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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DINNER IN HONOR OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
AND MRS. LEE

May 8, 1975
8:00 p. m.

Dress: Black tie ... long dresses for the ladies

Arrival:

- 8:00 p. m. ... at North Portico Entrance ... Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee, Ambassador and Mrs. Catto
- You and Mrs. Ford will greet
- Photo coverage of greeting

Yellow Oval Room:

- Secretary and Mrs. Kissinger; His Excellency Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency The Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Monteiro will assemble just prior to the 8:00 p. m. arrival of Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee and Ambassador and Mrs. Catto.
- Color Guard will request permission to remove Colors at approximately 8:10 p. m. ... all guests except Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee will depart at this time.

Grand Entrance:

- Approximately 8:12 p. m. ... descend Grand Staircase preceded by Color Guard
- Pause at foot of staircase for official photograph (Prime Minister Lee to your right ... Mrs. Lee to your left ... then Mrs. Ford).



- Color Guard re-forms and procession moves to red carpet facing East Room ... pause for Ruffles and Flourishes and announcement ... take receiving line positions (Prime Minister Lee to your right ... then Mrs. Ford ... then Mrs. Lee).
- Follow Color Guard into East Room when "Hail to the Chief" is played.

Receiving Line:

- Take position just inside door of East Room ... Ambassador Catto will present your guests
- After receiving line, follow guests into State Dining Room

Dinner:

- Round tables
- No press coverage of dinner; toasts will be piped to the press ... transcripts will be released to the press ... there will be mini-camera coverage of the toasts with a small photo pool.

After-Dinner:

- 10:00 p. m. ... guests proceed to parlors for demitasse, liqueurs, and cigars. You and Mrs. Ford will escort Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee to the Blue Room where you will visit informally with your guests.
- 10:05 p. m. ... after-dinner guests will be escorted to the State Floor. You, Mrs. Ford, Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee (Prime Minister Lee to your right ... then Mrs. Ford ... then Mrs. Lee) will receive the after-dinner guests from a position in the Grand Hall in front of the Blue Room and facing the East Room -- a Military Social Aide will present your guests -- guests will proceed to the East Room and take their seats.

Entertainment:

- After the guests are seated, you will enter the East Room through the Green Room door and seat Mrs. Ford, Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee.
- You proceed to the stage which will be located along the north wall and introduce Mr. Edward Villella and Miss Violette Verdy.



NOTE: Suggested remarks (Tab A).

-- At the conclusion of the performance, you and Mrs. Ford will escort Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee to the stage to thank Mr. Villella and Miss Verdy.

NOTE: There will be press coverage of the entertainment, including pool coverage of your introduction, the first part and concluding part of the program, and your closing remarks.

-- After you have thanked Mr. Villella and Miss Verdy, you and Mrs. Ford will escort Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee to the Blue Room for champagne.

Departure:

-- You, Mrs. Ford, Ambassador and Mrs. Catto escort Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee to the North Portico.

-- You and Mrs. Ford may wish to return for dancing or return to the Family Quarters.

-- There will be champagne, mixed drinks and dancing in the Grand Foyer for the guests who remain.

NOTES:

-- The dinner and after-dinner guest lists are attached (Tab B).

-- A suggested toast is attached (Tab C).

-- Military Social Aides will be present.

-- A Marine Harpist will be playing in the Diplomatic Reception Room as your dinner and after-dinner guests arrive.

-- U. S. Air Force Band will be playing on the South Portico Balcony as your dinner guests arrive.

-- White House photographer will be present.

-- There will not be interpreters.



The President and Mrs. Ford will entertain at a White House State Dinner tonight, Thursday, May 8, 1975 at 8:00 p.m. His Excellency the Prime Minister of Singapore and his wife Mrs. Lee.

The President and Mrs. Ford will welcome their Guests of Honor at the North Portico and will escort them to the Yellow Oval Room. Preceded by the Color Guard, the President and Mrs. Ford will escort their honored guests down the Grand Stairway and proceed to the East Room where they will receive their guests. The United States Marine Corps Orchestra will provide background music in the lobby as the guests are being received.

Dinner will be served in the State Dining Room, with all guests seated at round tables. The table cloths will be in Scalamandre fabrics of taffeta and antique satin in pink tones. The Johnson china, the Gorham silver and the Kennedy crystal will be used.

On each table will be a pewter reproduction of the Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl. It is a copy of the earliest surviving piece of silver made in Maryland, which commemorated the first recorded formal horse race in the state. The bowl is 4 1/2" high, 7 1/2" in diameter and 22.35 ounces in weight. The original is owned by the Baltimore Museum of Art, where it is on display. These reproduction, done by the Steiff Company of Baltimore, Maryland, are on loan to the White House from the Steiff Company.

Each Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl will be filled with an assortment of summer garden flowers, including lavender and white sweet peas, white butterfly roses, sonia roses, dark blue and light blue delphinium, blue cornflowers, orange and yellow mid-century lilies, peonies, sterling silver roses and cut Boston and springari ferns.

Tonight's menu includes:

- Gazpacho
- Filet of Beef
- Bouquet of Vegetables
- Bibb Lettuce Salad with Watercress
- Bell Paese Cheese
- Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberries Flambe
- Demitasse

Wines include:

- Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon, 1971
- Mirassou Brut, 1970

Following dinner Edward Villella and Violette Verdy will entertain the guests in the East Room. Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Corps will follow the performance.

* * * *



For immediate release
Thursday, May 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Following dinner Edward Vilella and Violette Verdy will entertain the guests in the East Room. Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Combo will follow the performance.



For immediate release
Tuesday, May 6, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Edward Villella and Violette Verdy of the New York City Ballet to entertain Thursday, May 8, at the State Dinner honoring His Excellency The Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Lee.

Villella and Miss Verdy will be performing a Pas de deux from the full-length Russian ballet: "Le Corsaire," composed by Drigo. This Bracura showpiece will be conducted by Robert Irving, conductor for the New York City Ballet. Music will be by the Chamber Orchestra of the U.S. Marine Band.

