

SZINHAZI ELET (LIFE IN THE THEATRE)

Budapest , January 5th.

Miss Allan.

Conversation with the artist.

Tonight, in the Király (King) Theatre will appear for the second time Miss Maud Allan, the famous American danceuse, who created great interest in her initial appearance last night and achieved warm and "intensive" success.

One of our colleauge's has interviewed Miss Allan and her impressario: Mr. Sydow, in her suite at the Royal Hotel.. Description of the arrival to the hotel, being met by Mr.Sydow, who is huge, blonde, friendly and Teutonic.

Miss Allan appears, has a wonderful, rythmical walk - first it is Mr. Sydow who carries the conversation and gives Miss Allan's life story: Born in SanFrancisco, wanted to be singer, coloratura.. studied in Berlin, Academy of Music, student of:JOACHIM, very successful...Restless for further travel, returned to America: New York, SanFrancisco. Attended DELSANTE School of Dance. (Explanation of Delsante School of Dance:it teaches young American girls how to walk, dance Indian and Greek dances, etc. Even Isadora DUNCAN attended the same school). Here Miss Allan cuts in with a frawn and in a belittling tone remarks that according to the French press, she, Miss Allan attended Miss Duncan's school...that is NOT TRUE...Duncan danced for the first time barefoot in 1902, while I (Miss Allan) did so in 1890 at Cornelius Vanderbilt's. The impressario continues: Miss Allan's talent was recognized early, she became a revolutionary of the dance...performed clad in sheer costumes...created quite a sensation. Miss Allan interrupts in a serious tone:" I have studied my art seriously, Indian and Greek dances, just as much as modern dancing, and I do not go in for exciting the senses. In my opinion body-tights(Tricot) excite artificially the curiosity seeker.- I show all, what is not in good taste or is not artistically beautiful is covered with jewellery, usually with diamonds. I danced SALOME in a tunic to my knees...with gold ear-rings and diamond jewellery.. The Indian dances in gossamer silk kerchieves.. Ah, the VISION OF SALOME...that is the most beautiful...my favorite. Wilde is my ideal...from his plays come my dearest parts.- Nudity in proper lighting is the ideal of the art" while saying that Miss Allan's cheek grew rosy and her large dark eyes flaming.

The reporter asks about Miss Allan's appearance and the closing of the act in Vienna. Miss Allan answers: "It was on the invitation of MAHLER, during the rehearsals he was enchanted, everybody who saw it praised it highly. Then the police came with moral complaints...I invited the City Council and performed LAKME for them. They were amazed and congratulated me...and still decided afterwards that I must dance in body-tights. NEVER - I rather left them...I will not bargain...NO.. NEVER... I got a contract to the CARL Theatre..Then I received the offer from Laszlo BEOTHY(BUDAPEST). It appealed to me, but it was difficult. The KIRALY(KING)Theatre had to pay a lot of money for me. We shall see if it was worth for BEOTHY, my feeling is that they will appreciate me here.

OPINIONS ON MISS ALLAN.

January 9, 1907

Miss Allan appeared for the 6th time in a performance of:"A Sogun", and just as in previous four performances, the "All Sold Out" notice was put out at the box office. Because Miss Allan is a SENSATION...!

Interesting sight, beautiful sight and -exciting sight. And - nobody is shocked in the packed house, rather, yes, rather, - everybody is enchanted with the naked spectacle.

So nudity has invaded the stage...We find it interesting to quote some opinions...here they are:

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I have not seen the nude miss. Nudity is not for the stage. Nudity, just as beauty must be given the semblance on the stage. In the part the actress must be nude, she must dress so that she produces that appearance. - That is my esthetic rule.

Jenő Rakosi

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Everything, that is beautiful has a place on the stage. During the performance of that danceuse, it never occurred to me that she was naked. - Perhaps with some other person - I would only see the nakedness. One must not make a fashion of this, otherwise some appealing or not so appealing mothers will appear this way on the stage.

Ede Ujházi

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This nudity was marvellous, inspite of the fact that the miss is not a beautiful girl, rather a bit ugly. But how interesting and graceful. Otherwise, my opinion is that nudity must not become an

everyday occurrence on the stage.

Klára Küry

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Unfortunately I have not seen Miss Allan. What I have heard and read of her proves that she is made for the stage. On the other hand, nudity is not for the stage.

Imre Szirmay

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Until yesterday I had no opinion, yesterday I was so enchanted and carried away by her act, as few other things on the stage had such a deep affect on me. Few are the beautiful verses I have read, few beautiful music I have heard in my life, as is Miss Allan's dance.

László Beothy

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A difficult question to answer. As a "lady" I would say, it is impossible; as an actress I would say: one can show everything that is beautiful. But other people might do so, not me.

Sári Fedák

*

If I could dance like that, I would not hesitate to follow her example.

Gitta Ötvös

*

A danceuse, although buttoned up to her chin, can produce the wrong impression, while one stripped to her sole(feet) can produce something pleasant.

