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11-19-1938

Letter from Margaret Lloyd to Charlotte Michaud

Margaret Lloyd

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from Lloyd then dance
Margaret with
critic with
Christian
Science Monitor in Boston



Miss Charlotte Michaud
179 Pine Street
Lewiston
Maine

Kintstein was author of
Blind @ Ballet - had nice
remarks therein for Michaud

November 19, 1938

Dear Charlotte,

The voice of one crying in the wilderness -- and excellently done -- you Russianballet-review, I mean.

I think any one who writes so honestly is bound to win wide recognition in the end, as witness the grade you make with Lincoln Kirstein.

I hope you read my come-back at him, including the title, BOOST for Ballet. I only did it to annoy, because of course that was not the aim he had in mind.

It is tiresome and unjust, this spreading of the legend that I am some sort of a soft-shelled crab, instead of a good stiff-backed one. What dancers mean when they say I am too kind is that I am too kind to the other

fellow. I notice they all bristle at the subtlest implication that not everything they do is perfect.

Then too, dancers see only technique. They seem to miss entirely the larger vision of art, and the lift it gives, when it is art, to just plain people. They are blinded also by jealousy. The comments I heard among dancers, at Martha Graham's recital, were atrocious. It was as if a dozen little souls were trying to pull apart her greatness in order to tack some of it on to themselves.

That is why I do not think a practising dancer, or dance student, makes a good dance critic. One must remain outside to maintain the larger view.

Well, I have written some stern criticisms in my time. But then too, dancers read only what concerns them. They live in very small worlds, most of them. And of course the Monitor would not allow the brutal attack, the crude and violent utterance, even if I were disposed to make it.

I did not mean to write so much.

I think Idle Patter is charming. I was much interested in the first church story and hoped you would send me the others. I am interested in all you do. And wonder at your versatility and the amount of work you accomplish.

Still, the capacity for hard work, is, I think, the greatest human blessing.

Lovingly,

Margaret