Villella and Miss Verdy danced at the Ladies of the Senate (Red Cross Unit) Luncheon Tuesday, April 22, 1975, which Mrs. Ford attended.

Villella, the New York City Ballet's 39-year-old principal artist, is recognized throughout the world not only for his skill as a dancer but as an athlete. He is known for his agility, strength, timing and grace.

The son of a Long Island trucker, Villella began dancing at the age of 9 and decided at that time he wanted to make a career of dancing. He earned a degree in Maritime Engineering at the New York State Maritime College. There he won a varsity letter in baseball and was also the school's welterweight boxing champion.

Villella joined the New York City Ballet in 1957 and became their principal artist in 1960, when he starred in a revival of Balanchine's "Prodigal Son." In 1962 he performed at the first anniversary of President Kennedy's Inauguration. He also performed at the White House during the Kennedy Administration.

He was named a member of the National Council of the Arts by President Johnson after the President and Mrs. Johnson saw him perform in New York.

Villella's roles with the New York City Ballet have included the lead in Jerome Robbins' "Watermill," "Brahams-Schoenberg Quartet," "Harlequinade," "A Midsummer Nights Dream," "Tarantella," "Giselle," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Swan Lake." He makes numerous television appearances and performs in concerts with symphony orchestras throughout the United States.

Villella performed at the White House in 1971 at a State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Indira Ghandi of India.

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Violette Verdy, who is French-born, is the principal ballerina with the New York City Ballet. She made her debut on stage in 1944, appearing with major French and European ballet companies. She has also done acting on stage, television and in films.

Miss Verdy appeared for the first time in the United States in 1953 with Roland Petit's "Ballets de Paris." As a guest ballerina with numerous international music festivals, symphony orchestras and companies, she has danced such full-length romantic ballets as: "Coppelia," "Nutcracker," "Giselle," "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," and "Romeo and Juliet."

She graduated from Skidmore College in New York in 1971 with a Doctor of Humane Letter Degree and from Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1972 majoring in French Government. She has taught ballet in New York regional schools and is active in the School of American Ballet Scholarship Program. She is also the author of a book, Giselle, which was published in 1970.



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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GUEST LIST FOR ENTERTAINMENT FOLLOWING DINNER IN HONOR
OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SINGAPORE AND MRS. LEE ON THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975 AT TEN
O'CLOCK, THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Morton I. Abramowitz

Mr. Abramowitz is Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
International Security Affairs

Mr. John O. Adams

Minority Counsel, Select Committee on Small Business

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Adams

Mrs. Adams is East Wing Receptionist, The White House

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Amchan

Mrs. Amchan is on Mrs. Ford's staff (correspondence)

Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Baker

Mr. Baker is Chief Clerk, House Committee on Education & Labor

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Blaylock

Mr. Blaylock is a soundman with ABC

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Brand

Mr. Brand is President, Transportation Institute

Miss Anita Brown

Guest of Mr. Fowler West

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Caper

Mrs. Caper is production coordinator for AM America

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Carlson

Mr. Carlson is Assistant Press Secretary for Domestic Affairs

Mr. and Mrs. Allan J. Cors

Mr. Cors is Vice President, Corning Glass Works, D. C.

Rear Admiral William J. Crowe and Mrs. Crowe

Admiral Crowe is Regional Director, International Security Affairs,
East Asia and Pacific, Department of Defense

Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Cutler

Mr. Cutler is Foreign Editor, Scripps-Howard Newspapers

Mr. Marian Czarnecki

Chief of Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Miss Glenda Dickerson

Guest of Mr. Mike Malone

Mr. John A. Froebe

Staff member, National Security Council

Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Gill

Mr. Gill is Country Officer for Malaysia and Singapore Affairs,
Department of State

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gittines

Mr. Gittines is a correspondent with United Press International



Mr. and Mrs. William H. Gleysteen, Jr.

Mr. Gleysteen is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Miss Karen Hart

Guest of Mr. Alexander Schiavoni

Miss Eliska A. Hasek

Guest of Mr. John Froebe

Mr. Steve Herbits

Special Assistant to the Director, Presidential Personnel Office

Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ingraham

Mr. Ingraham is Country Director for Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore Affairs, Department of State

Mr. Louis Johnson

D. C. Black Repertory Company

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Krause

Mr. Krause is Director, Office of International Marketing, Bureau of International Commerce, Department of Commerce

Mr. and Mrs. David McCallum

Mr. McCallum is currently performing at Mosby Dinner Theater

Mr. Mike Malone

D. C. Black Repertory Company

Mr. Robert Nichols

Deputy Director, Office of East Asian & Pacific Programs, Bureau of Cultural & Educational Affairs, Department of State

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Quinn

Mr. Quinn is Staff Member, National Security Council

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Roback

Mr. Roback is Staff Director, House Government Operations Committee

Mr. Alexander B. Schiavoni

Mr. Schiavoni is on Mrs. Ford's staff (entertainments)

Miss Margorie Share

Guest of Mr. Steve Herbits

Mrs. Jouett Shouse

Chairman of the Executive Committee, Wolf Trap Foundation Board of Directors

Miss Beverly Sills

Opera singer

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Slatinshek

Mr. Slatinshek is Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Sorrell

Mr. Sorrell is a photographer, Ebony Magazine

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Spooner

Mr. Spooner is Chief, Southeast Asia, Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Sprouse

Mr. Sprouse is Executive Director, The Associated General Contractors of America



- 3 - 5/8/75 at 10 p.m.

