

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

MEREDITH MONK'S A CELEBRATION SERVICE

*recreated by Tom Bogdan and Allison Easter
with special assistance from Laura Woodward*

Performers:

Kirk Jackson, Jenny Rohn and Tom Bogdan's Production Class:
Natalie Apar, Genevieve Belleveau, Jessalyn Brown, Christopher Burgan,
Tavo Carbone, Benjamin Garner, Joshua Goldstein, Emma Guthrie, Ava Heller,
Jonathan Hoefs, Kathryn Jackson, Emily Kilduff, Sarah King, Kathryn Miller,
Thomas Mixon, Wren Leader, Eli Phillips, Ann Pibal, Carly Pildis, Amy Ross,
Brian Schultis, Matthew Scott, Thomas Shoemaker, Ayn Slavis,
Juliet Tondowski, Andray Volney and Laura Woodward

with members of Terry Creach's Dance Intensive Class:
Peter Barnard, Jazmine Carroll, Claire Davis, Iris Dauterman, Maia Friedman,
Jessica Green, Lauren Harris, Ian Kowaleski, Emily Mazur, Emily Morehouse,
Ann Pierce-Slive, Jennifer Stanley, and Tess Vinnedge

Lighting: Madeline Best

Stage Management: Rebecca Lifton

Sound: Bailey Math and Mark Stone

Costumes: Daniel Michaelson

Costume Assistant: Simone Duff

Crew

Assistant Stage Manager: Eric Conroe

Lightboard Operator: Heather Coleman

Wardrobe: Elizabeth Sheehan

Stagehands: Lex Friedman, Annie Cleckler and Sara Harvey

Electrics Crew: Daniel Trigg, Ryan Smith, Don Wilcox, Rosalie Schulick,
Jacob Wolfe, Matt Hanna and Max Cantor

(with the invaluable support of Michael Giannitti, Terry Creach and Scott Lehrer)

GREENWALL AUDITORIUM

Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, 2005 at 8:00 pm

I. WELCOME

II. OFFERING

III. DAWN

Soloists: Carly Pildis and Genevieve Belleveau

IV. OSAGE WOMAN'S INITIATION SONG (America, early 20th c.)

I have made a footprint, a sacred one.

I have made a footprint, through it the blades push upward.

I have made a footprint, through it the blades radiate.

I have made a footprint, over it the blades float in the wind.

I have made a footprint, over it I bend the stalk to pluck the ears.

I have made a footprint, over it the blossoms lie gray.

I have made a footprint, smoke arises from my house.

I have made a footprint, there is cheer in my house.

I have made a footprint, I live in the light of day.

V. FIELDS AND CLOUDS

VI. QUARRY WEAVE #2



VII. TOWER

VIII. BUDDHIST TEXT (Lakshminkara, India 8th c.)

Take a block of butter and chop! Break the blade of the ax!

The woodcutter laughs! A frog swallows an elephant!

It's amazing, amazing. Do not doubt. If it confounds you,
Drop concepts now!

My teacher didn't tell me. I didn't understand.

Flowers blossomed in the sky!

It's marvelous, marvelous. Have no doubts!

If you're incredulous, drop your doubts!

A barren woman gives birth! A chair dances!

Because cotton is expensive, the naked weep!

Amazing! An elephant sits on a throne held up by two bees!

Incredible! The sightless lead, the mute speak!

Amazing! A mouse chases a cat!

An elephant flees from a crazy donkey!

It's marvelous, astounding, do not doubt!

If you're stunned, drop your doubts!

Amazing! A hungry monkey eats rocks! Wonderful!

The experience of the mind! Who can express it?

IX. CELEBRATION DANCE

X. WORLD TEXTS

HASIDIC SAYING, EVERYWHERE (Martin Buber, Israel, 20th c.)

"Put off thy shoes from thy feet"-- put off the habitual which encloses
your foot and you will recognize that the place on which you happen to be
standing at this moment is holy ground.

ZEN POEM (Basho, Japan, 17th c.)

Old pond. Frog jumps in-- splash.

SUFI POEM (Rumi, Afghanistan, 13th. c.)

I have lived on the lip of insanity,
wanting to know reasons, knocking on a door.
It opens. I've been knocking from the inside!

ETHIOPIAN RAIN SONG (Africa, traditional)

CHINESE POEM (Li Po, China, 8th c.)

The birds have vanished into the sky,
and now the last cloud drains away.
We sit together, the mountain and me,
Until only the mountain remains.

XI. OTHER WORLDS REVEALED

XII. EARTH SEEN FROM ABOVE

XIII. CHRISTIAN PRAYER (Hildegard von Bingen, 12th c.)

Holy Spirit, giving life to all life, moving all creatures, root of all
things, washing them clean, wiping out their mistakes, healing their
wounds, You are our true life, luminous, wonderful, awakening the heart
from its ancient sleep.

XIV. QUARRY WEAVE #2 (Reprise for eight voices) -

Genevieve Belleveau

Jessa Brown

Emma Guthrie

Emily Kilduff

Sarah King

Kathryn Miller

Juliet Tondowski

Laura Woodward

XV. PROCESSIONAL

(Text compiled by Pablo Vela)

A Word of Thanks...

I am so very grateful to Meredith Monk and The House Foundation for the Arts for the privilege of recreating, with Allison Easter, *A Celebration Service* for the Bennington College Community. It is, in the spirit of Meredith's work and that of Bennington College, a truly inter-disciplinary effort of students, staff and my colleagues in Music, Dance and Drama. The performance would not have been possible without the support and generous contributions of several people not listed on the program:

Elissa Tenny, Suzanne Jones, Nick Brooke, Bruce Williamson, Jon Umphlett, Elizabeth Pellerin, Linda Hurley, Andrew Barton, Leah Wichler, and Terry Teitlebaum.

Thank you.

My deepest gratitude goes to all the performers, technicians and designers, most especially to my class who worked diligently for the last term, Jenny, Kirk and my assistant Laura.

All music composed by Meredith Monk:

OFFERING from *Volcano Songs* (1994)

DAWN from *Book of Days* (1988)

QUARRY WEAVE #2 from *Quarry* (1976)

CELEBRATION DANCE from *The Politics of Quiet* (1996)

OTHER WORLDS REVEALED from *ATLAS*: an opera on three parts (1991)

EARTH SEEN FROM ABOVE from *ATLAS*: an opera in three parts (1991)

RETURN TO EARTH from *ATLAS*: an opera in three parts (1991)

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