

THE MOULIN ROUGE

Brief History of the club,
certain dancers, and the artist
Toulouse Lautrec.

By Laura Denhart

THE RED WINDMILL

- Opened on October 15, 1889
 - Built by Josep Oller (1839-1922) and Charles Zidler, who owned other cabaret clubs in Paris such as Paris Olympia
- Located in the Paris Red-Light District of Pigalle on Boulevard de Cliché
- Pigalle Place in Montmartre has long been notorious as a popular hotspot for the more risqué crowd.
 - The club is recognized by a large red windmill on its roof.

-The time period was a gap between two wars, and a period of transition between two centuries, during which the social barriers disappeared and when the industrial revolution gave hope of a better life for all as well as a lot more fun.



THE MARKET FOR LOVE

There was a long gallery lined with paintings, photographs, posters, and tapestries which lead to the spacious dance hall.

Dancers kicked their lace and silk clad legs gracefully to the beat of brass instruments. Acrobats and singers joined the dancers in presenting a wild display.

At intermission, the customers filled the dance floor.



OUTSIDE THE WALLS...

Outside, in the garden, a full orchestra played while a French can-can was performed. Tame monkeys heckled spectators as they passed from row to row. The other various entertainments included: belly dancers, clowns, fortune tellers, and a shooting gallery



THE QUADRILLE : THE CAN-CAN

- ◉ Young female dancers who performed dances of the most unique kind and came together for what was known as the Quadrille.
- ◉ The dancers were not professionals.
- ◉ By day, the girls took part in work such as linen maids, laundresses and seamstresses.
- ◉ It was there that Charles Morton, renamed the dance - the French cancan.



DIAMOND DOGS

Most of the dancers became famous due to their peculiar and suggestive names such as la Goulue, Nini Pattes-en-l'Air, Grille d'Egout , and la Mome Fromage.

- ◉ The Diamond Dogs was the name given to Zidler's special dancers.
- ◉ Nini Pattes-en-l'Air was a muse for Toulouse Lautrec



LA GOULUE

- ◉ Born Louise Weber to a Jewish family from Alsace and moved to Clichy, near Paris.
- ◉ Dancing at small clubs around Paris, Louise Weber quickly became a popular personality, liked for both her dancing skills and her charming audacious behavior.
- ◉ She was hired to work at the Moulin Rouge when it opened and preformed an early version of the can-can known as the chalu.
- ◉ She got the nickname because she would dance by tables and down the customer's drinks, hence "The Glutton."
- ◉ In her routine, she teased the male audience by swirling her raised dress to reveal the heart embroidered on her panties and would do a high kick while flipping off a man's hat with her toe.
- ◉ She left the Moulin Rouge in attempt to go out on her own in 1895
- ◉ Sadly, her fans did not follow and she died alone, severely overweight, addicted to alcohol and depressed.

