

The Museum of Modern Art

No. 109
Tuesday, October 12, 1965
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

The first public showing of Anna Pavlova (1965) will be presented by the Film Library of The Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, October 14 at 8 p.m. as part of an ANNA PAVLOVA DANCE PROGRAM; The Immortal Swan (1935) will also be shown.

Anna Pavlova, produced by Arthur Kleiner, Music Director of the Museum's Film Library, is narrated by Muriel Stuart, a teacher at the School of American Ballet and a one-time soloist in Pavlova's company; typography is by Joseph B. Del Valle. Mr. Kleiner, a long-time Pavlova enthusiast, compiled excerpts from extant film clips of the ballerina and combined them into a cohesive whole. Since Pavlova had danced for these film shots with no other accompaniment but her own memory, Mr. Kleiner had to create a musical sound track, based on extensive research, and to synchronize the piano music which he plays to the dancing. The result, after several years' effort, is a twenty minute film which brings the artistry of Pavlova to life. Excerpts from five works are included: Christmas, Syrian Dance, Oriental Dance, La Rose Mourante, The Fairy Doll, and Coquetterie de Columbine, a dance improvisation; Californian Poppy is complete.

The Immortal Swan, 1935, directed by Edward Nakhimov, edited under the supervision of Victor Dandr , and synchronized by Vladimir Launitz and Aubrey Hutchins, recently came to light after it had long been presumed lost or destroyed. The film was assembled in 1935, four years after Pavlova's death, by Victor Dandr , her husband and manager. In addition to the sequences of Pavlova dancing, there are scenes of her relaxing and strolling in the garden at Ivy House, and a fragment in which she is heard talking to her pet swans.

A reviewer, writing in 1936 in the British publication Life and Letters Today, said of The Immortal Swan: "In slow motion one sees, more than has previously been possible, not only the unbroken flow of her dance, but the confirmation of one's impression of that fluidity....I am grateful to think that there is preserved, and that M. Dandr  has allowed us to see, so restrained and rewarding a record of the life and work of Pavlova the undying."

Stills and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Patricia Kaplan, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.