

David & Suzanne White Manning's

Synergic Theater

presents:

TERRA INCOGNITA

Pace Downtown Theater

October 11 - 14, 1991

free preview Wednesday, October 9

With all due credit to Mark Twain, please excuse the length of this program, as we didn't have time to make a shorter one.

### Terra Incognita:

created and directed--as well as produced, promoted, and managed--by David & Suzanne White Manning

While it is difficult to delineate the Mannings' very total collaborative process in general, David writes any scripted text and provides the technical direction and design, while Suzanne choreographs specific dance sections and coordinates the costuming. The co-directors would also like to acknowledge the creative contributions of the cast in fulfilling each of his or her numerous roles. Additionally, Mayumi Ohshima and Tom Fountain have contributed extra efforts in managing the lighting and optical operations.

Company members: RP Brink, Laura Fernandez, Tom Fountain, Marie-Christine Giordano, Charles Navarrette, Mayumi Ohshima, Elena

Lopez Sans, Sima Wolf

Part I: PASOS (World Premiere) 32 minutes

Historic background: Martin Alonso Pinzon was a leading mariner of the town of Palos, which supplied most the seamen for the 1492 voyage. Captain of the caravel Pinta, Pinzon raced Colon (Columbus) back to Spain in hopes of gaining credit for the new world discovery but was rebuked by Isabella. Shortly after returning, he died in self-imposed isolation. In PASOS, Pinzon spends his last day reflecting on the path that lead from the end of the old world to the edge of the new.

scripted text written by David Manning

front-of-screen choreography by Suzanne White Manning

slide images include original paintings by Brian O'Leary, plus frescos from the Museum of Catalan Art (among numerous other photos/paintings/prints)

Sardana (Catalan national dance) staged by Elena Lopez Sans

performers: RP Brink, Laura Fernandez, Tom Fountain, Marie-Christine Giordano, Charles Navarrette, Elena Lopez Sans, Sima Wolf

lighting operator: Mayumi Ohshima

Soundscape:

voice of Martin Alonso Pinzon: Fermi Reixach  
music (excerpts): Le Moyen Age Catalan (Ars Musicae de Barcelone); Musique Arabo-Andalouse (Atrium Musicae de Madrid); Carmina Burana-original version (Clemencic Consort); Pau Casal's "Rosari" (Escolania & Choir of Montserrat); folk music of Cantabria, Catalunya, Galicia & Navarre; cante jondo of Andalusia; "Flamenco Puro"; native Panamian tribal music

intermission

**Part II: LOST** 30 minutes

*Historic background: In 1587, England made its first attempt to colonize North America at Roanoke Island, North Carolina, under the governorship of John White. Shortly after landing, White's granddaughter, Virginia Dare was born. Soon after that he went back to England for supplies. White did not return for three years. When he finally arrived, the colony had vanished, leaving a pre-arranged message: CROATOAN (a nearby Indian tribe) carved in a tree. The clue was never followed up and the colony's fate remains a mystery.*

*scripted text written by David Manning*

*projected paintings are of John White's own works*

*English folk dance advisor (1984): Carl Wittman*

*performers: RP Brink, Tom Fountain, Marie-Christine Giordano, Charles Navarrette, Elena Lopez Sans, Sima Wolf*

*lighting operator: Mayumi Ohshima*

**Soundscape:**

*voices: Neville Aurelius (Governor White), Margaret Chapman (young Virginia Dare), Janett Pabon (adult Virginia Dare)*

*music: excerpts of original works by musicians composing in NC: Otto Henry, John Gromada, Dan Locklair, Douglas Borwick, Anna Listokin, Russel Peck; plus excerpts of original compositions by Marc Reams and Richard Russell; and traditional dance music (Town Waytes); plus an excerpt from a talk by Krishnamurti*

*intermission*

**Part III: I, MIGRANT** 23 minutes

*scripted text written by David Manning*

*front-of-screen choreography by Suzanne White Manning*

*slides from photographs of Ellis Island & NY immigration*

*performers: Tom Fountain, Marie-Christine Giordano, Laura Fernandez, Elena Lopez Sans*

