

EXPLORING RITUAL IN PERFORMANCE
AN EVENING OF DANCE-DRAMA AND NEW MUSIC FROM WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Friday
April 7, 1978

8:15 p.m.
Carriage Barn

OPENING MUSICAL WORKS

"Subungan" and "Gongseng", composed by Ed Herbst
Experiments with elements of Balinese gamelan and the musical manifestation of sport and ritual.
Performed on newly designed and constructed musical instruments.

INANNA'S DESCENT TO THE NETHERWORLD

Conceived and directed by Beth Skinner
Script based on Mesopotamian religious texts translated by Thorkild Jacobsen.

Performance style based on traditional Balinese Topeng (mask dance-drama) and Gender Wayang Batel, four gender (metallophones), kendang (drum), rincik (cymbals), kempur (small gong), and kajar (small gong-chime). Collaboration on Balinese performance styles: I Made Bandem, N.R.N. Swasthi Bandem, Ed Herbst and Beth Skinner.

Sumerian masks designed and constructed by Ann Jon Basse.
Stage Set, design and construction by Simon Basse.
Trumpets, design and construction by Gunnar I. Schonbeck.

Performers:	I Made Bandem	Penasar (storyteller)
	N.R.N. Swasthi Bandem	Dumuzi-Shepherd God
		Young Inanna - Goddess of Evening Star
	Laurie Kaszas	Enki-God of Sweet Waters
	Lauren Paul	Sacred Bull of Heaven (Barong)
	Beth Skinner	Sacred Bull of Heaven (Barong)
		Penasar (storyteller)
		Inanna - Goddess of the storhouse

Musicians:	Judy Gray	
	Ed Herbst	Juru tandak-singer and narrator
	Bob Labaree	
	Tom McCoy	
	Alan Robinson	
	Tom Ross	

Two Sprites of the Netherworld - Lilan and John

Synopsis of the story "Inanna's Descent to the Netherworld"

In Mesopotamia in the third millennium B.C., a civilization known as Sumer flourished. Sumerians celebrated the new year at harvest time, in the spring. Part of the yearly celebration was the enactment of the marriage of the Goddess Inanna, Guardian of the Storehouse, to the Shepherd God, Dumuzi. The ceremony helped to ensure a prosperous year for the crops.

In "Inanna's Descent to the Netherworld" the storehouse is empty and the people starving. In desperation, Inanna decides to seek the powers of the realm below. In passing through the gates to the Netherworld she is stripped of her powers, and dies. As spring comes and revives the land, Inanna is saved by Enki, God of Sweet Waters. The Judges of the Netherworld, in return for letting Inanna go, demand a substitute. Inanna gives them her husband, Dumuzi the shepherd. Geshtinanna, Dumuzi's sister, goes to join him in the Netherworld. She is the power of the grapes and wine harvested in the fall and stored until spring, and she remains below in the winter. Dumuzi is the power of the flocks and grains harvested in spring; and he goes below through the long dry summer. Together, they keep Inanna's storehouse full. A balance is brought to the land.