

In Memoriam

Ninon Tallon Karlweis died of cancer last September in the American Hospital in Paris. She was 68 years old. Although she was little known to the general public, the world of avant-garde theatre owed her much and will not be the same without her.

Ostensibly, the role of Madame Karlweis, as she was referred to by many, was that of a theatrical agent, who worked internationally. She was responsible for bringing European productions, such as Grotowski's, to this country and for arranging tours of United States companies, such as Robert Wilson's, overseas. As an advisor to the Shiraz and Nancy festivals, among other activities, she saw a great deal of experimental theatre and was an extremely influential figure.

To those who knew her, Ninon Karlweis was a unique and unusual person. Friendly, independent, energetic, strong-minded, switching from one language to another, she was deeply involved in a search for new and unusual theatres. Although she was interested in the opinions and reactions of others, she seemed to have a strange sixth sense. Often, perhaps always, she went to sleep during performances. Yet, the stories said, she knew what had gone on and could tell you about it. She seemed to have a third eye that did not sleep.

Those who knew Ninon Karlweis mourn her passing. They will miss her greatly. Those who did not know her have also lost something—a stimulus, a force that made things happen, and energy and power in avant-garde theatre.

M.K.