

April 12, 1982

Dear Calvin Tomkins,

In the middle of reading OFF THE WALL etc. (and in the middle of many other things) it occurred to me that we have not sent you a press release for the Judson reconstructions--different from the exhibit, which closed in February--this weekend. I'm writing to you from Vermont, so this may not get to you in time.

Of special interest to you might be "Jagville," a duet Steve Paxton did with Rauschenberg, based on a score of photos of athletes. Steve will perform it, but I haveno idea who with (with who).

second
I love reading your/book. (The first one--The Bride and her Bachelors--if that's the first--I've long been using for ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ scattered classes of mine) What made me take it up now, as opposed to earlier or later, was your piece on Robert Smithson in The New Yorker. I can't figure out whether I have a great interest in lives of visual artists or whether I just like your writing. The latter is true, but I'd have to read other writers on artists to find out the cause of my enjoyment in your books and essays. Maybe it has to do with the combination of elegance and fun, and the way description and anecdote reveal character, of a person and a time. *In your writing, major ideas + minor observations are treated equally, + are happily inextricable.*
I hope you received the Judson catalog. I believe (think/remember/doubt) that I sent it to you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Perron

JUDSON PROJECT UPDATE

There will be a series of performances re-created from the early '60's Judson Dance Theatre, which was seminal in the formation of performance art, post-modern dance, intermedia, and contact improvisation. These reconstructions are being co-sponsored by the Bennington College Judson Project and by Danspace at St. Mark's Church in New York City, where they will be performed April 15-18. St. Mark's Church is on Second Avenue at 10th Street, and this series marks the inauguration of the newly remodeled sanctuary.

Some of you may remember that in Spring of 1980, Judson artists Yvonne Rainer, Steve Paxton, Trisha Brown and Peter Moore were in residence here and showed work from that period (in addition to current work). That residency served as a pilot project for the current, more extensive series.

In the meantime, we mounted the exhibit of (mostly) photographs--"Judson Dance Theatre: 1962-1966," curated by Daniel J. Cameron and myself--in Usdan last fall and at NYU's Grey Art Gallery in January.* This reconstruction series is already drawing interest and controversy from the dance and art worlds in New York.

These are benefit performances: the proceeds are to be split between Danspace and the Bennington College Judson Project. Tickets cost \$10 for one performance and \$17 for two. If you will be in New York City that weekend and plan to attend, call (212) 674-8112 for reservations as soon as possible.

Below is a schedule of the performance, some of which include Bennington faculty, ex-faculty, and alumnae:

Program A: Thursday and Friday, April 15 & 16 - 8:30 p.m.

Eddie Bhartonn, "Pop 1" & "Pop 2" (1963) performed by Bhartonn
Remy Charlip, "Meditation" (1966) performed by Charlip
Philip Corner, "Keyboard Dances" & "Flares" (1964)
Judy Dunn, "Dew Horse" (1963), performed by Cheryl Lilienstein; music played by Bill Dixon
Simone Forti, "Slant Board" (1961) performed by small group
Yvonne Rainer, "The Mind is a Muscle, Part 1", or "Trio A" (1966) performed by Rainer
Flaine Summers "Dances For Lots of People" (1963)
Brian de Palma, "Woton's Wake", (1963) film

Program B: Saturday and Sunday, April 17 & 18, 8:30 p.m.

Lucinda Childs, "Carnation" (1964) performed by Childs
Deborah Hay, "Ten" (1968) performed by group
Aileen Passloff, "Structures" (1960) performed by Passloff
Steve Paxton, "Jagville" (1963) performed by Paxton
Carolee Schneeman, "Lateral Splay" (1963) performed by a group of 15
James Waring, "Octandre" (1957-58) performed by Aileen Passloff
Elaine Summers, "Judson Nights", film collage (1963)

Other Judson Project News: The exhibit will tour England in the fall: some of the videotapes will be viewed at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam in May.

*The catalog for the exhibit is now available. It is 86 pages, has many black and white reproductions of photographs, articles by Jill Johnston and Sally Beyer. If you want to buy a copy, send \$5, either in cash or check made out to Bennington College Judson Project, through the campus mail to me.

-Wendy Perron
Dance Faculty