Mr. William Stearman

Staff member, National Security Council

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Thompson

Mr. Thompson is Minority Staff Member, House Government
Operations Committee

LCDR T. Stephen Todd and Mrs. Todd

Commander Todd is Naval Aide to the President

Mrs. Eleanor Traylor

Guest of Mr. Louis Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Vickerman

Mr. Vickerman is Deputy Special Assistant to the President

Miss Barbara Ware

Guest of Mr. John Adams

Mr. Fowler West

Staff Director, House Committee on Agriculture

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wright

Mr. Wright is Director, Western Africa Region, World Bank

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orben

Speechwriter



GUEST LIST FOR THE DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD IN HONOR OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND MRS. LEE ON THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975, AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE WHITE HOUSE

His Excellency The Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore
and Mrs. Lee

His Excellency Sinnathamby Rajaratnam
Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency The Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore
and Mrs. Monteiro

Mr. A. Sankaran
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. James Foo
Press Secretary to the Prime Minister

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Kissinger

Mr. Justice Rehnquist and Mrs. Rehnquist

The Attorney General and Mrs. Levi

The Honorable Vance Hartke, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Hartke (Indiana)

The Honorable Hiram L. Fong, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Fong (Hawaii)

The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Montoya (New Mexico)

The Honorable Richard S. Schweiker, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Schweiker (Pennsylvania)

The Honorable Lawton Chiles, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Chiles (Florida)

The Honorable Sam Nunn, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Nunn (Georgia)

The Honorable Richard Bolling, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Bolling (Missouri)

The Honorable Thomas L. Ashley, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Ashley (Ohio)

The Honorable John W. Wydler, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Wydler (New York)

The Honorable Clarence J. Brown, Jr., House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Brown (Ohio)

The Honorable Tom Bevill, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Bevill (Alabama)

The Honorable Bill Archer, House of Representatives;
and Mrs. Archer (Texas)

The Honorable Robert S. Ingersoll, Deputy Secretary of State,
and Mrs. Ingersoll

General Fred C. Weyand, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army,
and Mrs. Weyand

The Chief of Protocol and Mrs. Catto

The Honorable William J. Baroody, Assistant to the President
for Public Affairs, and Mrs. Baroody

The Honorable Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State for East
Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Mrs. Habib

Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, USAF, Deputy Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs, and Mrs. Scowcroft

The Honorable George W. Mitchell, Member, Board of Governors of
the Federal Reserve System, and Mrs. Mitchell



- Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
- Mr. W. R. Smyser, Senior Staff Member, National Security Council,
and Mrs. Smyser
- Mr. and Mrs. Alan Alda, Leonia, New Jersey
Mr. Alda is an actor and Member, International Women's Year
Commission
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnett, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Barnett is Vice President, Asia Society
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bell, Potomac, Maryland
Mr. Bell is White House correspondent, ABC
- Mrs. Eleanor Lambert Berkson, New York, New York
President, Eleanor Lambert, Inc. and former member, National
Council on the Arts
- Mr. and Mrs. William Bloomer, Wayzata, Minnesota
- Mr. and Mrs. Buhl T. Burgoyne, New York, New York
Mr. Burgoyne is Chairman, Union Carbide Corporation
- Mr. William Washington, D. C.
Escort of Eleanor Lambert Berkson
- Mrs. Helen K. Copley, La Jolla, California
Chairman, Copley Newspapers
- Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Davis, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Davis is White House correspondent, Associated Press
- Mr. and Mrs. H. Holmes Ellis, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Goggin, New York, New York
Mr. Goggin is Senior Vice President, Bank of America
- Dr. Jan B. Gordon, Snyder, New York
Assistant Professor of English Literature, State University of New York
and in June will be Visiting Senior Lecturer, University of Singapore
- Mr. and Mrs. Curt Gowdy, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts
Mr. Gowdy is a sportscaster
- Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Hartford, New York, New York
Mr. Hartford is Founder of the Gallery of Modern Art in New York
City (now the New York Cultural Center) and a former member,
National Council on the Arts
- Mr. and Mrs. William W. Irwin, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jameson, Los Angeles, California
Mr. Jameson is Vice President, Rockwell International Corporation;
Mrs. Jameson is actress Eva Gabor
- Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ladd, Jr., Beverly Hills, California
Mr. Ladd is Senior Vice President, Worldwide Production, Twentieth
Century Fox Film Corporation
- Miss Diana Molineri, New York, New York
Guest of Mr. Larry Rivers
- Mr. and Mrs. Mildren Montgomery, Dallas, Texas
Mr. Montgomery is President, Garland Foods, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. J. O'Loughlin, Houston, Texas
Mr. O'Loughlin is President, Esso Eastern Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry O'Rourke, Washington, D. C.
Mr. O'Rourke is White House correspondent, Philadelphia Bulletin
- Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Palmer, Youngstown, Pennsylvania
Mr. Palmer is a professional golfer
- Mr. Leon Parma, La Jolla, California
Chmn., La Jolla Bank and Trust Company
- Miss Elsa Peretti, New York, New York
Jewelry designer, Tiffany & Co.
- Mr. Henry Platt, New York, New York
President, Tiffany & Co., and escort of Miss Elsa Peretti
- Mr. Larry Rivers, New York, New York
Mr. Rivers is an artist
- Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. Schaff, Jr., Chicago, Illinois
Mr. Schaff is Chairman, Leo Burnett Company, Inc., Advertising
- Mrs. Isabelle Shelton, Washington, D. C.
White House correspondent, The Washington Star
- Mr. and Mrs. Red Skelton, Anza, California
Mr. Skelton is an entertainer



Mr. and Mrs. Harold Byron Smith, Jr., Chicago, Illinois
Mr. Smith is President, Illinois Tool Works Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Smith, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Mr. Smith is Vice Chairman, R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Dr. and Mrs. Willard VerMeulen, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mr. Edward Villella, New York, New York
Ballet dancer

Miss Violette Verdy, New York, New York
Ballet dancer

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Wilson, New York, New York
Mr. Wilson is President, Mobil Oil Corporation



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The Secretary of State and Mrs. Kissinger

Mr. Justice Rehnquist and Mrs. Rehnquist

The Attorney General and Mrs. Levi

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The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya, United States Senate,
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The Honorable Richard S. Schweiker, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Schweiker (Pennsylvania)

The Honorable Lawton Chiles, United States Senate,
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The Honorable Tom Bevill, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Bevill (Alabama)

The Honorable Bill Archer, House of Representatives;
and Mrs. Archer (Texas)