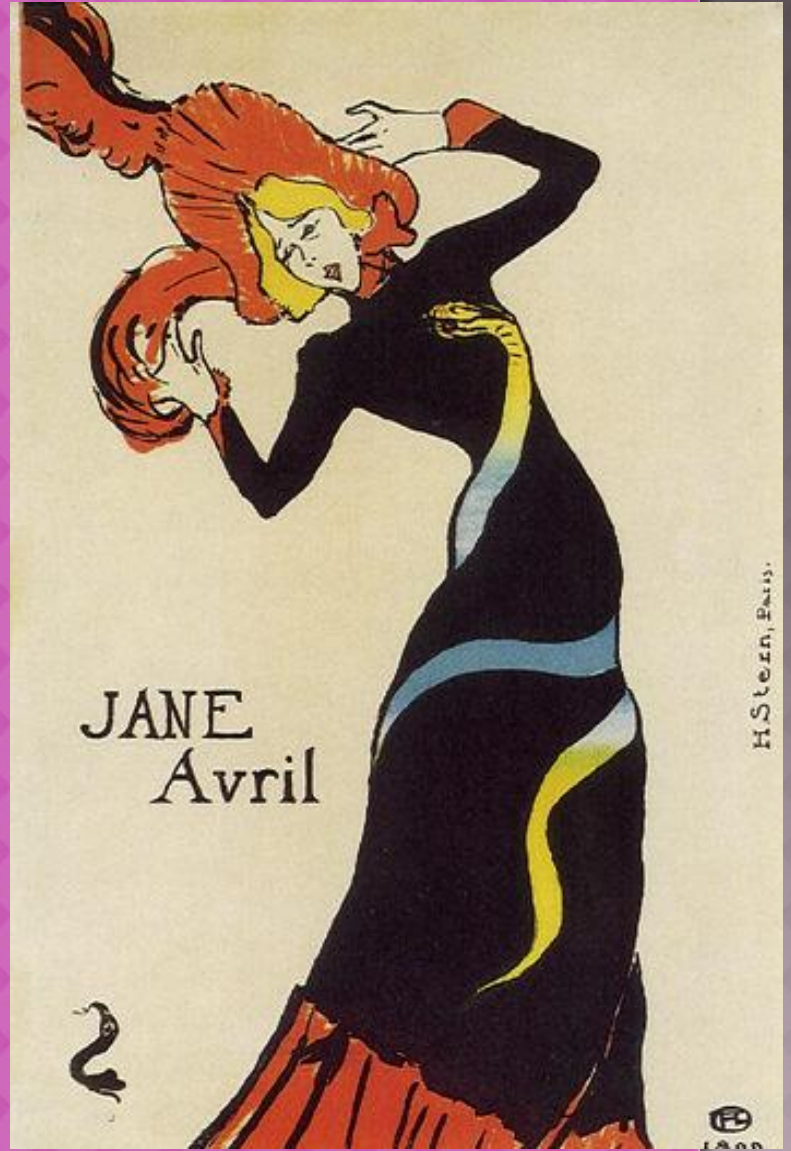


Beauchamp & Co.

