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Frozen food, I noticed recently, is "microwaveable".  
I will attempt in one hour to make my topic "recapitulationable."

Who was Maud Allam?

*dance of gesture & posture.*

She was a "classic" or "aesthetic" dancer whose success in London was phenomenal - for 18 months whose career started in 1903 at the age of 30 and ended 30 years later in 1936.

And yet she is virtually unknown - and certainly misunderstood. Why?

She was a rival and contemporary of Isadora Duncan who, with her genius for press relations, successfully treated Maud as an "imitator" and therefore unoriginal.

In fact, they were two dancers of the same school- but that is all.

Maud had a superb musical education and was multi talented, but she had a skeleton in the cupboard refused to let the public in on her private life (unlike Isadora) and became a persona non grata in England in 1918, after losing a very unsavoury libel case.

To summarise: Both women were very effective on the stage but very different from each other.

~~Whereas~~ "Isadora danced to the music, rather than an inevitable series of movements for the sake of which the music seems to have been composed" Maud seemed to dance - and the music seemed to follow her

Maud was born in Toronto in 1873 only daughter of William Durrant and Isabella Durrant.

She has one, dearly beloved brother, Theo.

Her father was a cobbler, come from Norfolk as a child.

His children took pride in family background "Remember a Princess sat at the head of the table, not so long ago".

Theo identified with Sir William Durrant, whose family motto was "A dishonoring ~~stain~~ stain is worse than death", a motto that he lived up to, very deliberately.

The mother, adopted by a Toronto lady, was very probably illegitimate daughter of Adolph Sutro of SF

Maud inherited her mother's looks, charm brains her father's physique, and his mentality - slightly touched.

The family moved to SF in 1876, slept, ate, lived in one room. But things got better, and Maud had an extremely happy and rich childhood.

She excelled in many things- swimming, bicycling, wood carving, maths, and of course music.

Theo became a medical student.

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Maud



When she left for Berlin she already  
had a disarming charm <sup>2</sup> & "meanly dignified!"

In March 1895 Maud set out for Berlin's Music School  
Theo gave her a diary (in my possession) kept for 4 years.  
Theo and Mrs. D. were to follow Maud after Theo's graduation  
as an MD. The plan was that Theo would do post graduate  
medical studies and in the ~~xx~~ summer take his darling  
mother and beloved sister ~~onxx~~ travelling all over.

Maud settled down in Berlin and then, five weeks after  
her arrival, the Police visited her.

A few words about Theo's case; gruesome as it was, it affected  
Maud throughout her life.

On Easter Saturday two bodies were found in Emmanuel Baptist  
Church, of which Theo was Asst. Sunday School superintendent.  
His trial, lasted over three months, ended in conviction.  
for what became known as "The Crime of the Century".

Remarkable because:

- i) Mrs Durrant came publicly and totally to his defence
- ii) Theo was totally indifferent to the proceedings, and
- iii) thus branded as an ogre. In fact, he was mental.

NOTE:: THEO WAS CREMATED.

I have his letters from prison as well as Mrs. D's.

Whereas Maud diaries refer to Theo only occasionally - when  
legal decisions were awaited - her thoughts were with him  
constantly, that is clear.

She seems to have conceded his guilt, though never admitted this.

Maud remained in Berlin throughout this period. - <sup>impersonal although met her</sup> "Kaiser's visit"  
Her \$30 allowance dried up, she taught piano, English,  
translated Little Dorritt, drew illustrations for the Lexicon  
and kept up her studies.

~~Alms~~ will power - and grief.

"NOONE KNOWS MY FEELINGS AND NOONE EVER WILL".

Informed of execution two days later.  
Breakdown.

Mother arrived - with Theo ashes which went wherever they went.  
They travelled extensively but modestly.

In Florence Botticelli's Birth of Spring and Primavera were  
alleged source of inspiration.

Met young Arthur Rubinstein at this time.

One year with Busoni, then decision to take up classical dancing.  
having seen Isadora dance in Berlin.

She refused henceforth to play the piano for anyone - not  
even the Cherniavskys, whom she knew for 40 years, with  
whom she travelled 18 months. An emotional block?

Debut in Vienna in December 1903

Small tours followed

Marcel Remy composed music for Vision of Salome first in Dec 1906  
in Gustav Mahler's presence Succes de scandale.

