

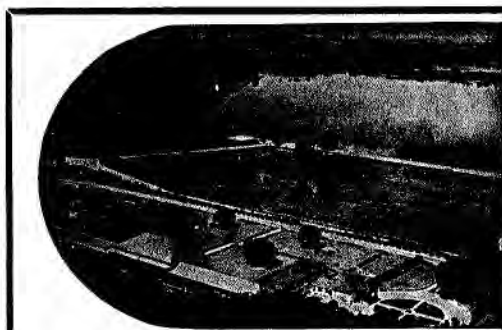
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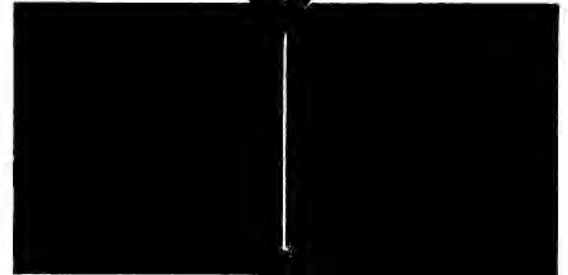


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Richard Maitland—A Ballet Dancer

CABARET

By J. K. Robert

RICHARD Maitland is perhaps the best and the most famous figure in the realm of Ballet dancing to come to India and it was indeed a delight to watch this graceful dancer glide through his entire dance routine.

Of American-Indian descent, Richard hails from Arizona. He had his early training at the American Academy of Ballet, St. Francisco School of Ballet and under such world reputed teachers as Nijinskya, Lichine, Danilova,

Katherine Dunham and Martha Graham.

Turning to the lighter side of entertainment, Richard became interested in modern jazz, Afro-Cuban and Eastern styles etc., as a result of which he appeared in Broadway plays like *The Brigadoon*, *Call Me Madam*, *Song of Norway*, *Lil Abner*, and many others. Cabaret engagements took him to some of the most posh hotels in the States and he also appeared in several films such as *Brigadoon*, *Call Me Madam*, *Band Wagon*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Carousel* and *No Business like Show Business*.

Not content with so many successes to his credit, he tried his hand at choreography and in his productions he starred with such big names as Mae West, Tallulah Bankhead

and, with Marlene Dietrich at the Las Vegas, famous spot, *The Sands*.

While in the States, Richard Maitland joined an Indonesian Ballet troupe. He was so impressed by this art, that he decided to visit the country and imbibe its culture, dance and music. After his sojourns in Indonesia, Bali and Java, he embarked upon a tour of India. Richard soon fell under the spell of our fascinating country and though he has been here for five years now, he feels that the ancient heritage of India has still so much to offer.

Prime Minister Nehru who has witnessed his performances on many occasions was very much impressed and Mr. Bunker the ex-American Ambassador expressed his satisfaction that Richard had been able to establish a Ballet School for children in Delhi.

Now for the first time, the Bombayites will have a chance to see this wonderful dancer when he comes to fulfill his engagement at the Taj Mahal Hotel. I gathered from his talk that he is interested in Indian films, especially the dance scenes where, he thinks, there is a lot of room for improvement. Hollywood is much more advanced in this respect and as Richard has the know-how, I suggested that he should stay longer in Bombay, as it is here that the film industry is centralized and his talents could be exploited to their fullest use.

As a dancer, I think he is simply wonderful, and to savour the true connoisseur quality of Richard Maitland, you must pay him the compliment of watching him in action.