Paris

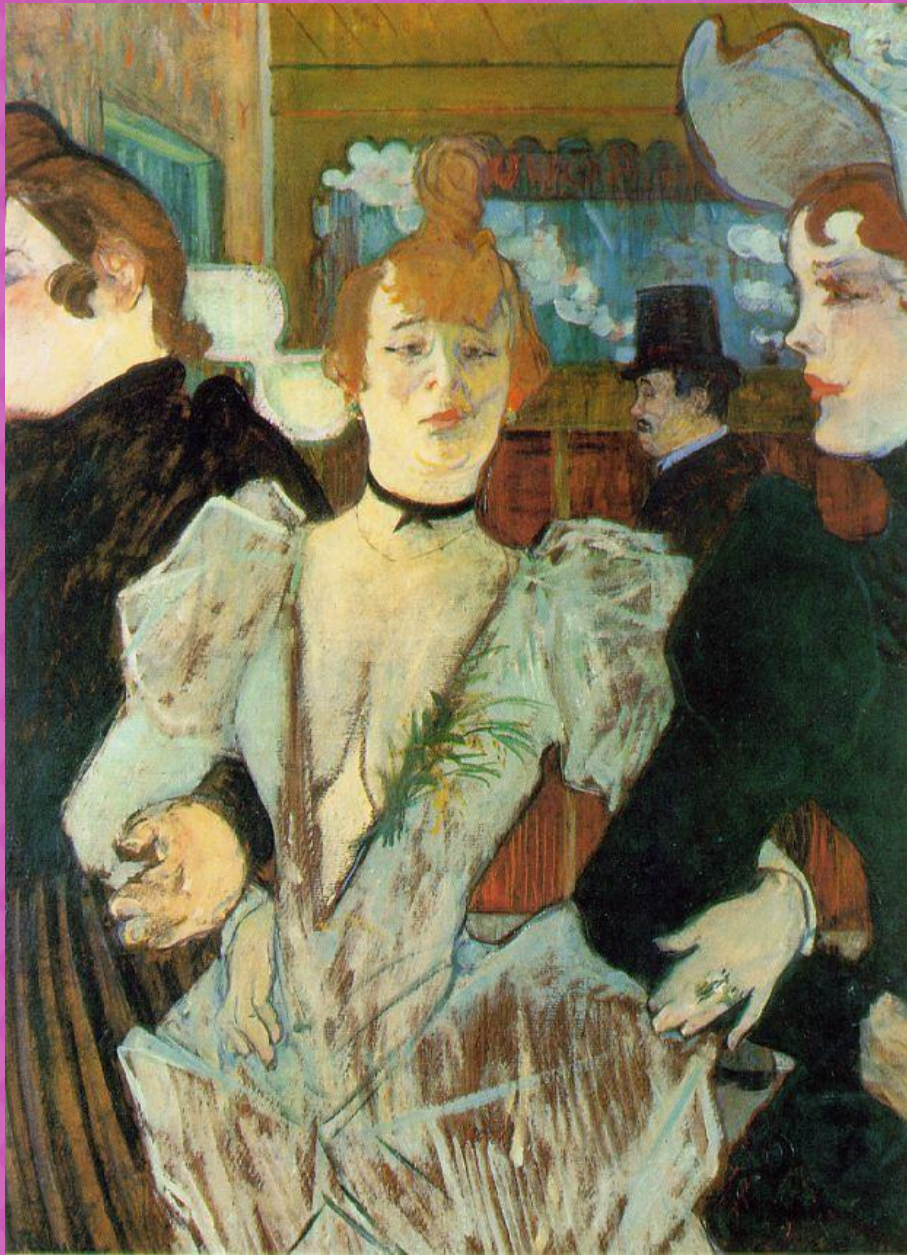
JANE AVRIL

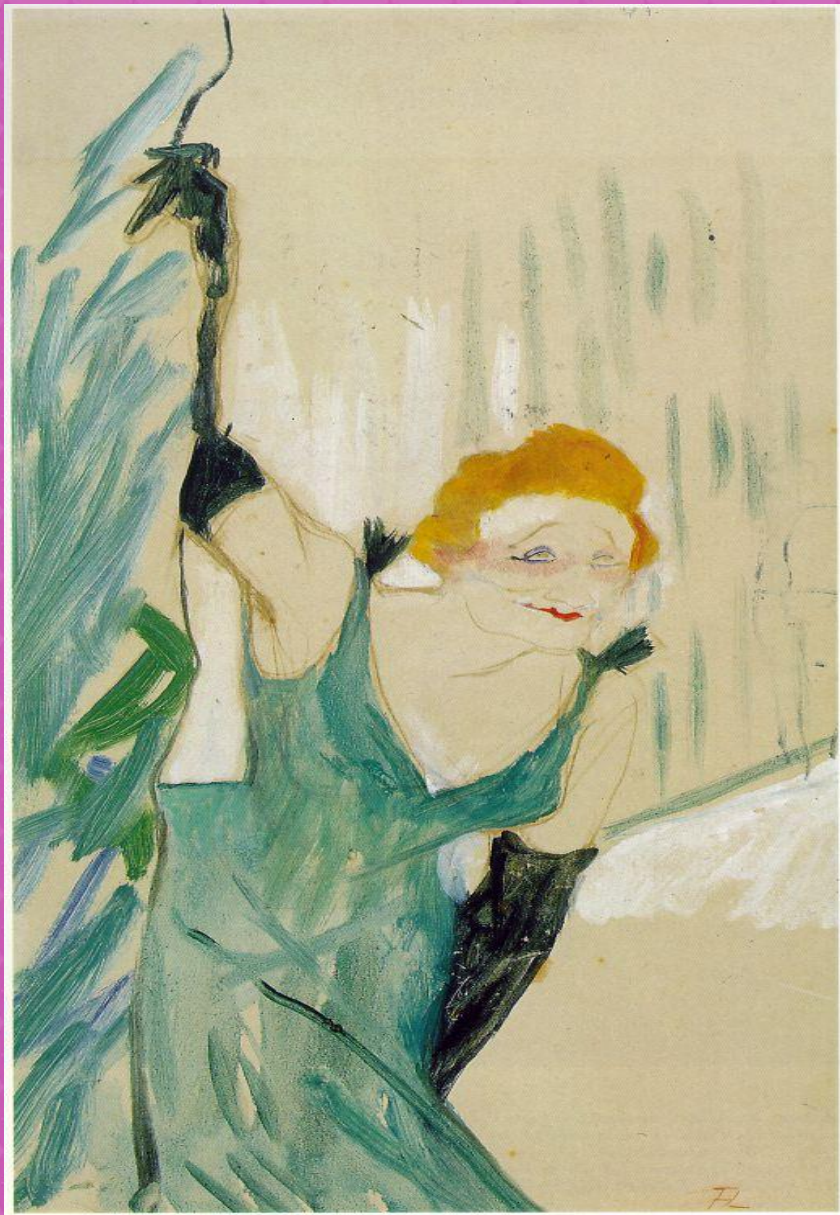
- ◉ She was born Jeanne Beaudon in the Belleville section of Paris, France
- ◉ Caught by the authorities, the frightened and combative girl was deemed insane and committed to the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital.
- ◉ Hired by the Moulin Rouge nightclub in 1889.
- ◉ In 1895, the owners of the Moulin Rouge offered her a great deal of money to take on the risky task of replacing Louise Weber, the most famous dancer in Paris known as La Goulue.
- ◉ She married the German artist, Maurice Biais (c.1875-1926), and the couple moved to a home in the outskirts of Paris.
- ◉ Without any financial support following his death in 1926, Avril lived in near poverty on what little was left of her savings.



HENRI DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC

- ◉ At the ages of 12 and 14 He broke both legs and the bones failed to heal properly. As a result he grew up with a normal size upper body but very short legs and his height when fully grown was only about 4.5 feet.
- ◉ He became particularly famous for his posters and paintings of the dancers of the Moulin Rouge, particularly Nini Pattes-en-l'Air, and La Goulue, as well as Jane Avril.
- ◉ Most of his work is done on canvas with oil paints
- ◉ He would sit at a crowded nightclub table, laughing and drinking, and at the same time he would make swift sketches. The next morning in his studio he would expand the sketches into bright-colored paintings.
- ◉ Toulouse-Lautrec died on Sept. 9, 1901.





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