The Honorable Robert S. Ingersoll, Deputy Secretary of State,
and Mrs. Ingersoll

General Fred C. Weyand, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army,
and Mrs. Weyand

The Chief of Protocol and Mrs. Catto

The Honorable William J. Baroody, Assistant to the President
for Public Affairs, and Mrs. Baroody

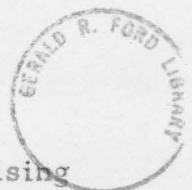
The Honorable Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State for East
Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Mrs. Habib

Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, USAF, Deputy Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs, and Mrs. Scowcroft

The Honorable George W. Mitchell, Member, Board of Governors of
the Federal Reserve System, and Mrs. Mitchell



- Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
Mr. W. R. Smyser, Senior Staff Member, National Security Council,
and Mrs. Smyser
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Alda, Leonia, New Jersey
Mr. Alda is an actor and Member, International Women's Year
Commission
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnett, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Barnett is Vice President, Asia Society
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bell, Potomac, Maryland
Mr. Bell is White House correspondent, ABC
Mrs. Eleanor Lambert Berkson, New York, New York
President, Eleanor Lambert, Inc. and former member, National
Council on the Arts
Mr. and Mrs. William Bloomer, Wayzata, Minnesota
Mr. and Mrs. Buhl T. Burgoyne, New York, New York
Mr. Burgoyne is Chairman, Union Carbide Corporation
Mr. William Washington, D. C.
Escort of Eleanor Lambert Berkson
Mrs. Helen K. Copley, La Jolla, California
Chairman, Copley Newspapers
Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Davis, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Davis is White House correspondent, Associated Press
Mr. and Mrs. H. Holmes Ellis, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Goggin, New York, New York
Mr. Goggin is Senior Vice President, Bank of America
Dr. Jan B. Gordon, Snyder, New York
Assistant Professor of English Literature, State University of New York
and in June will be Visiting Senior Lecturer, University of Singapore
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Gowdy, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts
Mr. Gowdy is a sportscaster
Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Hartford, New York, New York
Mr. Hartford is Founder of the Gallery of Modern Art in New York
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Ballet dancer
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- Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Wilson, New York, New York
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FACT SHEET
Mrs. Ford's Office

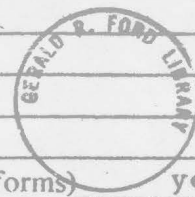
Event State Dinner
 Group Honoring Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee of Singapore
 DATE/TIME May 8, 1975 8:00 p. m.
 Contact Pat Howard Phone 2927
 Number of guests: Total 120 Dinner Women x Men x Children _____
 Place State Floor
 Principals involved President and Mrs. Ford
 Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) yes
 Remarks required yes
 Background --

REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list yes
 Invitations yes Programs yes Menus yes
 Refreshments State Dinner Format
 Entertainment yes
 Decorations/flowers yes
 Music yes
 Social Aides yes
 Dress Black Tie Coat check yes
 Other --

Press: Reporters yes
 Photographers yes
 TV Crews yes
 White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. _____
 Other --

Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms yes
 Recording yes
 Lights yes
 Transportation cars
 Parking South Grounds
 Housing --
 Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) yes



Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

For immediate release
Thursday, May 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will entertain at a White House State Dinner tonight, Thursday, May 8, 1975 at 8:00 p.m. His Excellency the Prime Minister of Singapore and his wife Mrs. Lee.

The President and Mrs. Ford will welcome their Guests of Honor at the North Portico and will escort them to the Yellow Oval Room. Preceded by the Color Guard, the President and Mrs. Ford will escort their honored guests down the Grand Stairway and proceed to the East Room where they will receive their guests. The United States Marine Corps Orchestra will provide background music in the lobby as the guests are being received.

Dinner will be served in the State Dining Room, with all guests seated at round tables. The table cloths will be in Scalamandre fabrics of taffeta and antique satin in pink tones. The Johnson china, the Gorham silver and the Kennedy crystal will be used.

On each table will be a pewter reproduction of the Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl. It is a copy of the earliest surviving piece of silver made in Maryland, which commemorated the first recorded formal horse race in the state. The bowl is 4 1/2" high, 7 1/2" in diameter and 22.35 ounces in weight. The original is owned by the Baltimore Museum of Art, where it is on display. These reproduction, done by the Steiff Company of Baltimore, Maryland, are on loan to the White House from the Steiff Company.

Each Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl will be filled with an assortment of summer garden flowers, including lavender and white sweet peas, white butterfly roses, sonia roses, dark blue and light blue delphinium, blue cornflowers, orange and yellow mid-century lilies, peonies, sterling silver roses and cut Boston and springari ferns.

Tonight's menu includes:

- Gazpacho
- Filet of Beef
- Bouquet of Vegetables
- Bibb Lettuce Salad with Watercress
- Bell Paese Cheese
- Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberries Flambe
- Demitasse

Wines include:

- Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon, 1971
- Mirassou Brut, 1970



Following dinner Edward Vilella and Violette Verdy will entertain the guests in the East Room. Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Combo will follow the performance.

DRESSES - MRS. FORD - Prime Minister's ^{Leg}
^{State Dining}

Flower-printed synthetic
chiffon. Top is actually
a halter, w a butterfly cape attached
& two piece print chiffon
butterfly sleeve dress (100%
polyester)



Villeo Films

* James Gardner
Compton

* Rest Silverman

~~Other lines,~~

2120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 8, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF TOASTS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
LEE KUAN YEW
PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE

THE STATE DINING ROOM

10:01 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: We are here this evening to welcome to Washington the very distinguished Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee of Singapore, and we are delighted to have both of you here, Mr. Prime Minister, and Mrs. Lee.

Regrettably, I have not yet had the opportunity, Mr. Prime Minister, to visit Singapore and, unfortunately, until this morning, I had never had the opportunity to get acquainted with you and to exchange views with you. But obviously, because of your reputation and your country's reputation, I have known both of you.

