

CrossTalk

May CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

THE CHARACTERS OF MOULIN ROUGE

The Moulin Rouge opened its doors in Montmartre on the 6th October, 1889 during one of the greatest social **upheavals** the world has ever experienced. It was a time of collapsing class barriers, as the middle-class and the riffraff began to mix, **mingle** and reach out to each other across the social divide; and it was in and around Montmartre in Paris where this was most noticeable.

A popular culture began to **emerge** born in an atmosphere of change, **vitality** and disorder; a perfect setting for the many artists, writers and free-thinkers that **flocked** to the cabarets and music-halls of Montmartre to meet and exchange ideas. Their approach to life broke completely with the social **rigidity** of the time.



Entertainers, singers, comedians and, especially, dancers came too. And the Moulin Rouge attracted only the best! But, perhaps, the most famous character associated with the Moulin Rouge was one of the regular customers, a quiet, little man who was almost always seen there, the painter, Toulouse-Lautrec.

In his posters and paintings, Lautrec immortalized some of the stars of the Moulin Rouge. Like all great artists, his keen eye could see beyond the surface of his subjects. He not only stripped bare the souls of the people he painted at the Moulin Rouge, he left us with a portrait of the very soul of the Moulin Rouge itself, in all its grotesque splendor! (*All 4 paintings in this article are by Lautrec.*)

So, who were these characters immortalized for all time by Lautrec's brushes? Above all, there were the "ladies" who entertained Moulin's gentlemen customers with their **exhilarating** dancing and **outrageous** antics.



These "ladies of the night" were known as the "Diamond Dogs" of Moulin Rouge. The name came from their habit of throwing diamonds presented to them by their **adoring** patrons into a fire. Imagine a somewhat low-class, free-spirited and very **boisterous** courtesan and you get the picture. They were prostitutes, entertainers and the inventors of the Can-Can! They were also the celebrity "super-stars" of their day!

"La Goulue" (Louise Weber), at the height of her career dancing at the Moulin Rouge, became the highest paid entertainer of her day! She was loved and admired not only for her dancing skills, but also for her charming and **audacious** behaviour. She would tease the gentlemen in her audience by swirling and raising her dress to reveal heart embroidered panties, high-kick their hats off and frequently **gulp** down her customers' drinks while dancing past their tables – thus, her name, La Goulue (the Glutton)!

In 1895 "La Goulue" was gone from the Moulin Rouge and the owners needed a new **headliner**. They offered "Jane Avril" (Jeanne Beaudon) the job and she accepted. Her style of dancing was the **antithesis** of Weber's. She was graceful, soft spoken and melancholic. Nevertheless, the crowd at the Moulin Rouge adored her and she became one of the most recognized names of Paris' nightlife.

Yvette Guilbert, like most, if not all, of the ladies of the MR, was born into **abject** poverty. But unlike the others who, after attaining fame and fortune, ended their lives back where they had started, **destitute**, Yvette remained famous and respected long after her MR days. She was even awarded the Legion of Honor as the Ambassador of French Song.



Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

upheavals 大変動	mingle 交わる	emerge 出現する	vitality 生命力	flocked 群がった
rigidity 硬直	exhilarating 気分をうきうきさせる		outrageous 無作法な	
adoring 敬慕する	boisterous 猛々しい	audacious 大胆な	gulp ぐいぐい飲む	
headliner 大スター	antithesis 正反対	abject 絶望的な	destitute 貧困	

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Only a couple of months ago, Greg and Kasumi had a new baby girl and we featured her in our March Newsletter. Well, now we have our second baby! A boy for Natacha. As you know, Natacha is still teaching French to some of you through the Internet, so we feel we can include Dominic in our expanding family too! You can see his photo on P3's notice board. Again, I wish to send "congratulations" to new Mom and son from everyone at Crossroads. We all wish you both the very best in your futures!

Junko Says: For those interested in the Government's subsidy program to support education in Japan, please note that the rules are going to change soon. Please get the details from me in the office. Also, if you or your friends are interested in this, or any of our other programs, this is the best time to join up as we are still holding our campaign and there are lots of great deals to be had. I'm free any time to discuss these plans, so just come to the office.



Alice Says: Did you know that Prince William is a friend of mine? "Really...?" you might say. Well, according to the idea of the six degrees of separation, it's true! What does the six degrees of separation mean? It refers to the idea that everyone on Earth can be connected in no more than six "steps". In my case, my friend went to school with Prince William's girlfriend, making us only 3 steps apart! I think it's a nice idea that everyone can be connected to each other so quickly. It's a small world! Have a think about the people you know, where will your connections take you...?

Adrienne Says: My large, friendly cat, Leo, continues to disappear for several days at a time. Every time he comes home he is noticeably fatter and smells of fish. If I don't start to feed him better meals, he may stop coming home altogether. On the other hand, perhaps I don't need him! I have a small back-up cat named Jack. He is not as cute nor as much fun as Leo, the main cat, but still, a cat's a cat!



Greg Says: The weather is warming up and that can only mean one thing...the beer gardens will be open with the sound of slurred conversations and high pitched laughter. Actually this spring / summer I intend to do two things a lot more than I did last year. I will have more BBQs with friends (not to mention the odd beer garden here and there) and I will also take my daughter to the beach. She is already looking forward to the Aussie summer (December) when she can hit the Gold Coast sand with her bucket and spade in hand to build big castles.

Iain Says: The other day we went out and picked up a Wii. It is a new video game system that was recently released by the Nintendo Company. It uses a motion-sensing controller. If you move your hand like you are swinging a racket your player on the screen does the same thing. It sounds simple but it is actually really fun! Our house starts to smell like a gym because the game is actually pretty good exercise.



Dean Says: Spring has finally settled in and it's a time for everything new in Japan. New terms begin, new staff start their new jobs, new contracts are negotiated and commence in the new fiscal year, amongst many other things. For me it was a time to explore some new towns and villages in Thailand. It was just a short 10 day holiday, but it was fun! What did you do for Golden Week? Whatever it was, I hope you had fun too!

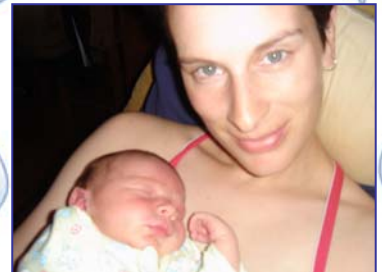
A Word From You

Notice Board

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 1st:
We are going to have a
"performance Night" by our
teachers and their friends. You don't
want to miss this one! Invite your
friends to come along. Get the details
from Junko in the office.

Saturday, July 28th:
It's the end-of-term performance
night and party! Another occasion
to invite everyone to come along -
this time, to watch you
perform!



Meet Dominic - here he is
with new mom, Natacha.
Congratulations Natacha,
from everyone here at
Crossroads!



Don't forget,
it's still campaign time!
Please invite your
friends to visit us.
There are great deals
for those who join now.
Get the details from
Junko in the
office.

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our
lessons on the internet -- It's CROSSROADS in your home
or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching
programs, even classmates, *all on-line*! Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

A history of the Moulin Rouge can be found here:
<http://www.simplytaty.com/history/moulinrouge.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the
Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find
games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x / week

MOTHER & CHILD: group or private
KIDS: group or private



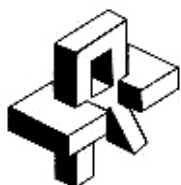
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with Alice
Yoga with Dean
Guitar with William
"Cooking in English" with Alice & Dean
"Magic English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Acting with Alice

NETLESSONS:
group or private



FRENCH with Natacha
SPANISH with Patricio
RUSSIAN with Natasha
GERMAN with Marita & Matthias
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kum Fa



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