

ISADORA DUNCAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE REPORT ON MEMORIAL CELEBRATION OF MARIA-THERESA DUNCAN FESTIVAL WEEK ...SEPTEMBER 13th TO 17th

The week of September 13th to 17th was designated as Memorial Celebration Week, by Kay Bardsley, artistic coordinator of the Isadora Duncan International Institute.

The opening celebration, reviewed extensively in the press, took place at Lincoln Center, on Tuesday, September 13th, and commemorated the life and work of Maria-Theresa Duncan who died December 14, 1987 at the age of 92. She was the last of Isadora Duncan's six adopted pupils who carried the sanction of the Duncan surname.

Beginning on Wednesday, September 14th, a three-day Festival of song, dance and history, was programmed to follow the memorial event. Dance soloists affiliated with the International Group of the Isadora Duncan International Institute travelled to New York to present premiere performances of new works created especially for the Festival.

Among the premieres presented were two works by Marilia de Andrade of Sao Paulo, Brazil, a Fullbright scholar and founder of the first dance department in a South American University. Dance critic Don McDonagh who observed the performance, and who interviewed Ms de Andrade afterwards, expressed admiration for her strength and skill as a dancer, as well as for the power of her emotional expression. His overview of the festival, presented to the IDII Board, gave Ms de Andrade high marks for inventiveness as a choreographer, and fidelity to the Isadorian ideal of passion in performance.

Another high point of the program of original choreography was a work entitled "Images of Isadora and Nijinsky", a duet featuring Richard Buckingham-Clark as Nijinsky to choreographer Jeanne Bresciani's Isadora. Mr. Clark, is a California artist, who was then also appearing as Sir Francis Drake at the Renaissance Festival at Sterling Forest, New York. Mr. McDonagh's overview of this work praised its unique concept and humor, but indicated that more refining was needed.

Lance Westergard, virtuoso performer, who has been hailed by the NY Times as "one of the greatest modern dancers around anywhere", performed his newly-revised solo entitled "For Eric", and a duet, "Suite to Venus" with Ms Bresciani. Two other visiting guest artists were Paul James Dwyer of Toronto, founder of the baroque Danse Oremus, and Maya Randolph of Milan, a lyric spinto soprano who sings in nine languages, and performs on the lute.

A symposium on aspects of Duncan history was held on Wednesday, September 14th. The audience was fascinated by the presentation of Brazil's Marilia de Andrade, who presented excerpts from her forthcoming book, on the involvement of her own father in the life of Isadora Duncan when the great lady toured Brazil. The report contained original research concerning Isadora's South American journey, and shed new light on the facts.

Other participants in the Symposium on Wednesday were Duncan scholar Lillian Loewenthal, and Julia Levien, well known for her work in Duncan repertory. Moderator was Kay Bardsley, who founded the IDII ten years ago jointly with Maria-Theresa Duncan.

Report #3...November 12, 1988.