

The Berkshire Evening Eagle

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Silent Movies Will Thrill, Will Chill Museum Members



MAYA DEREN: Looking for a flying saucer?

The samples of modern "art" which demand (and are given) a thousand lines of carefully written prose to explain the artist's meaning have nothing on three short films to be shown tonight at the Berkshire Museum as one of the features of members' night. Maya Deren, who conceived and is featured in each of the silent strips of acetate sent along a few pages to explain what the spectator will see tonight.

She writes of the first film, "Meshes of the Afternoon." "It is concerned with the relationship between the imaginative and objective reality. The film begins in actuality and eventually ends there. But in the meantime, the imagination, here given as a dream, intervenes. It seizes upon a casual incident and elaborating it into critical proportions, thrusts back into reality the product of its convolutions."

A Terrible Mesh

Well, all right. A wag, sitting near us at yesterday's preview, muttered half way through that she certainly was in a "terrible mesh."

People will like the movie tonight for varying reasons, one of which being that it won't take long—33 minutes. And Maya is interesting to look at. In these 33 minutes she glides down a rock precipice, goes swimming, gets murdered, almost drowns (we thought), and does quite a bit of running and walking. She has big strong legs.

Those liking abstract symbols can wonder why keys came out her mouth or why flowers (said to be symbolic of fertility) are dropped on a white pillow. When the key comes from her mouth, there is a reasonably absorbing close-up of Miss Deren's lips.

Although it doesn't make any difference, the titles of the other two movies are "At Land" and "A Study in Choreography for Camera."

With Miss Deren's offerings will be other more conventional shorts, including a history of the animated cartoons. First showing will be at 8, and Museum authorities promise a second run-through after the talk to be given by Frank Crownshield.