**Soundscape:**

*voices: O'Mara Leary & Neville Aurelius*

*music (excerpts): La Dolce Vita (Rota); By the People (Van Dyke Parks); Vallet (Swedish Traditional); All Golden (Van Dyke Parks); 18th Street Strut (Fats Waller/Benny Moten); Perpetuum Mobile (Virgil Fox/Bach); Silver Swan Rag (Scott Joplin/Dick Hyman); Sonata for Violin and Piano-"Blues" (Ravel); Smiles (Joan Morris/S. Lee Roberts); Silent Movie Music (Jack Shaindlin); Colours (Donovan/Van Dyke Parks); "Johnny's Dream" from Johnny Johnny (Kurt Weill/Evelyn Lear); Nude Paper Sermon (Eric Salzman/Stacey Keach)*

*Please note: if you would like to greet cast members following the performance, please go to the top of the stairs in the lobby, turn right and follow the corridor around to the backstage dressing rooms. Insurance regulation prohibit audience onstage.*

*produced through cooperative residencies with:*

**Pace Downtown Theater**

*Jill Panfel, director; Anthony Ferrer, technical director*

**Pace Department of Theater & Fine Arts**

*Al Dumais, chairman; Christopher Thomas, design faculty*

**Cedar Crest College**

*Dawn Knipe, Tompkins College Center director*

*funded, in part, by grants from:*

**Samuel H. Scripps (\$5000)**

*this marks "Saint Sam's" 10th year of support*

**The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation (\$3500)**

*contributions from Friends of the Synergic Theater:*

**\$100-\$500: Anonymous, Biz Reed, Larry Tseng, Ron & Karen Wertheimer; \$50-\$99: June Arey, Mieke Van Hoek, Anne Deloria, Arthur & Geraldine White, Kali Roy Eklof, Dana Arey & James Mercer, Jackie Wilde; \$5-\$50: Jeanne Bostian, Jacquie Davis, Louise Gault, Barbara Busse, Melinda Halford, Louise & Bernie Rothman, Betsy Buford, Robert Chapman, Cathy Clark, Marcy Brownson, Patty & Mike Bryan.**

*free preview made possible with grants from:*

**NYSCA Manhattan Decentralization Program (\$1000--**

*administered in NY County by the Cultural Council Foundation,*

**Borough of Manhattan Community Arts Fund (\$500)--**

*with public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs & from the Honorable Ruth W. Messinger, President of the Borough of Manhattan*

*TERRA INCOGNITA is an officially-designated project of:*

**The Spain '92 Foundation**

**US Columbus Quincentenary Commission**

*special thanks to:*

**Dawn Knipe, Luise Scripps, Karen Wertheimer, Gary Jurysta, Brian O'Leary, Janine Ronsmans, June Arey, Michael Ching, Suzanne Bixby, Four Seas Players, John Waldvogel, NY Shakespeare Festival, Materials for the Arts-NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Marcos Muniz, Robert French, Martin Winfree, Charles Williams**

*While we're deeply grateful for the above support, TERRA INCOGNITA is being produced at a level far beyond our available resources. If you would like to help us realize the production's inherent opportunities, now and in the future, tax-deductible contributions in any amount can either be left in the donations hat in the lobby or mailed to the Synergic Theater, 22 West 9th St., #5f, New York 10024.*

**The Synergic Theater has been under the continuing direction of dancer/choreographer Suzanne White Manning and writer/media designer David Manning since its premiere performances in 1974 with the US/USSR Summer Arts Festival in Durham, NC.**

**Currently based in New York, they have also worked extensively in San Francisco and NC; performing at the Herbst Theater, Project Artaud, Julia Morgan Center,**

**Margaret Jenkins Performance Space, Reynolds Theater, Page Auditorium, Stewart Theater and the Ark; as well as the Marymount Manhattan Theater, Schaeberle Studio Theater and Schimmel Center for the Arts in NYC. Their**

