

'Mirage' Is a Dance Of Illusions

By **DON McDONAGH**

THE MIRAGE is classically associated with desert wastes and desperate men. It is conventionally considered nature's prank on thirsty travelers in extremis, but Joan Jonas in her "Mirage" suggests that illusionary effects exist around us every day. The work, given at 80 Wooster Street Monday evening, was an effective trompe l'oeil combination of live movement, video and film.

Miss Jonas is nondramatic and presents even the most strenuous activity with a calm, restrained bearing. She is fond of using masks to cloak emotion even more. At one point she was shown on film sketching lines on a blackboard, then performing similar actions live in sharp bursts of light. The film image had been briefly succeeded by a "real" one, seen through the transparent screen, before the film resumed.

There was a constant interplay between film or video actions and those of the live performer. The mask that she wore during a dance sequence had previously inhabited a portion of a filmed landscape.

One of the most inventive elements in her work was a dance based on chalked numerals. Previously they had been seen on film, but Miss Jonas wrote them on stage and then leaped from one to another in order while stamping with a long pole. The latter provided the rhythmic accompaniment, and the shape of the piece was dictated by the placement of the numbers. A slow-rolling video picture later found Miss Jonas in repose and little by little she disappeared without appearing to do anything. It, too, was an illusion created in video space and one of the better effects of the evening.

'Meteor' Eyes Success Of 'Star Wars'

In the wake of "Star Wars," a huge financial success for 20th Century-Fox, other producers are announcing science-fiction films. One is "Meteor," which will co-star Sean Connery and Natalie Wood under the direction of Ronald Neame. Filming will start Oct. 31 at the M-G-M studios in Hollywood, and will continue on locations around the world.

Budgeted at \$15 million, "Meteor" concerns a worldwide emergency that develops when a comet strikes a meteor, sending a shower of fragments toward Earth. Mr. Connery will act a scientist attempting to cope with the emergency, Miss Wood a member of the Soviet team working with him.

The movie will be distributed in the United States and Canada by American International and by Warner Bros. in most overseas areas. It is a Sandy Howard-Gabriel Katzka Production, in association with Run Run Shaw. Arnold Orgolin and Ted Parvin are the producers.

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