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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

M 1-11-5

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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PAVLOVA MEMORIAL EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the death of the greatest dancer of our age, the Museum of Modern Art Dance Archives will open on January 8 the first Pavlova exhibition ever held in this country. The exhibition will be shown in the Auditorium Gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, and will remain open to the public through January.

The exhibition has been selected from the Collection of the Museum's Dance Archives and includes five sculptures of the dancer by Paul de Boulougue and Georges Lavroff, and two porcelain statuettes of Pavlova as the Dragonfly modelled by the dancer herself. Two small bronzes sculptured in 1914 and in 1921 by Malvina Hoffman will be lent to the exhibition by Miss Hoffman.

Students of the dance will no doubt find the most interesting part of the exhibition a comprehensive group of photographs tracing Pavlova's career from her early days in the Imperial Theatre School to her last dancing tour. Another high point of interest is a series of caricatures of Pavlova's dance instructors by the brothers Serge and Nicolas Legat. These are extremely illuminating documents of the Russian Ballet from 1890 - 1908. Also on view will be two drawings of Pavlova's foot by Savely Sorine, as well as numerous programs and posters.

The death of Anna Pavlova on January 23, 1931 in The Hague, while she was planning another tour, brought to an end the glorious career of the great dancer who was a legend in her own time. Pavlova's supreme artistry and her unique personality as a dancer were familiar to all the world as she danced through its large cities and small communities in Europe, Asia and America.

Pavlova was born February 16, 1882 in St. Petersburg, where at the age of ten she was admitted to the Imperial Theatre School.

Her debut was made at the Maryinski Theatre in 1899 at seventeen. With Adolph Bolm as partner she made her first tour in 1907 through the Scandinavian countries as well as Berlin and Prague and appeared in Paris for the first time in 1909 with the Diaghilev Company at the initial performance of the Russian Ballet in Paris.

With Michael Mordkin the following year she made her London debut. The great capitol received them enthusiastically in the first real Russian Ballet to appear there. In the same year, 1910, she came to the United States with Mordkin and danced for the first time at the Metropolitan Opera House. Pavlova's extended tours from this time on took her all over the world although London, after her first appearance there, became her home and headquarters.

Tours such as no other dancer ever made included not only the Continent and North and South America but Australia, China, Japan, Egypt, Java, India and South Africa. To countless thousands she became known and loved in such famous ballets as Le Cygne, Giselle, Papillons, Gavotte Pavlova and many others. Pavlova worked incessantly rehearsing and performing throughout her strenuous and tiring travels over both continents. She was in The Hague preparing to start on a new tour when she died shortly after midnight on January 23, 1931, a few weeks before her forty-ninth birthday.

After closing at the Museum of Modern Art the end of January the Pavlova exhibition will be sent on a tour of the country by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions.