

THE BENNINGTON COLLEGE DANCE DIVISION

Presents

BLONDELL CUMMINGS

Assisted by Ericka Maxie

October 29, 1983

8:00 P. M.

Except for a Friend 2 and Chicken Soup these pieces were commissioned by Dance Theatre Workshop under a grant from the Jerome Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota.

A FRIEND 2 (1980)

Scene Three, SO WHAT'S NEW

Music by George Lewis

Lighting designed by Tony Govannetti, Steve Edelstein, Blondell Cummings

Performed by Ericka Maxie and Blondell Cummings

Choreography by Blondell Cummings

INTERMISSION

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CHICKEN SOUP (1981)

Conceived & performed by: Blondell Cummings

Texts: "The Long Distance Runner: and "Enormous Changes at the Last Moment"
by Grace Paley

"Kitchens 1970" by Pat Stein

"Chicken Soup Recipe" from The Settlement Cookbook

Music: Brian Eno, Meredith Monk, Colin Walcott

The scene takes place in the character's home.

MEAT AND POTATOES (1983)

Choreographed by: Blondell Cummings

Music collage by: Linda Fisher

Rap by: Gregory Tate

TOSSED SALAD (1983)

Choreographed by: Blondell Cummings

Performed by: Blondell Cummings

Music by: Linda Fisher

CHOCOLATE (1983)

Choreographed and performed by Blondell Cummings
Music collage by Linda Fisher
Lighting collage by Catrina Bertolotto

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Food stories from Catrina Beretolotto, Mindy Levine, Gregory Tate, Richard Bull.
Edited by Linda Fisher.
Excerpts from larger texts.

Production Assistant - Erica Masie
Light collages (redesigned for this show) by Catrina Bertolotto

Thanks to Karen Barband, Steve Cellum, John Parton, Horace Brockington,
Just above Midtown, The Improvisational Ensemble.

Bennington Crew:

Light Design for this performance - Raymond Dooley
Stage Manager - Aileen Ghee
Assistant Stage Manager - Sharon Milan
Lights - Hope Clark
Floor - Emma Fried, Anna Coates

BLONDELL CUMMINGS is a performer, choreographer, and lecturer. Her first tour included a presentation of her own work and a master class to the Shanghai Ballet in the People's Republic of China. She is Artistic Director of Cycle Arts Foundation, a multi, disciplined cooperative. Past collaborations include Gregory Tate, Cal Bovoso, George Lewis and Shirley Clark. Her works have been presented at The Festival Mondial du Theatre, the Vienna Festival, Paranarrative Series at P.S. 1, Black Theatre Alliance, Art on the Beach, P.S. 122, Danspace and Black Dance America (BAM). She was an original member of Meridith Monk's, The House. Her most recent appearance was in the American production of The Photographer, Far from the Truth, music by Phillip Glass. Ms. Cummings future plans include an artist-in-residence at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and a collaboration with writer Jessica Hagerdorn on a new work based on Sun Tzu's book The Art of War.

ERICKA MAXIE has been on both sides of the theatre curtain. This is a first performance with Ms. Cummings. In the Michigan area, she has appeared in Show Boat, Promises, Promises, West Side Story and with The Children's Performance Troupe of the Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. She was recently Estragon in a production of Waiting for Godot. Her technical experience includes stage manager for Tea and Sympathy which was chosen as a finalist in the A.C.T.F. and performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of her B.A. in theatre, Ericka plans to relocate to New York to pursue a career in acting.

CATERINA BERTOLOTTO is a graduate of the University of Torino, having also studied at Parsons School of Design and the Art Students League of New York. There she received the Ethel Katz Scholarship Merit Award in 1981. She has been light projectionist for Carman Moore, a composer, and has performed her own "Strings of Light" this past October. About her work, she says it consists of hand-made slides that are projected on special screens. The effect is of lights moving in space.