

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

President and Mrs. Ford have invited the Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre to entertain at a State Dinner honoring the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and Mrs. Gierek on Tuesday, October 8, 1974 at 8:00 p.m.

The Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre, hailed as "one of the giants of contemporary theatre", is a mixture of ballet, drama and music. Claude Kipnis has created works for solo mime, mime troupe alone and mime troupes with orchestra.

Claude Kipnis was born in Paris and after studying with Marcel Marceau, founded a school of mime in Tel-Aviv. Since coming to the United States during the 1965-66 season for a nine-week engagement at New York's Theatre du Lys with "Men and Dreams", Mr. Kipnis has led his Theatre on extended annual tours of North America. The Theatre has appeared at the Ravinia Festival and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as well as many colleges and universities. His most recent work, "Pictures at an Exhibition" had its premiere in New York in June of this year. When not touring, Claude Kipnis heads the mime department of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

The company of eight includes four men and three women, all of whom were students of Mr. Kipnis from the University of Illinois where he was Artist in Residence for three years, or from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. The group's flexibility enables it to do works with orchestra like Dukas' "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" for the New York Philharmonic and works for children, "The Magic Hour". The Kipnis Mime Theatre tries to leave the range of its work as open as possible, from the traditional to the contemporary, from the silent mime to the music based pantomime, from the solo to the ensemble.

The Theatre is currently beginning a five-month tour. They have been featured at Paris' Theatre des Nations Festival as well as national television and on BBC in London.

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