

# THE SUNDAY TIMES

23 AUGUST 1970

No. 7682

Price 1/3

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Masks on and masks off: Celia Gore-Booth and Albert Vidal

## Masked intent

A LESSON in international relations is acted out on Lord Gore-Booth's Chelsea lawn. Let the loaf of bread be South America, and the two masked figures swooping and pecking at the tasty prize Russia and America. Lord Gore-Booth, the former Head of the Diplomatic Service, would hardly be inclined to sum up the delicate international situation in this way, but his daughter Celia, who is one of the dancers, has no qualms. Celia and her Spanish partner, Albert Vidal, are rehearsing for their first British performance as Maketheatreup, at the LAMDA Theatre Club in a fortnight's time. They studied together at Jacques Lecoq's famous Paris movement school and claim to communicate some completely new ideas through the medium of mime. "We use the techniques of publicity," says Albert. "The public doesn't want to think, it wants to feel. So we present a series of images."

Celia is 24, and had a typical diplomatic service upbringing; a few enviable years in Washington and Burma first, then brief despatch to boarding school in

England at seven. Luckily she liked it, and in her last year at Downe House won her acting colours as the Angel in Tobias and the Angel, the part her father once played at Balliol. Apart from advising her to take a Speedwriting course because it was "sensible" her parents didn't stand in the way of her theatrical ambitions. She went to LAMDA, and took the inevitable plunge into rep. "I did a season with York rep at Scarborough, doing broad Yorkshire comedy parts. It wasn't really my field."

Why mime? Partly because it's a universal language. Celia speaks English and Albert speaks Catalan, but they have to talk to each other in French. "In mime you can speak to everyone," says Celia. They tried out the show in Catalonia, and it went down well. "A triumphant tour," as they put it in their handout, using the language of publicity. Albert finds that the Spanish like most South Europeans, are used to movement as a means of expression. They got the points very quickly. North Europeans are slower, and that's where Celia will come in. Albert struggled for the right word. "We find it a good *mélange* with Celia."