

Synergic Theater

in cooperation with the
Schimmel Center for the Arts

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays; 8 pm
September 8, 9 & 10/15, 16 & 17

Dedicated to Jess Adkins, 1925-1988
Actor/Director/Teacher - Gentleman/Cook/Friend

OLD STONES



The Synergic Theater is currently celebrating its 15th Season, under the continuing direction of dancer/choreographer Suzanne White Manning and writer/media designer David Manning. In both workshops and performances, the Synergic Theater is devoted to creating original artistic expressions in movement/image/sound that are drawn directly from personal, cultural and historic sensory experience. Currently based in New York, the company has also worked extensively in San Francisco and North Carolina. In addition to her work with the Synergic Theater, Suzanne has served as guest faculty of the Escola de Dansa in Barcelona, artist-in-residence at UNC-Greensboro, dance faculty at Duke University and is currently adjunct faculty with Pace's Department of Theater and Fine Arts. David has also written/produced/edited/directed for film, broadcast, audio-visual, theatrical and print media; written two published books; and conducted major marketing campaigns for media and arts organizations.

The Synergic Theater's 15th Season was initiated by a grant from Samuel H. Scripps and donations from friends of the Synergic Theater, and conducted through the generous cooperation of the Pace University's Schimmel Center for the Arts and Department of Theater and Fine Arts. Tonight's production itself, however, is funded only by our credit cards and ticket sales. Contributions are welcome, desperately needed and tax-deductible (within the limits of new IRS regulations.) Checks made out to the Synergic Foundation for the Arts (a non-profit corporation) can be deposited in the contributions box in the lobby, delivered backstage, or mailed to 22 West 90th Street, #5F, New York, NY 10024.

The Synergic Theater would particularly like to thank Dawn Knipe, Director, and the entire staff of the Schimmel Center for the Arts; Al Dumais, Chairman, and Christopher Thomas, faculty, of Pace's Department of Theater and Fine Arts; Saint Samuel H. Scripps; Douglas Manning; and the following individual contributors: Gay Delanghe, Anne Deloria, Robert French, Ruby Glazer, Betsy Kagan, Mr. & Mrs. E. Douglas Kenna, Dawn Knipe, Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Manning, Luise Scripps, Dorothy Silver, Larry Tseng, Ron & Karen Wertheimer, Arthur and Gerry White, Jackie Wilde, and George Willis.

The audience is requested not to take photos or enter the stage space. If you wish to go backstage after the show, please ask an usher for directions.

OLD STONES

(premiere: Institut del Teatre, Barcelona, Spain, 1985)

Movement theater drawn from Catalan Romanesque imagery

Choreographed by Suzanne White Manning, in collaboration with David Manning

Performed by Lynn Anderson, Alyssa Bonilla, Malin Eklund, Katy Matheson,
Pia Sidetun, Nancy Putnam Smithner

Lighting: Christopher Thomas

Costumes: Dotti Anderson Schofield, with assistance from the cast

Slides: Villajoan (northern Catalunya) and Museum of Catalan Art, Barcelona

Romanesque Art notes: "By the 11th and 12th centuries there had emerged within church art a new sphere of artistic creation...imbued with values of spontaneity, individual fantasy, delight in color & movement and the expression of feeling that anticipate modern art," Meyer Shapiro. These values were/are particularly strong in Catalunya, where the Romanesque works are preserved in an extraordinary collection in Barcelona's Museum of Catalan Art. It was those works that inspired this dance, as well as a culture that has spawned/nurtured such artists as Miro, Picasso, Dali, Gaudi and others. Recently, the mayor of Barcelona explained that the city's aim with a major new Public Art and Plaza project "is to create an atmosphere of controversy and discussion in a society threatened by conformism, ideological uniformism and the fear of confrontation."

Music: Excerpts from "Rosari" by Pau (Pablo) Casals, sung by the Escolania (and choir) of Montserrat (Catalunya); "Concert Pieces" by Couperin and "Song of the Birds" (Catalan folksong) performed by Pau Casals with pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski, recorded live at a White House concert, November 1961.

Music notes: The distinctly personal style Casals brings to the Couperin music is also intrinsically expressive of his beloved Catalan homeland. Deeply disappointed when the allies would not carry their fight against facism into Spain, he refused to perform in the U.S. and denied himself even setting foot on Spanish soil as long as Franco was in power. He relented on one of these resolves, however at an invitation from President Kennedy to perform at the White House, resulting in the recording from which the cello works are taken. (He wrote "Rosari" for the Monserrat Escolania, the 2nd oldest boys choir in Europe.) As was his tradition, he ended the concert with the Catalan folksong, "Song of the Birds", which we continue here for bows and into...