Then to MUNICH

BUDAPEST

MARIEBAD

LONDON

enormous

TS  
Maud  
Maud



Presented as a sex object,  
Maud was received as the epitome of grace - conquered London.

"She's not a rich woman, but she can sign her cheque for 25,000"

Her success was absolute - The royal family  
The aristocracy the Establishment  
The politicians Church (portion)  
the general public.

*occupied West Wing - rent paid by PM bill 1928*

Why such success?

The daring interpretation of the Vision of Salome.

Maud's indisputable grace  
musicianship

*seems to have reflected the ethos of the age.*

as Mrs. Lagley Moore *contacts* said she was a dramatic monologists - in essence.

Duke of Westminster asked to marry her, she manipulated the Asquiths with great skill, etc.

A word about the salome dance. In June 1909 there were over 300 Salomes performing in the U.S. very daring because of its religious overtones. N.B. Strauss' Opera.

December 1909- In Russia- where critics were very poor.

January 1910- debut in New York.

WHY?

The Salome fad was over;

Maud's appeal was to a distinct social class, and this was offensive in NY

Isadora, Ruth St. Dennis and others had preceded her over the last two years, therefore her performance was no longer novel.

Maud's snobbishness, no doubt.

Her brother's tragedy, though not openly referred to...

Disappointment except in Pittsburg (Leopold Stokowski) San Francisco.

1911---- South Africa, no success, but met the C. Trio

1913- Start out for India, but LORD CREWE AFFAIR - *Bishop Purran Thako*

Enormous publicity- interesting demonstration of British imperialism in India.

Hence interest of the Bengalee critique.

On opening night Maud sprained her ankle, Tour shortened.

Then on through to Australasia, as in diagrams.

Unique itinerary in those days- with such difference in ages, emotional conflicts

Maud's attempt to take Leo away from others.

all described in Tour Director's letters home.

Refer to Harry Lauder's arrival in Sydney

concert in Kalgoorlie.

presence of Nellie Melba at concert.

But tour was no great success for Maud. Appendix fear

accident in Sydney

AND YET SHE WENT ON, UNCOMPLAINING, WITH THREE MUSICIANS,

ALL AT LEAST !% YEARS YOUNGER THAN SHE. (She was 40 years old.)

*15 Mrs. Moore*



Before returning to her home in London, Maud visited her parents in Los Angeles, and appeared in a movie, "The Rugmaker's Daughter" - of which no copy has survived..  
She is said to have danced extracts from the Vision of Salome.

Returned to London-  
having contracted Debussy to compose Ballet music for her in 1910, she organised her own company/ orchestra for her conquest of the U.S.

Significant that she had to do this- mng. her reputation was passe in the U.S., no agent would handle her.

Arrived in January 1916 with Ernst Bloch as conductor and at once poorly received in eastern seaboard.  
Visited CANADA, where she was warmly received in Mtl- suspect because no one knew of her personal tragedy.  
Lunched with the G-G in Ottawa.

Return to U.S. and fiasco. Tour collapsed half way.  
Father died in L.A. in 1917, allowing Maud excuse to stop tour.

Return to London brief appearance at Palace Theatre (N.Y.)  
Pemberton Billing case--- Senator McCarthy character  
This incident has been subject of two plays (NY, London)  
book "Salome's last Veil".  
BBC drama.

but more is to come as I have her side of the story.  
Maud fell into disgrace socially at this point.

Tour to South America 1921 with Rubinstein on return  
with the Trio in Buenos Aires  
~~Tour to France with Doris's assistance 1922~~  
Tour to Gibraltar Cairo Alexandria, Malta with Parents.  
Doris account of troubles in Malta.  
Father's ref. to perform on board ship

Then one more attempt in France (President Herriot) Brussels, Paris (Under Doris' management).

Her mother's death in early '30's.  
Her new "personal secretary"  
her so called school 32-8  
Her poverty, but as she becomes Miss Havisham.  
Etienne Amyot and his wife.  
Incredible existence.  
Finally, Holford House bombed, this allowed Maud to leave.  
Flew out to Portugal, took boat (1941) to NY. MONIQUER BEGIN  
Worked as drugstore woman in Santa Monica.  
Penniless end.  
Jan's visit towards the end- surrounded by 1908 clippings!



NB RE ISADORA DUNCAN BIBLIO.

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study of the modern dance of Ruth St. Denis and Isadora  
Duncan as expressions of American culture, 1900-29

Thesis MS Univerdity of Oregon      Microfiche.

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