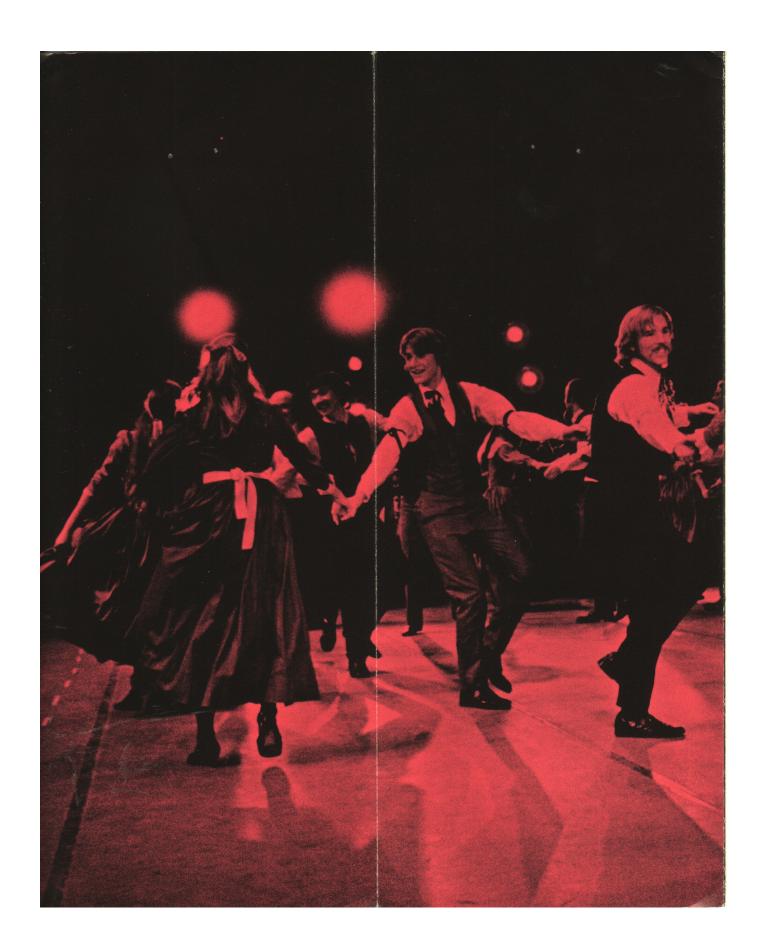
For efficiency, offices are needed where the Aman management would be in the same building with the dance activities.

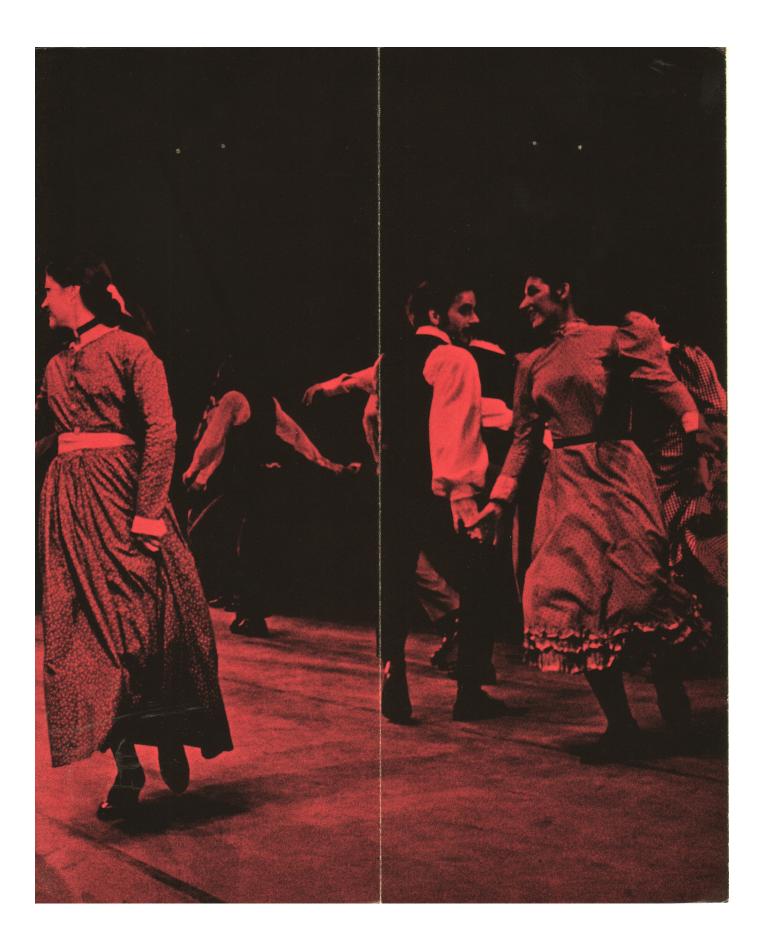
#### CAREERS

Aman must be able to provide artistically and financially satisfying careers for its performers and performing staff in order to retain them in the company.

#### TOURING

A much expanded touring program is important for Aman. Touring not only shares the company with other cities but adds the national prestige that makes a dance company eligible for grants that are essential to ensure its survival. The costs of a touring program cannot be met by box office receipts. Aman seeks help to meet the demand of its expanding Western states audiences and the dream of making an initial Eastern states tour in the near future.





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