Nijinsky, Greatest Star
Of Ballet, Dies at 60

LONDON, April 8 (AP)— Vaslav Nijinsky, the greatest ballet dancer of all time, who went mad three decades ago, died in a London clinic Saturday of nephritis—infarction of the kidneys. He was 60.

The brightest star of the imperial Russian Ballet had lived in a world of melancholy fantasy since his mind began to break in 1917 under constant brooding about the future.

He was only twenty years old then and at the height of his career—hailed as “the man of whom the gods are jealous.” Two years later he was pronounced insane. He suffered from schizophrene, constantly hearing voices.

In character, he was odd, but not unattractive. He was tall and thin, with the lean lines of an athlete. He was a dancer without peer as a dancer. His tremendous leaps that seemed to defy gravity and his easy grace were like those of a bird in his role in Scheherazade—that of a half-naked slave driven to furious passion by a lustful Oriental princess.

His debut at New York’s Metropolitan Opera House was a tremendous success. In “Spectre of the Rose” thousands of rose petals floated like red rain against him as he danced and leaped, and with an agility no other ballet star has yet matched.

He appeared in Paris with the immortal Pavlova. There his daring performance of “The Afternoon of a Faun” was a sensation.

He came to England in 1948, accompanied by his wife, the former Hungarian actress and dancer, Rolfata Pavlova, who had nursed him devotedly through years of illness and hid him from the Nazis during World War II.

He fell ill last Monday, complaining of headaches, and was taken to the clinic Thursday.

Funeral services will be held at the Spanish Place Catholic Church in London, in addition to his widow, include two daughters, Kyra, who lives in Rome, and Tatiana, living in Hungary; a sister, Bronislava Nijinska, a famous choreographer in Los Angeles.

Nijinsky was born in Kiev, Russia, Feb. 28, 1900. At the outbreak of World War I he was arrested in Budapest as a spy when authorities mistook dance sketches for a code. He was held in a concentration camp until 1918, when New York Banker Otto Kubin obtained his release so he could dance in the United States.

In 1935 he narrowly escaped death when the Nazis decreed that all homosexuals were to be liquidated. His wife hid him and he escaped.

(From Dallas newspapers will show Dallas Symphony to be in Dallas in 1916 when the Ballet Russe appeared at the old Fair Park Coliseum. However, he had left the company three days before, having been summoned to Washington by immigration officials for an investigation. No change in program announced by the company or the management. Thousands of Dallas ladies are all under the impression that they saw Nijinsky dance...