

February 12, 1979

Dear Al,

I have been teaching dance at Bennington College in Vermont and a proposal has come up that I would like to tell you about. The main idea is to invite some of the dancers, painters, composers, who were part of the seminal Judson performance movement of the early 60's to come speak and/or perform at Bennington. We would videotape interviews, lectures, and performances of "Judson" people who are still ~~doi~~ doing work now: they could ~~xxxxxxx~~ show work of the present or the past and/or speak on how that time affected their work or on anything else they want to talk about. This would take place the spring of 1980, probably culminating in a week of performances at Bennington. Tony Carruthers, who teaches design up there, is collaborating with me to formulate the whole thing and apply for funding. One of his ideas is this: to have an exhibit of documentation, including photographs and videotapes, at Judson Church some time during the Spring of 1980. It could include photos and tapes of the actual 60's performances as well as current interviews, performances etc. that are part of this project.

The idea for the project started with Judith Dunn, who ~~is~~ taught at Bennington from '68 to '76 and is still officially on the faculty, and Martha Wittman, who has been teaching there for about 20 years. The original plan was to have an old solo of Judy's taught in repertory class--Dew Horse, I think. The ~~the~~ idea grew to include a more extensive education on what happened at Judson those early years. Tony and I have been extremely interested in the Judson phenomenon for a long time. ~~xxx~~ This project is a way for us to express that curiosity and to acquaint students at Bennington and the general public with the incredible experimentation of that group of artists. We have not officially invited anyone yet, but have talked to people who are interested and we figure we can get the ball rolling from several different directions. We plan to go to the College administration and ask if they will help us with raising money.

These are the people we've been thinking about (obviously the list is long and we'll need to be more selective): Yvonne Rainer, David Gordon, Trisha Brown, Simone Forti, Remi Charlip, Dick Higgins, Phil Niblock, Robert Morris, Steve Paxton, Judith Dunn (probably available only for a written interview), maybe Carolee Schneeman, maybe LaMonte Young, maybe anyone else you think is important to include. We should probably limit the selection to people whose current work is strong (maybe that's not much of a limitation) so that it doesn't get to be just nostalgia.

I'm excited about the idea but have to be patient as it will be a long time in coming to fruition. Can you tell me if Judson Church will support the project and house the documentation exhibit? Can we get together and talk about it? I'll be in NY till March 4, when I return to Bennington for the Spring Semester.

I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits.

*Wendy Perron*

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