I must say that the reputation of both the country and yourself is carried very far throughout the world. In its brief existence, Mr. Prime Minister, a decade of independence, Singapore has compiled a tremendous reputation and record of accomplishment.

Asian traditions have blended in this case very successfully with modern technology to produce a prosperous and a very progressive society without sacrificing a distinctive cultural heritage.

Singapore has built for itself a position of great respect and influence in Southeast Asia and throughout the rest of the world, and I have noticed that in my many contacts with other leaders in the Commonwealth, as well as elsewhere.

As the principal architect of this success, the Prime Minister has become widely known, not only for what Singapore has accomplished under his leadership, but also for his very broad grasp of international relationships.

MORE

*76
State Dinner*



Over the last decade, he has achieved a very special status among world leaders for his very thoughtful and his articulate interpretations of world events. He is a man of vision whose views are very relevant to world issues and whose advice is widely sought.

When the Prime Minister speaks, we all listen most carefully, for good and sufficient reasons, and we come away from those experiences far wiser.

I am especially pleased that we have an opportunity to exchange views with the Prime Minister at this time. We have had a tragedy in Indochina. It is affecting all of the countries in Southeast Asia, as well as all of us who are deeply concerned for the future of Southeast Asia and for the cause of freedom.

It has made the problems of Southeast Asia more difficult, but let me say without reservation, we are determined to deal affirmatively with those problems, and we will deal with them.

The Prime Minister's visit gives us the benefit of his experience and his wisdom in assessing the current situation in that part of the world. It also gives me the opportunity to assure him that our commitments in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, if I might add, are honored and will be honored, and that our concern for the security and for the welfare of free nations in Southeast Asia is undiminished.

Mr. Prime Minister, and Mrs. Lee, it is a great pleasure for Mrs. Ford and myself to have you here with us this evening and at last to have an opportunity to have an acquaintanceship and a fine evening with you.

Both Mrs. Ford and I have looked forward to this for some time.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you now to raise your glasses and join with me in offering a toast to the Prime Minister of Singapore and to Mrs. Lee.

MORE



PRIME MINISTER LEE: Mr. President, Mrs. Ford, ladies and gentlemen:

It is two years since I was here as a guest on a similar occasion -- a guest of your predecessor. For America, our friends and allies, the world has been somewhat diminished since then.

In the first years after the end of World War II, the great events were the Cold War, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin blockade, the Korean War. In each one of these trials of will and strength, America and her allies in Western Europe, and later Japan, came out strong and united.

But the dramatic turn of events of the last two years -- the war in the Middle East in October, 1973 followed by an oil embargo, a four-fold increase in oil prices, the partitioning of Cyprus in June, 1974, and more recently, the loss of Cambodia to the Khmer Rouge and the capture of South Vietnam by the North Vietnamese army -- have weakened America and her allies.

Economic recession and increased unemployment, on top of the crisis of confidence of a Watergate and other related issues, bequeathed a host of problems on your great office. They have become the more difficult to resolve because of bitterness and animosities within America and between America and her allies over past policies and worse, over suspected future courses of action.

Then, as the United States was near distraction as a result of these problems, the North Vietnamese who had been well-supplied in the meantime by arms from her allies, struck with suddenness and boldness and brought off a great political coup routing the South Vietnamese army.

They had judged the mood of America correctly. They got away with it. These events have grave implications for the rest of Asia, and I make bold to suggest subsequently for the rest of the world.

I hope you would not think it inappropriate of me to express more than just sympathy or even sorrow that so many Americans were killed and maimed and so much resources expended by successive Democratic and Republican administrations to reach this result. It was an unmitigated disaster. It was not inevitable that this should have been so, especially in this catastrophic manner, nor that the problems would now end just with the Communist control of Cambodia, South Vietnam and Laos, and of their allegiance to competing Communist centers of power.

MORE



Now, much will depend upon your Administration getting problems back into perspective. An economically weakened America, with recession dampening the economies of Western Europe and Japan leading to falling commodity prices for the developing world--other than the oil producers--was threatening to further weaken other non-Communist governments the world over.

Now, it looks as if the worst may be over. It may take some time and no little effort to sort out the complex problems of the Middle East, to remove the threat of a sudden cut in supplies, in oil, at reasonable prices.

Next comes the restoration of confidence in the capacity of the United States to act in unison in a crisis. No better service can be done to non-Communist governments the world over than to restore confidence that the American Government can and will act swiftly and in tandem between the Administration and Congress in any case of open aggression, and where you have a treaty obligation, to do so.

If the President and Congress can speak in one voice on basic issues of foreign policy, and in clear and unmistakable terms, then friends and allies will know where they stand, and others will not be able to pretend to misunderstand when crossing the line from insurgency into open aggression. Then, the world will see less adventurism.

When confusion reigns, it is more often because men's minds are confused rather than that the situation is confused. I found considerable clarity of exposition on future policies, both here and in our discussions this morning, and in most of my discussions on Capitol Hill.

MORE

There was no congruence of attitudes and policies. But, I believe there is or should be enough common ground on major issues. If this common ground can form the foundation of a coherent, consistent policy between now and the next Presidential elections, there would be great relief around the world.

Like the rest of the world, we in Asia have to get our people reconciled to slower rates of growth now that the cost of energy has nearly quintupled. But growth, however slow, compared to what it used to be, would be of immense help in keeping the world peaceful and stable.

Only then will great matters be accorded the priorities they deserve and men's minds will be less confused. One such confusion is that since Vietnam and Cambodia were not America's to lose in the first place, then nothing has been lost.

It is this apologetic explaining away of a grave setback that worries many of America's friends. Since we do not belong to you, then you have lost nothing anyway, if we are lost.

I am happy to tell you, Mr. President, that my immediate neighbors and I have not been lost. (Laughter)

Indeed, we have every intention to coordinate our actions and policies to insure that we will never be lost. It is a euphemism for a takeover, often by force. It will help if Americans, particularly those in the mass media, do not find this strange.

