

September 20, 24, 25, 26, 1992

The Armory Center for the Arts presents

The Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble

In Collaboration With:
Michael Bayer, Composer
Steve DeGroodt, Visual Artist
Strawn Bovee, Dramaturg

in

**THE DANCE-CRAZY KID FROM NEW JERSEY MEETS
HOFMANNSTHAL
(PREMIERE)**

It was in 1906 when the great Austrian writer, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, first saw the pioneering American dancer, Ruth St. Denis perform. She was making the European tour that established her stardom and he wrote the definitive review of her gifts. They were from wildly different backgrounds: she, a New Jersey farm girl from free-thinking, eccentric parents; he, a classically educated sophisticate and literary star of fin-de-siecle Vienna. But both shared the obsession with "Beauty" as inspiration and vehicle for spiritual transcendence. They became friends.

In creating *The Dance-Crazy Kid from New Jersey Meets Hofmannsthal*, the collaborators are mindful of the theme of inspiration and the perils of those who would navigate the path to transcendence.

The work makes abstract references to both artists, in an association where time, space and dream phenomenon exist as a counterpoint.

CHARACTERS/PERFORMERS (in order of appearance)

SPIRIT OF RUTH ST. DENIS: Dura Snodgrass
HOFMANNSTHAL: Lonny Gordon
VEIL BEARERS: Peter Dunne,
Michael Taylor
DISCIPLES: Anne Goodman,
Michael Taylor,
Peter Dunne
YOUNG RUTH'S: Anne Paquette,
Lisa Chang,
Patti Hernon
WORKMEN: Dura Snodgrass,
Jeffrey Grimaldo
BLIND PERSON: Anne Goodman
DANCE-CRAZY KID: Mona Jean Seder
DREAMERS: Lisa Chang,
Jeffrey Grimaldo
EVERYMAN: Jeffrey Grimaldo,
Anne Goodman,
Dura Snodgrass,
Anne Paquette,
Lisa Chang,
Patti Hernon
MEN'S GROUP: Michael Taylor,
Peter Dunne,
Jeffrey Grimaldo
SPIRIT OF TED SHAWN: Jeffrey Grimaldo
RUTH'S MOTHER: Patti Hernon
FINALE:
 Spirit of Ruth St. Denis
 Hofmannsthal
 Dance-Crazy Kid

MUSICIANS

CONDUCTOR: Michael Bayer
CLARINET: Kalman Bloch
CELLO: Christine Dietrich
PERCUSSION: Paul Greenhaw
KEYBOARDS: Jannine G. Livingston
Mark Uranker

SINGERS

David Aul Dennis Parnell
Charles Gran Seth Warner

TEXT: by Strawn Bovee
from the writings of
Hugo von Hofmannsthal
Ruth St. Denis
Fritz Scholder
Strawn Bovee

ACTORS

Richard Courntey Carmella V. Greacen
Greg Heimer Laura McCann
Strawn Bovee

COSTUMES/COORDINATOR: Susan Perry Miick
SOUND ENGINEER: Scott Fraser

LIGHT DESIGN/

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Liz Stillwell

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

RUDY PEREZ (Director and Choreographer) Since his arrival in Los Angeles from New York City in 1978, Perez has created works which have premiered at Royce Hall and Wadsworth Theater (UCLA), Mark Taper Forum/Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) "Carplays Festival," Dance Gallery "In the Works," and LACE Gallery to name a few. His participation in both the Olympic Arts Festival of 1984 and the Los Angeles Festival in 1987 helped to establish him as a major West Coast artist. This past July 29 and 30 he was featured in performances on the MEGADANCE/SERIOUS FUN! Festival at Lincoln Center in New York City. Recently, he has been honored with the Los Angeles Music Center's 1992 *Viva Los Artistas!* Performing Arts Award in recognition for his outstanding contribution to dance. The awards honor distinguished Latino Artists; some of the recipients include: Jose Quintero (theater), Lalo Schiffrin (music), Suzanna Guzman (opera), and the late Jose Ferrer (film).

MICHAEL BAYER (Composer and Conductor) His past collaborations with the Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble include *Stations*, presented at the Wadsworth Theater as a part of the UCLA Performing Arts Series and *Celestial Ridge* premiered at Plaza de la Raza in East Los Angeles. He currently teaches composition at Cal State University, Fullerton.

STEVE DeGROODT (Visual Design and Construction) was commissioned to present an installation, *Residue*, a collaboration with composer Carl Byron by the Santa Monica Museum of Art this past March. In May, he had a solo exhibit at the Sue Spaid Fine Art Gallery in Los Angeles. His last collaboration with the Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble was *Equaltime*, a work commissioned by the Los Angeles Festival in 1987 with Carl Byron.

STRAWN BOVEE (Dramaturg and Text) is a stage and video artist who is a founding member of EZTV and has a radio program, *Future Watch*, on KFPK. A former print journalist whose work has been widely published, she now writes poetry and has created the innovative, ongoing theater-piece, *An Astral Tea Party*. This is her first collaboration with the Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble.

LIZ STILLWELL (Light Designer and Production Manager), is the co-founder with Monique L'heureux of the Dance Design Alliance, which provides production management, design and technical services. Ms. Stillwell lives in Los Angeles and has been light designer for the Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory, the Grove Shakespeare Festival, Long Beach Opera and the Los Angeles Music Center Opera. She has toured the Lewitzky Dance Company, Aman Folk Ensemble and the Jazz Dancers, Inc. Recently, she was lighting designer and production manager for the Los Angeles Chamber Ballet's successful season at the Japan American Theater.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Director, Otis-Parsons Art Gallery; Ric Allison, Lloyd Rodgers, Susan La Tempa, J.P. Kovacs, Fritz Scholder, Dance Resource Center, Michelle Lee, Tim Healey and the FRIENDS OF RUDY PEREZ.

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Video Documentation: Ron Paquette, Anet Margo Ris, Adrian Ravarour, Michael Masucci, EZTV

Lobby Display: Nixon Borah, Company Photographer; and Steve DeGroodt

Cover Artwork: Manuel Ortega

The Ensemble, a California non-profit tax exempt corporation, is based at the Westside Academy for Dance in Santa Monica. Open company classes taught by Rudy Perez are held throughout the week. Information: 310/828-2018.

Upcoming Performances 1993-1994:

Rudy Perez Retrospective at the Japan American Theater.
Rudy Perez and company will be artists-in-residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, January through April 1993.

Inquiries and contributions, please call or write:

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