

Anzia Memorial Service
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I believe dance is the most unique of the art forms, and its' artists, whose gifts of unlimited abilities, are seen by the beauty of their physical instrument and endless passion for movement and its expressivity. Unparalleled in dance are its' teachers and mentors, which no artist can exist without, for they guide and shape each one's talent. As artist, teacher and mentor, Anzia's distinctive and singular gifts endowed many with the opportunity and blessing to fully realize their gifts and to discover what it was to be an "artist. Without her gifts, these aspirations would never have been realized.

In 1974 I became a member of the dance faculty at the University of South Florida and in 1979 I left to join the dance faculty at Florida State University where I remained for twenty-five years.

I continue to remember and give thanks for the opportunity to be associated with Anzia and her Tampa Ballet, even after thirty years I continue to remember this period as the happiest and most memorable time of my life in the Tampa Bay area. Her generosity of spirit and her love for this art form was the catalyst of "unlimited permission for everyone one who worked with her. She gave all of us the gift "to be" and "to do" as our talents unfolded as dancers, choreographers and teachers.

It was a privilege to work with her. I taught and worked with her advanced students, the young professional dancers of The Tampa Ballet, and made pieces for the Tampa Ballet, the most memorable being Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring, the turning point of my own choreographic life, which awakened something in me I had not known before. For this alone I am indebted to her.

The late Maurice Bejart created "Nijinsky Clown of God" in 1972. The work was an allegory of sorts about the legendary Russian dancer, and how Bejart saw Nijinsky as an artist, simpleton, genius, a child of nature and the clown of God. I see this allegory as a reflection of the many types of talent Anzia was able to cajole and draw around her. In the same context we were her "clowns of God" but if the truth be known, it was she that God had sent us...if love is the true expression of God, she was the Angel of God for all of us.