Mr. President, I have expounded this last week in Jamaica, as a consequence of which my friend, the British Foreign Secretary, Jim Callaghan said it made him melancholy, and I went back and quoted a Chinese metaphor, saying in 4000 years of variegated living, sometimes in prosperous -- often in less prosperous -- circumstances, and the same language, polished and repolished over some 3000-plus years, one can usually find something apt.

It runs thus: Saiwung Chima -- Saiwung is a name of a man who lived in the Sung Dynasty -- he had many horses. One day he lost one. Who knows what tragedy he felt. The great chairman may not.

I don't know whether this is ideologically purist in its approach, but it has a philosophical explanation for fortune and misfortune. The horse was a loss, a great loss. The horse came back and brought another horse -- Profit. (Laughter)

MORE



His son rode the horse and was thrown off and broke his leg. Great pity. War came and the young men were conscripted, but his son, having broke his leg, missed the conscription. (Laughter) Unlike his many other contemporaries, he survived, but with a broken leg, mended. (Laughter)

It is as much to console my friend Jim Callaghan as it is to give me that degree of solace and sometimes objectivity. Who knows, two years ago it was a different world. Two years from hence could be better, could be worse, but I do not believe in Marxist, Leninist predetermination.

I have been able to spend a delightful evening beside your wife, Mr. President. I read of you, and it was as I found it, that you were open, direct, easy to get along with, but with decided views.

I did not know, however, that you had a gracious wife who made me feel completely at home, and I enjoyed my evening.

So, ladies and gentlemen, if you would join me in wishing the President and Mrs. Ford good health, good fortune, long life.

END (AT 10:24 P.M. EDT)

GUEST LIST FOR THE DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD IN HONOR OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND MRS. LEE ON THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975, AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE WHITE HOUSE

His Excellency The Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore
and Mrs. Lee

His Excellency Sinnathamby Rajaratnam
Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency The Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore
and Mrs. Monteiro

Mr. A. Sankaran
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. James Foo
Press Secretary to the Prime Minister

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Kissinger

Mr. Justice Rehnquist and Mrs. Rehnquist

The Attorney General and Mrs. Levi

The Honorable Vance Hartke, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Hartke (Indiana)

The Honorable Hiram L. Fong, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Fong (Hawaii)

The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Montoya (New Mexico)

The Honorable Richard S. Schweiker, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Schweiker (Pennsylvania)

The Honorable Lawton Chiles, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Chiles (Florida)

The Honorable Sam Nunn, United States Senate,
and Mrs. Nunn (Georgia)

The Honorable Richard Bolling, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Bolling (Missouri)

The Honorable Thomas L. Ashley, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Ashley (Ohio)

The Honorable John W. Wydler, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Wydler (New York)

The Honorable Clarence J. Brown, Jr., House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Brown (Ohio)

The Honorable Tom Bevill, House of Representatives,
and Mrs. Bevill (Alabama)

The Honorable Bill Archer, House of Representatives;
and Mrs. Archer (Texas)

The Honorable Robert S. Ingersoll, Deputy Secretary of State,
and Mrs. Ingersoll

General Fred C. Weyand, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army,
and Mrs. Weyand

The Chief of Protocol and Mrs. Catto

The Honorable William J. Baroody, Assistant to the President
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The Honorable Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State for East
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The Honorable George W. Mitchell, Member, Board of Governors of
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Mr. Edward Villella, New York, New York
Ballet dancer

Miss Violette Verdy, New York, New York
Ballet dancer

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Wilson, New York, New York
Mr. Wilson is President, Mobil Oil Corporation



TABLE 1

Sen. Chiles
 Mrs. Bolling
 Rep. Archer
 Mrs. Scowcroft
 Dr. Gordon
 Mr. Harold Smith
 Mrs. Smyser
 Mr. Cook
 Mrs. Baroody

TABLE 2

Mrs. Montoya
 Mr. Irwin
 Mrs. Archer
 Mr. O'Rourke
 Mrs. Montgomery
 Mr. Mitchell
 Mrs. Davis
 Rep. Bolling

TABLE 3

Sen. Fong
 Mrs. Ingersoll
 Rep. Brown
 Mrs. VerMeulen
 Mr. Wm. Smith
 Mr. Davis
 Mrs. Catto
 Gen. Weyand
 Mrs. Ellis

TABLE 4

Sen. Hartke
 Mrs. Nunn
 Rep. Ashley
 Mrs. Wilson
 Mr. Smyser
 Mr. Barnett
 Mrs. Shelton
 Gen. Scowcroft
 Mrs. Bevill

TABLE 5

Sen. Montoya
 Mrs. Bloomer
 Rep. Wydler
 Mrs. Weyand
 Mr. Wilson
 Mrs. O'Rourke
 Mr. Jameson
 Mrs. Gowdy
 Chief of Protocol
 Mrs. Schweiker

TABLE 6

Secretary of State
 Mrs. Hartke
 Mr. Goggin
 Mrs. Alda
 Mr. Schaff
 Mrs. Wm. Smith
 Mr. Bloomer
 Mrs. Copley
 Mr. Ladd
 Miss Peretti

TABLE 7

Mrs. Kissinger
 Amb. of Singapore
 Mrs. O'Loughlin
 Mr. Gowdy
 Mrs. Palmer
 Mr. Platt
 Mrs. Goggin
 Mr. Burgoyne
 Mrs. Harold Smith
 Mr. Rivers

TABLE 8

Sen. Schweiker
 Mrs. Ashley
 Mr. Ellis
 Miss Verdy
 Mr. Ingersoll
 Mrs. Mitchell
 Mr. Bell
 Mrs. Habib
 Dr. VerMeulen
 Mrs. Skelton

TABLE 9

Mrs. Rehnquist
 Mr. Foo
 Mrs. Brown
 Mr. Habib

Mrs. Bell

Mr. O'Loughlin
 Mrs. Schaff
 Sen. Nunn

TABLE 10

THE PRESIDENT
 Mrs. Lee
 Justice Rehnquist
 Mrs. Hartford
 Dr. Ripley
 Mrs. Ladd
 Mr. Skelton
 Mrs. Jameson
 Mr. Palmer
 Mrs. Monteiro

TABLE 11

MRS. FORD
 PM of Singapore
 Mrs. Levi
 Mr. Hartford
 Mrs. Burgoyne
 Mr. Alda
 Mrs. Berkson
 Mr. Villella
 Mrs. Fong
 Min. of For. Affs.

TABLE 12

Attorney General
 Mrs. Chiles
 Mr. Parma
 Mrs. Wydler
 Mr. Baroody
 Miss Molineri
 Mr. Montgomery
 Mrs. Barnett
 Rep. Bevill
 Mrs. Irwin



Edward Villella
New York State Theater
Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, New York 10023

Miss Mattson -

Enclosed is a set of pictures and biographical materials for Edward Villella and Violette Verdy, who will be dancing on May 8 at the White House -

Please contact me for any additional materials that you may need -

Sincerely,

Susan MacNaive

212) 595. 2129



EDWARD VILLELLA

NEW YORK CITY BALLET STATUS: Principal (since 1960)
JOINED NYCB: Nov., 1957
BIRTHPLACE: Bayside, New York
NYCB ROLES:

Afternoon of a Faun, Agon, Apollo, Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet, Bugaku, Jewels (Rubies), Tarantella, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Oberon), Con Amore, Dances at a Gathering, Glinkaiana, Harlequinade, Jeux, The Nutcracker (Cavalier), Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux, Prodigal Son, Raymonda Variations, Scotch Symphony, Stars and Stripes, Swan Lake, Symphony in C, Watermill, Western Symphony, Donizetti Variations

"Edward Villella as the man -- this strange acrobatic, slow-paced everyman at the hub -- is superb. This is not a dance performance in any normal sense, but it is a performance that only a dancer, and a very remarkable dancer at that, could give. His movements are essentially ritual, a muscular celebration of the self. Yet Mr. Villella holds the theater with a simple grandeur that is never once seduced into self-indulgence. Many times I have gloried in Mr. Villella whirling around the stage making the impossible possible. Here he is himself -- with his dancing actually rarified into an attitude of movement. It is both impressive and moving."

-- Clive Barnes, The New York Times,
Feb. 4, 1972 (on "Watermill")

Edward Villella is probably the only ballet star in the world who has a bachelor's degree in maritime engineering, a college varsity baseball letter jacket, and a trophy for being campus welterweight champ. He's also the first classical dancer to be featured in a one-hour national network television special (NBC's "A Man Who Dances" in 1968), the first American dancer to be invited to make a guest appearance with the Royal Danish Ballet, and the first member of the New York City Ballet to be permitted to dance an encore (after receiving 22 curtain calls for his solo in "Donizetti Variations" when the company performed in Moscow's Bolshoi Theater).

Villella joined the New York City Ballet in November, 1957. He had started classes at the company's School of American Ballet some ten years earlier at the age of 10. His studies at the school were augmented later by classes with Robert Joffrey and Lillian Moore at the High School of Performing Arts, but Villella stopped dancing completely at the age of 15 and began his preparation for a career at sea instead, studying first at the private Rhodes School and later at the New York State Maritime College.

After a serious concussion when he was mugged in late 1955, Villella decided to try dancing again as therapy for the injury. He came back to the School of American Ballet, this time studying with former Danish dancer Stanley Williams.

(more)



In 1957, Villella danced in an off-Broadway musical about Tom Sawyer called 'Livin' the Life' and that fall was asked to join the corps of the New York City Ballet.

Just two weeks after joining the company, Villella made his solo debut at a matinee performance, doing not one but two featured roles: the lead in Jerome Robbins' "Afternoon of a Faun" and a second solo in Todd Bolender's "Souvenirs."

In 1960, the year he was made a principal, Villella starred in a revival of Balanchine's "Prodigal Son." It was to become one of his most popular and critically successful roles. Clive Barnes of The New York Times has called his performance in the role "one of the handful of great portrayals in contemporary ballet" and Jean Battey of The Washington Post wrote that his performing of the same role as a guest with Washington's National Ballet Company was "the most exciting single dance performance in Washington during 1967."

Walter Terry writing for the World Journal Tribune in 1967 described Villella in the role as follows: "Villella continues to grow in the part. He hasn't let it crystallize, he hasn't routined it. Always, he has given it a brilliant palette of emotions -- boyish restlessness, youthful defiance, sophomoric bravado, sexual desire, lust, terror, disillusionment, defeat, bone-deep anguish, monumental remorse . . . Indeed, there is never an empty or meaningless instant in characterization of the Prodigal. In stillness, as well as in action, Villella is dramatically eloquent. He uses your senses to fever pitch at the start of the ballet, and at its close, you will find that he has made you cry."

1962 was a bonanza year for Villella, with a performance at the first anniversary of Kennedy's inauguration; performing with the Royal Danish Ballet (where one of the local papers reported, "The audience went wild and King Frederick led the applauding"). He triumphed in London (where one critic wrote "he can go up in the air like a bird, seem to poise there and flash a friendly grin at the gaping audience" and another found him "easily the most comfortable male artist of great technical accomplishment we have seen in London"). At Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, Mr. Villella was forced to repeat one of his variations because of the tumultuous applause. He created a particular success that year in "Donizetti Variations" that later led Clive Barnes to proclaim Villella "the Mercury of dancers").

The following year Villella danced the role of Harry Beaton in a City Center revival of the musical Brigadoon, a portrayal he was to repeat in three more City Center stage revivals, as well as on television.

Villella received the Dance Magazine award in 1965, the citation reading: "To Edward Villella, whose exceptional prowess is enhanced by magnetism, musical awareness, and a passionate search for the inner truth of a role."

He has made guest appearances with the Utah Ballets, the San Francisco Ballet, the Andre Eglevsky Company, the National Ballet (of Washington, D.C.), the National Ballet of Canada, the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, the Ballet Society of Los Angeles, the Miami Ballet, and at many festivals. He has also performed in

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concerts with symphony orchestras throughout the U.S. Besides dancing in Brigadoon and Helen Tamiris' 1958 production of Annie Get Your Gun, Villella has choreographed Carousel for television and has danced in Prince Igor at the New York City Opera .