INTERMISSION

LOST

Written, staged and directed by David Manning, in collaboration with Suzanne White Manning, and members of the cast/crew. Audio/visual design and production by David Manning.

An earlier version of "Lost" premiered at the 1984 400th British-American Festival and at the Schimmel Center for the Arts; commissioned by grants from the NC Department of Cultural Resources and Samuel H. Scripps.

Performers: Lynn Anderson, Alyssa Bonilla, Robert Johnson, Katy Matheson

Lighting/projections/optics operated by Evalyn Bladstrom (also performs), Ellen Simpson, and P. Jean Shaw

The projected paintings are original works of John White, Governor of the Lost Colony, along with engravings of those works published in the 1590's.

Governor White's voice: Neville Aurelius

Virginia Dare's voice: Janette Pabon (child's voice, Margaret Chapman)

Soundscore "composed" of original works by the following musicians: Douglas Borwick, John Gromada, Otto Henry, Anna Listokin, Dan Locklair, Russel Peck, Marc Reams, Richard Russell; plus Krishnamurti (voice), Town Waytes (traditional dance music) and various sound effect sources, including environmental sounds recorded at Roanoke Island.

The story: In 1587, a group of colonists under the sponsorship of Sir Walter Raleigh attempted to establish the first permanent English settlement in the New World at Roanoke Island, located on North Carolina's Outer Banks. The Governor of the colony was artist John White, who brought his pregnant daughter Elinor Dare on the expedition. Soon after landing, Elinor gave birth to a daughter named "Virginia", making Virginia Dare the first English child born in the New World. Just a few weeks after Virginia's birth, White was urged by the other colonists to go back to England for more supplies. Due to a combination of weather problems, the contemporary English sailors' fascination with chasing after gold in Spanish galleons, and the ensuing battle with the Spanish Armada, White was unable to return to Roanoke until 1590. By then, his colony and granddaughter had vanished. However, as pre-arranged, the colony had indicated where they'd gone by carving the word "CROATOAN" in a stockade post. (Croatoan was named for a nearby tribe of friendly Indians, later known as Hatterask, and now Cape Hatteras.) However, neither that clue nor later sightings near Jamestown of people who "have gray eyes, speak from a book and build two-story, thatched roof houses" were ever followed up. Ultimately, the colony's fate remains as much a mystery as our own.

LYNN ANDERSON: following her love of movement since the age of 4, she has performed, taught and choreographed for regional companies in the Southeast, is a student of body mind centering and is currently studying deep tissue balancing.

NEVILLE AURELIUS is based in London and New York, having studied and performed extensively in both cities. He has appeared in numerous stage, television and film productions in England and the United States.

EVALYN BLADSTROM graduated from college this summer after completing her credits at NYU. She has apprenticed at Vasser's Summer Theater and has also studied acting at Circle in the Square.

ALYSSA BONILLA is a student of Classical South Indian Dance and exploring new avenues of expression through the Synergic Theater.

MALIN EKLUND is a native of Sweden and is now studying at the Martha Graham School in New York, where she is a scholarship student.

ROBERT JOHNSON has appeared as a dancer at the Amherst Early Music Festival, and has performed under the direction of Dorothy Olsson with the Mannes Camerata and The New Amsterdam Singers.

KATY MATHESON was in the premiere performances of the Synergic Theater in 1974. She has also performed in Washington, DC and New York and created several improvisational works in collaboration with composer Art Becofsky.

JANETT PABON recently graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is now working with the Stage 13 theater troupe in Nuremberg, Germany.

JEAN SHAW has studied with the American Mime Theater, Nancy P. Smithner and the Synergic Theater. She wrote and directed "Fear", a 16mm short which achieved international distribution.

PIA SIDETUN studied Modern Gymnastics in her native Sweden and is now a scholarship student at the Martha Graham School in New York.

ELLEN SIMPSON is currently working as a general stage technician at the Schimmel Center. She has a degree in Acting and Directing from Bennington College.

NANCY PUTNAM SMITHNER is an actress, writer and director. She is currently performing her solo show throughout NYC, performs in hospitals for the Big Apple Circus' Clown Care Unit, and teaches acting and mime at NYU.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS: a member of the faculty of Pace University's Department of Theater and Fine Arts, he has also worked as set and lighting designer in more than 200 productions for various companies and received an OBIE Award for Design.