AND DANCE

THE PARIS SCIENCES

March 5,6,7,8, 1981

Choreography by Wendy Perron

Videotape by Joan Blair

with Paula Clements
Caitlin Corbett
Maria Cutrona
Wendy Perron
Susan Rethorst

Lighting design

Carol McDowell

Production assistance

Lisa Smith

Special thanks to Carrie Moyer, Robert Kushner, Ellen Saltonstall, Caitlin Corbett and house-mates, Margot Perron, the Bennington College video studio and security, the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, and the staff of The Kitchen Center.

This program is a Roxanne Dance Foundation project and is partially funded by the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Kitchen Center is supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts (a Federal agency), The New York State Council on the Arts, the New York Community Trust, The Rockefeller Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the Walter Foundation, the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for Music, the Robert Sterling Clarke Foundation, The Beards Fund, the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., the Mobil Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, and other private foundations and individuals.

This program will last about 40 minutes and will have no intermission.

I have recently been interested in stories and how they affect a performance or film. A story, or plot-line, is an old device to keep people listening/looking. Most (post) modern dance depends on no such device, preferring instead to use spatial and temporal structures. I don't know what it is that keeps a contemporary audience interested, either when I am performing or when I am watching. But something does or it doesn't.

Tiny fragments of stories helped to choreograph THE PARIS SCIENCES, but there was no attempt at one overall story or theme--a wish, perhaps, that everything would fall into place of its own accord--but no conscious effort in that direction. The plan at this point is to have someone write a short story based on what she sees here tonight. The story will be written by Sophie Healy, who, in her drawing classes, gives the assignment of making a new drawing out of (other people's) old drawings. Using her story--and any others that are submitted to me--as a score, or some kind of skeletal structure, I will then make a new dance.

The movement material in THE PARIS SCIENCES is mostly new, but snatches from previous dances surfaced while working on this new piece, and have become part of it. The other four dancers have contributed much, not only by giving their intelligence and support, but also by suggesting ideas for sequence and development and by composing brief movement passages.

--Wendy Perron