

JOHN KELLY & COMPANY  
New Work Maybe It's Cold Outside to Premiere at  
The Kitchen, February, 1991

John Kelly and Company's new work, to be premiered in February, 1991 at The Kitchen, is entitled Maybe It's Cold Outside. Choreographer/director John Kelly's new work is about dreams and survival. Comprised of group and solo vocal and choreographic material, it is concerned with the themes of childhood, rage, compromise, growth and coexistence. It incorporates the music of composer Arvo Part and sections from Bellini's La Sonambula, creating a dramatic staging for the emotional maturation of the characters to whom we are introduced.

The work is concerned with physical movement, the kinetic vocabulary which moves between dance and gesture. The thrust will be towards a continuous utilization of emotionally expressive and psychologically suggestive movement language used within a dramatic theatrical scenario.

Through experimentation with multi-media performance; film, lighting, set design, recorded and live musical performance, dance and movement the plan is to create a climate of "theatre", a play without the spoken word.

The music includes Fratres #1 and #3 from Tabula Rasa by Arvo Part, and sections from Bellini's La Sonambula. Film sections are by Anthony Chase, set design is by Huck Snyder, lighting design is by Stan Pressner.

Maybe It's Cold Outside is a work which includes five characters, who are installed in a democratic dormitory (hospital?, asylum?) set-up where they engage in games, adventures and private and group rapports which stress their innocent and untouched nature and early personality development. Daytime activities move into nocturnal secrets, encounters, rituals, and soliloquies, as more and more of their character is revealed through dance, gesture, work with props, and dramatic interaction.

Quiet finally reigns interrupted by the next day, the same as before except for the maturity and cognizance of the denizens who graduate from this world and move onto another less charming place where certain bitter realities help to form their personalities even further.

Clash and turmoil flow up within their ranks until near tragedy strikes one of the female members - it is this dilemma which once again brings all five together in a show of support and unselfish concern unleashing compassion, commitment and caring. They overcome their differences and strike a chord of harmony.

The space chosen to be used, The Kitchen, allows for a flexible environmental arena which can be manipulated to appear grand or intimate, congested or spare allowing the multi-media performance to be fully realized with intensity and respect.