**workshops at Duke University in the mid-1970's paved the way for the American Dance Festival's move there in 1978. Since 1987, they have been presenting semi-annual workshops and home season productions in a facilities-use residency at Pace University. The co-directors have also been in-residence with Duke's Institute of the Arts, presented their workshop at SUNY-Stonybrook, and the**

**entire company was in-residence working on the production at Cedar Crest College last July. TERRA INCOGNITA is available for touring through 1992.**

**Suzanne White Manning** has, in addition to her work with the Synergic Theater, presented/been presented through the Chamber Dance Group, the Cubiculo, SF Bay Area Dance Coalition Choreographers' Concerts, NC Dance Showcase, Compania de Avelina Arguelles. She is currently on the faculties of Pace University and the Ernie Martin Studio Theater; has also been on the dance faculty of Duke University, Special Programs faculty of LIMS, founding faculty of the Bay Area Institute of Movement Studies and served year-long appointments with the Instituto del Teatro de Barcelona and the UNC-Greensboro Dance Department. She is a Certified Movement Analyst and has an MA in Dance from UCLA, which she would like to acknowledge as the source of her ensuing professional pursuit of multi-dimensional dance-theater forms.

**David Manning** is a freelance writer and media designer, in addition to co-directing the Synergic Theater. He has written/produced/edited/directed professionally for film, broadcast, A-V, theatrical and print media. Among other work, he is the author of "Self-Image, which was produced by the Radio Repertory Company for national distribution; collaborated with composer Michael Ching on a narrated musical satire commissioned by the U.S. Olympic Festival; written numerous short stories, commentaries, articles and several novels; and has served as Marketing Director for the American Dance Festival and NC Folklife Festival, Executive Director of the Balasaraswati School of Indian Music & Dance in Berkeley, and has a BA in History from Duke.

**RP Brink** is an artistic associate of Spin Theater and is currently performing in: Part one of Spin's Richard Foreman Trilogy; KLING, a radio play based on Kandinsky's Sounds; and Donald Grosze's Smoke. RP would like to thank Ted Nadeon, SPIN theater, Riggio, and Dan & Jeanie Brink.

**Laura Fernandez** is an actor/mime who works in both film and theater. She has had the good fortune to work with the

likes of Moni Yakim, Ken Emsig, Merian Soto, Bill T. Jones and Andreas Vollenwindu in spaces from Carnegie Hall to the Berkeley Wall. She is currently creating a show on time management, it's taking too long.

**Tom Fountain** is pleased to be appearing in his 4th Synergic Theater Production. He is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

**Marie-Christine Giordano** is a native of Switzerland. She studied at the Alvin Ailey Center on a Swiss scholarship, working with choreographers Kevin Rotardier, Ron Brown and Bill T. Jones. Currently a trainee at the Martha Graham School she has also trained at the Briansky Saratoga Ballet Center and with Madame Darvash. She performed at the Swiss Dance Festival '90 in Saint Marks Church.

**Charlie Navarette** has been seen in roles as diverse as Charlie Baker in "The Foreigner" to Zach in "A Chorus Line". A member of "Lovecreek"--a New York-based acting company specializing in original plays--he is happy to be a part of the Synergic Theater.

**Mayumi Ohshima** is a native of Chiba, Japan. She has designed a number of productions for Theater 22 and is pleased to be in her third season with the Synergic Theater.

**Elena Lopez Sans** was born in Barcelona, Spain, where she received a degree in Contemporary Dance from the Instituto de Teatro, plus the title of yoga instructor from AEPY. She has danced and presented her choreography in Barcelona, Copenhagen and throughout the US. She moved to New York in 1987, and created and presented a dance concert at La MaMa 1st workshop in 1991.

**Sima Wolf**, a dancer and composer, has performed with the Oakland Ballet and the Chamber Theatre Troupe in CA and with the Cambridge dance collective in upstate NY. She composes and records musical scores for dance, theatre, film and television. Sima is committed to multi-media art forms and is pleased as punch to be working with the Synergic Theater.