

RADIO PROGRAM
October 21, 1937

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

"REFLECTIONS ON THE DANCE"

Tap Dance by Earnest Sanders - $1\frac{1}{2}$ min.

Applause

Dunkel imitating Allen - dance steps.

Sherbon-- Umm-m- Dr. Allen, you have the rhythm, but your feet just don't quite follow.

Dr. Allen-- Well, that's the very best that I can do. I haven't developed my neurograms too deeply along those paths you know, but I think the audience, should know that for the past minute and a half we have been listening to Earnest Sanders in a little jam session with "Stompin' at the Savoy". A little later on you'll get to hear Tildie Fowler. Both Tildie and Earnest are new at K.U. this year. Earnest dances for the pure love of dancing, and you of the audience can appreciate the marvelous rhythm of his feet, but its a shame you can't see his movement.

Sherbon - Rhythm and Movement - that's practically a definition of dance, isn't it? Elizabeth, how would you define dance?

Dunkel -- Well, I suppose if I were to give a general definition, I would say that dance is expressive - rhythmic - movement. But there are many forms of dance. Each makes its definite contribution. We have just heard a tap dance. Most tap dancing simply embroiders interesting rhythmic patters on the underlying beat of the music. Of course, tap is not the refined form of dance which is used by the greatest creative artists to express an idea or emotion, but its appeal is to the fundamental sense of rhythm which has constantly expressed itself since primitive man first started beating on a drum. Other forms are folk dancing and the art dance as performed on the concert stage.

Sherbon-- In other words, tap and folk dance are popular, and the concert dance represents the highest form of the dance as an expressive art.

Dr. Allen-- Here you are, talking about tap dance, folk dance, concert dance, but where does social dance fit into the scheme of things? That is considered dancing isn't it?

Sherbon-- Well, of course, there are those who would debate that point, but it is a good question. I consider social dance a part of the folk form, because folk dance has always emerged from the mass of people. It is comparatively simple, not requiring great skill or dexterity to perform, and puts its greatest emphasis on fun and the social element.

Dunkel-- But we must not minimize the great contribution folk arts have made to the fine arts. Folk forms have preserved the vitality and the characteristics of a people in spontaneous expression. In a way we might say they are more real than the more highly developed art forms. Just as America is a melting pot of many nations and cultures, so our folk dance or social dance represents a blend of many influences.