Havana, 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 minds of thousands that occupy these homes, their offices. It is the day of Cuba's great lady of the Dance. A unique personality, 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 Marinova, who was ill and would not be dancing for the rest of that Ballet Theatre's season. Naturally many members of the dance public were disappointed. But...
I had plenty of time to rehearse *The Rock*, one of the most exacting of any ballet in the Romantic repertoire of ballet. Her role, the long sustained adagio together of act II and so many details, that even then, Alonso never lost sight of, was perfected with the precision of clockwork.

It was an eagerly awaited debut. And a debut. was the most shocking, stunning evening of utter triumph.

It was a very proud "Albrecht" that led her forward to be acclaimed by the applause, cheers, a truly a standing ovation. My memory is so good. What could have been her final car. I brought her on, her hand in mine was trembling. When I left her alone on stage, to receive
The tribute of a Babie that had been amply rewarded for its absence of the great Monroe by its presence of now, the equally great Alonso.

The years have gone by. Alicia has added, more gold dust. More that dust to the role she loves. I will always be remembered for “Giselle.”

As I write these words, it is now 1978. The performance is less than three hours away.

Thirty four years later, here in Havana, at the Teatro Garcia Lorca, at approximately 8:30. The indomitable “Giselle” of our age, in the personage of the miracle, that is Alicia Alonso will embody her magic, her Cuban beauty, her artistry that is so uniquely hers.
It is now some hours later.

Tamana Karsenia always called "Siree", "Her holy court.

Now let me please quote from the Holy Bible. And so it came to pass.

Every word I wrote those hours ago, had 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 "Almuerzo", Anton Dolin, Igor Youskevitch, Assani President, and the great man himself, Fidel Castro.

Anton Dolin