Ballet Company
Formed Locally

Plans for the formation of a civic ballet company for Southwest Louisiana, to be known as the Acadian Ballet Company, were revealed here this week.

Mrs. Frank Gerami and Mrs. Hugh Cornay are serving as coordinators to form the professional ballet troupe.

Gaenor Grange, Mrs. Merlin Bute, a native of New Zealand and a member of the Royal Academy in New Zealand, now living in Lafayette, will serve as choreographer and one of three artistic directors for the civic ballet group.

"We hope to develop local and area talent as a professional corps de ballet," Mrs. Gerami said. "With the number of festivals, the Mardi Gras and other entertainments presented in Southwest Louisiana during the course of the year, a professional dance group to serve as a nucleus and to build a repertory seems indicated."

"There are a number of gifted young dancers in the area," Mrs. Cornay said, "who should be given the opportunity to perform with a civic ballet group. With an experienced and professional ballet performer of Mrs. Bute's stature and experience as choreographer and director, we feel we can present imaginative ballet with youthful verve."

The first performance of the Acadian Ballet Company is tentatively set for November at the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium, when the group will do "Coppelia."

Mrs. Bute holds the M.R.A.D. degree from the Intermediate Academy of the Royal Academy of New Zealand. She studied there under Jeanne Horne. Mrs. Bute also performed with the Maria Rambert Ballet Company in London and with the Boravanski Ballet in Sydney, Australia.

The ballet dancer worked with Alexander Grant who was also a student of Jeanne Horne. Grant is now one of the Royal Ballet Company's leading male dancers.

In 1955 Mrs. Bute studied and performed with the newly formed Frankfurt Opera Company in Germany. In 1958 she was back in London studying at the Sadler Wells School, which she had studied earlier in 1952.

Mrs. Bute left England in 1958 and came to the United States. She taught at Casa Grande, Arizona and performed with the Phoenix Ballet company. Last summer she did Swanilda in "Coppelia" with the Phoenix Ballet company.

The ballet was directed and choreographed by Eileen Colgrove, who was formerly with the Rambert Ballet and is a Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing of London. Miss Colgrove was the organizer of the Royal Academy of Dancing in Arizona.

Mrs. Bute will dance the solo numbers in the Acadian Ballet Company's production of "Coppelia."