He has appeared in two Lincoln Center theaters the same night, dancing first with the New York City Ballet in the New York State Theater, then slipping across the Plaza to dance in the Promenades series at Philharmonic Hall.

Villella's other television credits include "The Bell Telephone Hour," "The Ed Sullivan Show," "Hollywood Palace," "Kraft Music Hall," "The Carol Burnett Show," the "Mike Douglas Show" and "The Dick Cavett Show", "The Odd Couple."

He is a member of the National Council of the Arts, having been appointed to the board by former President Lyndon Johnson. Like many other members of NYCB, he has participated extensively in lecture-demonstrations of ballet for students and lay groups around New York State and across the country.

On November 4, 1971, Villella performed (with Patricia McBride) before President and Mrs. Richard Nixon at a White House state dinner for Prime Minister Indira Ghandi of India. His first appearance before a chief executive had come earlier, however -- in 1968 when President and Mrs. Johnson saw him perform during one of their visits to New York.

His outside activities range from reading to driving sports cars. He is both a participant and a spectator of various sports, and he has a German Shepherd named Ruby (after the section in Balanchine's "Jewels" in which he dances).

Roles he has created with New York City Ballet, in addition to his critically acclaimed lead in Jerome Robbins' new ballet "Watermill," are those in "Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet," "Bugaku," "Dances at a Gathering," "Glinkaiana," "Harlequinade," "Rubies," "Jeux," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Western Symphony" and "Tarantella." He has danced full-length versions of "Giselle," "La Sylphide," "Coppelia," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Swan Lake" with regional ballet companies and has choreographed one work, "Narkissos," for NYCB in 1966.

Of his role in "Giselle" opposite Violette Verdy with the Boston Ballet, Clive Barnes wrote: "His solo dancing in this act. . .thundered home with a brilliance no American Albrecht has ever produced. Mr. Villella was a knockout, but then at the end, the triumph apparently over yet not really begun, he had one final moment of quietness or compassion, an electrifying twist of feeling that indicated that this Albrecht was not just sensational but great."

When he appeared during Chicago's free summer series in Grant Park, dancing "La Source" and "Swan Lake" excerpts with Miss Verdy before a record crowd of some 18,000 persons in August, 1971, Dorothy Samachson of The Chicago Daily News proclaimed him "a magnificent, charismatic dancer whose technique triumphs over all choreographic difficulties and whose affection for his audience

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is returned in full measure." Earlier that year when Villella had appeared with several members of the NYCB company in a program of excerpts in the Chicago Opera House, Ann Barzel of Chicago Today proclaimed him "at a peak of skill that shows no waning. His artistry and rapport with the public grow steadily and he has facets beyond these. . ."

One of his greatest triumphs, that of Harlequin in Balanchine's "Harlequinade," was seen by Barnes as a "performance that makes good his title to be regarded one of the two or three most exciting male dancers in the world today." In the "Rubies" section of "Jewels," Barnes declared Villella "was dancing in cool defiance of such natural laws as gravity."

His Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" has been hailed by Winthrop Sargeant of The New Yorker as "a superb mixture of sportive movement and regal dignity" and by Joseph H. Mazo of Women's Wear Daily as "regal and commanding, brilliantly acted as well as excitingly danced."

Villella's powerfully masculine dancing has won ballet many new fans among people not previously interested in the art of dance. As Glenna Syse of The Chicago Sun-Times summed it up: "If there's anyone left in the world who thinks ballet is sissy stuff, Villella is the one they should watch. His style is completely masculine, daredevil, athletic, and adventuresome. You get the idea that on the side he shoots pool and breaks broncos. Still he has that little-boy impishness that makes old ladies cry."

In 1974, Edward Villella starred in and produced the first children's ballet ever commissioned by an American network: HARLEQUIN - A PATCHWORK OF LOVE.

Villella's interest in the role of Harlequin evolved from the New York City Ballet production "Harlequinade" created by George Balanchine, a role he has danced many times. But for the CBS television special, which Villella choreographed - the character became a poor young boy whose wit and charm wins the heart of the town children. They create a costume for him cut from bits and pieces of their own festival garments so that he can join them in the town's yearly celebration.

The reviews were unanimous in their praise of the ballet. It brought children an exposure to the art of dance, set in a story they could relate to, and an experience that was fun.



VIOLETTE VERDY



French, born in Brittany. Ballet training in Paris with Russian teachers. Debut on stage in 1944. Appeared with major French and European ballet companies, as well as straight acting on stage, television and films. First appearance in the United States in 1953 with Roland Petit's Ballets de Paris. The following year a sixty city tour with London's Festival Ballet. 1957, American Ballet Theatre. 1958, New York City Ballet where she danced more than twenty-five roles, many of which Balanchine created for her and her home ever since.

Guest ballerina with most international music festivals and symphony orchestras. Danced most of the great full-length romantic ballets: COPPELIA, LA SYLPHIDE, NUTCRACKER, GISELLE, SWAN LAKE, SLEEPING BEAUTY, CINDERELLA, ROMEO & JULIET with the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden, Paris Opera, La Scala, Stuttgart and Munich Ballets, Ballet Rambert and most American regional companies. Performed in opera in Italy and four times with the Metropolitan in New York.

Taught for many New York and regional schools and is active in the School of American Ballet Scholarship Program, choreographed three ballets. Her book GISELLE or LES WILIS was published by McGraw-Hill in 1970. Honored with the Mademoiselle Award-1958; Dance Magazine Award-1967; Skidmore College degree, Doctor of Humane Letters-1971; and Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, French Government-1972.



December, 1974

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Item: 7 8"x10" BW photos of Edward Villella and
Violette Verdy, ballet dancers who performed at
the WM on 5/8/75 for PM Lee of Singapore
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