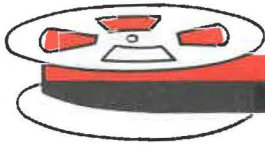


NEWS from Bennington College

BENNINGTON, VERMONT



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For immediate release
October 12, 1967

BENNINGTON, Vt. -- Peter Schumann's Bread and Puppet Theatre will perform tonight at 8:00 p.m. in the Commons Theatre, Bennington College. The performance is free of charge and open to the public.

The group marks an innovation in the Theatre of Protest and has performed in Peace Demonstrations in Washington and New York. Schumann's is a unique form of protest and rather than marching or picketing he has created an experimental theatre which can operate inside or out of doors.

He uses dumbshows, pageants and puppetry to "bypass language and lay a penetrating imagination on the hand of war." The group utilizes all types of puppets for its performance--large rod puppets, hand manipulated puppets, and 15-foot high heads. Schumann also fills the stage with life-sized puppets and masked actors.

The images for the protest plays come from fairytale idiom or medieval allegory. Each enactment illustrates the conflict of good against evil. The Demons and Angels should not be deceptive, however, for Schumann's allegories are both immediate and topical.

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In 1962, while an art teacher in Vermont, Schumann started his own theatre. In 1963 he moved to a loft on Delancey Street in New York and founded the Bread and Puppet Theatre.

Ben Reade, describing the theatrical group has said, "The Bread and Puppet Theatre seems to be a distinguished exception to the rule that political protest makes for inferior art. In Schumann's case the protest and the art are inseparable--perhaps because both flow from the deepest springs of human concept."

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