

A brilliant stream of dreamlike tableaux and processions of glamorous women—some in exotic, erotic costumes, others mostly nude, sparkling with jewelry and sequins and crowned with high-plumed headdresses.

-Charles Rearick in *The French in Love and War*

Folies Bergère mounted its first music hall production in May of 1869 and the *Lido* began producing revues in 1946. Both shows originated in Paris, France. Using song and dance the shows were less about plot and more about providing a succession of glamorous costumes in dreamlike settings designed to transport the audience through time periods and locales around the world. Sometimes as many as fifty tableaux, or scenes, using both dramatic and comic elements were included in the course of just one revue. "The limits of the possible have naturally receded" is how

writer Louis-Leon Martin described the experience of the French music hall revue.

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