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HAWANA, CUBA, NOV 2, 78

This is "Giselle" day in this fascinating city. There may be politics, world wide disturbances, but one thought is truly on ~~the~~ & in the minds of thousands that occupy these homes, their offices. It is the day of Cuba's great lady of the Dance. A unique personage, a national living monument of youth, beauty, & vigour. A miracle of this age. La Dama Alicia Alonso.

On NOV 2nd, 1943, she danced her first Giselle at the Metropolitan Opera House. She was replacing Alicia Markova, who was ill & would not be dancing for the rest of that Ballet Theatre Co's season. Naturally many members of the dance public were ~~amazed~~ disappointed. ~~They were~~ But ~~the~~



(2)

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I had plenty of time to
rehearse ^{her} ~~THE~~ role, one of the most
exacting of any ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ in the Romantic
repertoire of Ballet. Her solos, its
long sustained, adagio Together of Act II
and so many details, that even then,
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{along} never lost sight of, & perfected
with the precision of clock work.

It was an eagerly awaited debut.
And, ^{what} a debut. ~~XXXX~~ The most staggering,
satisfying ^{evening} ~~XXXX~~ of utter triumph.

It was a very proud "Albrecht," that
led her forward to be acclaimed by the
applause, cheers, & finally a standing
ovation. My memory is good. ~~What~~
could have been her final call,
brought her on, her hand ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
held in mine was trembling. ~~XXXXXX~~
I left her ~~XXXXXX~~ on stage, to receive



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The Tribute of a public, that had been amply rewarded for the absence of the great moribund, by the presence of now, the equally great Orlando.

The years have gone by. Alicia has added, more gold dust, more lustre to the role, ^{that} she loves, & will always be remembered for. "Giselle".

As I write these words, it is NOV 2 1978. The performance is ~~thirty five~~ less than three hours away.

Thirty five years later, here in

Havana, at the Teatro Garcia Lorca.

at approximately 8:30. The indestructible

"Giselle" of our age, in the personage

of the miracle, that is Alicia Alonso

will ~~show~~ ^{give} exude her magic, her Cuban

beauty, her ~~technical~~ technique, &

the artistry that is so uniquely hers.



It is now ^{eight} ~~seven~~ hours later. (4)

Tamara Korsouina always called

"Pisne": "Her Holy Ballet"

Let me ^{now} please quote from the Holy Bible. And so it came to pass.

Every word I wrote those hours ago, ~~was~~ did come to pass.

The evening was sheer magic, created by a magician of genius,

who cast her spell of dancing divinity, on her adoring public.

Her devoted friends, her three

past "Al Grecks", Anton Dolin,

Igor Youstkevitch, Asseri Plesitska.

& The great man himself Fidel Castro.

Anton Dolin

