

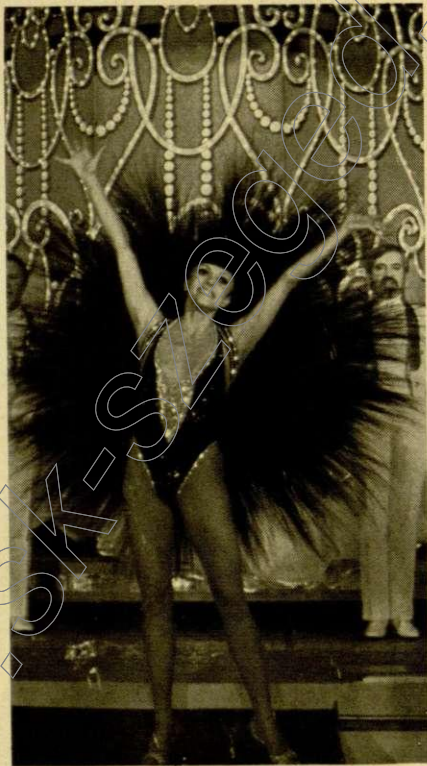
IN PURCHASING the Folies — for an undisclosed sum — Mrs. Martini adds another 300 artists and 50 technicians and administrators to the thousands of such people who already work for her. Little is known about this "Empress" of Paris night life other than that she was in her youth a designer and a model, and that she married a Syrian named Nachat Martini.

Condemned in his home country as a spy for France, Martini left Damascus for Paris and gained renown as a night club impresario before he died in 1960.

His wife stayed in the business. In addition to her Pigalle-area cabarets, she owns the Mogador, Comedie des Champs-Elysees and Bouffes-Parisiennes theaters which, according to one Paris critic, "Have always presented quality shows, justly crowned with success."

That's Still Entertainment

The grande dame of girlie shows, Paris's **Folies-Bergère**, is alive and still kicking up its high heels at age 106. Decades ago, the Folies was a showcase for such stars as Josephine Baker, who made her Paris debut on its stage in a



Michel Ginies—Sipa

The Folies-Bergère is alive and kicking

bikini fashioned from bananas. But big-name performers have long since been phased out, and the big attraction at the Folies is now the show itself. Never fully nude, Folies beauties are forever streaming up and down a staircase, popping out of cardboard cakes or spraying balloons from hanging carriages. Compared with other flesh-peddling shows in Paris, the Folies is tame—but that is the way veteran director Michel Gyarmathy wants it. He calls his production a "family show." Attendance has declined recently—and there is talk of possible layoffs—but Gyarmathy insists that "the Folies-Bergère will go on as long as there is an Eiffel Tower."

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