Ákos Ráthonyi

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What is nudity? Is it ugly? If it is not ugly, it is suited for the stage.

Kornél Sziklai

1907

-A conversation with the artist.

Dress can not decide the fate of the stage or the theatre..
The actor, the play and the stage should be good, beautiful and
interesting, then even a fig leaf will not cause consternation...

Béla Vágó

Budapest, January 5.

Miss Allan

1907

-A conversation with the artist.

At the Király Theatre, Miss Maud Allan, the famous American dancer, whose introductory performance last night generated great interest and was an immense success, will give her second performance tonight.

One of our colleagues has interviewed Miss Allan and her impresario, Mr. Sydow in the Hotel Royal. His report follows.

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In the hall of the Royal, I inquired about her hotel room.

-Room 40, third floor!

-Ah, Miss Maud Allan...

It was someone behind me who said that; the whole man is a blond mace and a thick gold chain. He introduced himself, he is the dancer's impresario. His wide German face shows a friendly smile and, as we go up in the elevator, I learn many things.

-Miss Allan is fluent in German, French, English and Italian. She is a little tired now, but otherwise feels well. She has already had a rehearsal in the Király Theatre, she is quite satisfied with the orchestra, Beöthy is a very kind man...

We arrive at the third floor. He knocks on the door in front of us with a diamond ring. We enter.

The world-famous dancer is sitting by the window; her window looks out on Hársfa Street. She walks toward me slowly with marvelously rhythmic steps; her walk is beautiful, her upper body follows her every step with exciting movement.

We are seated. Miss Allan is tired, she says little at first, but her German friend is longwinded and he speaks, speaks...

-Miss Maud Allan did not originally study to be a dancer. She wanted to become a singer.

The young woman nods in agreement. She is not interested in these details. They have been repeated in every city on the continent, to a number of people and in a variety of languages.

-She is an American girl, she was born in San Francisco. Her coloratura soprano was noticed at the Berlin Academy of Music. Her voice teacher was Joachim...

-Joachim...-Miss Maud whispers.

-She gave performances in Berlin. Her first performance was already noticed by critics. However, she could not stay in Berlin, she is unable to stay in one place, to live in the same environment. She loves to travel.

Miss Maud nods smilingly.

-She returned to America, to New York and San Francisco. There, she attended the Desante dance school. Do you know where the Desante dance school is? It is a most interesting and curious place. You will smile... The American girls are taught to walk there. Yes, to walk. It is a kind of boarding school. Every properly reared American girl stays there for at least six months. In the morning, all the girls are awakened at the same time, they are ushered into a large room, where, to the accompaniment of piano or flute music, they learn to walk. They practice flowing movements mainly with their hips and upper bodies; they also practice gymnastics, as well as Indian and Greek dances. It was seventy or eighty years ago that this genial French person came to America and, since then, has become a millionaire. This is the Desante school. This is where Miss Maud Allen attended...and a few years later, Miss Duncan also studied there.

-Miss Duncan...- says Miss Allan with belittlement and unhidable loathing in her voice. It was reported in French newspapers that I had

attended Duncan's school. This is not true. It was in 1902 that Duncan first danced barefooted and I already did so in 1890 at Cornelius Vanderbilt's...

-Miss Allan's talent was recognized early-continues the impresario. She is a unique person, sir, she is a revolutionary of dance. Once, she danced in scanty attire at the school and that performance was so successful that everybody was talking about it...

The young woman here interrupted the blond man.

-Sir,- she spoke in a serious voice- I studied my art. I am as familiar with the Indian and Greek dances as with all the modern ones. I do not emphasize the sensual. That is ridiculous. The tight-fitting shirt is disgusting, it arouses, it makes one curious...I do not hide anything, a leotard does not form wrinkles on me, I show everything. The Greek and Indian dancers never danced in leotards. It was adapted a victory for false modesty. What is tasteless and artless to show, I hide with jewels, most often with diamonds. I dance Salome in knee-length tunic, with golden earrings and diamond jewelry. I dance the Indian dances in translucent silk veil. Ah, the vision of Salome..., that is most beautiful, I like it best. My ideal is Wilde, my favorite role comes from his creation. Nakedness, when placed in the proper lighting, is the ideal of art.

She stopped talking. Her face became flushed, her eyes were burning...

I was interested in learning about the details of the ban on her performances in Vienna.

-We were called in by Mahler. At the rehearsal, he was delighted. Everybody who saw it was conquered. Then, the police brought up some moral questions. They said my dance was immodest...I invited the members of the City Council and performed the dance for them. They were in awe

and they all congratulated me after the dance. Nevertheless, they decided that I must dance in a leotard. Never! I chose rather to leave. I do not make compromises. No! Never! I signed a contract with the Carl Theatre and there (end of page)

Sundays, January 3th

Miss Allan

Conversations with the artist.

Today, in the evening, I was invited to the second... (faded text)

...of our village's has interviewed Miss Allan... (faded text)

Miss Allan appears, has a wonderful, elegant wife... (faded text)

...the evening... (faded text)