



The Kitchen Center
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512 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
Tel: 212.255.5793

kitchen@panix.com
www.panix.com/~kitchen
Fax: 212.645.4258

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For immediate release

Contact: Isabelle Deconinck
212-255-5793, ext. 14

Yoshiko Chuma & The School of Hard Knocks
FOOTPRINTS OF WAR
Choreographed and Directed by Yoshiko Chuma
Music by Alvin Curran

Preview: April 21 [Wed], 8 pm \$12

Run: April 22-24 [Thu-Sat] & April 28-May 1 [Wed-Sat], 8 pm \$18

**Performed by Rocky Bornstein, DD Dorvillier, Sharon Hayes,
Hisako Horikawa, Vicky Shick, Kasumi Takahashi**

Choreographer **Yoshiko Chuma** collaborates with composer **Alvin Curran** on *Footprints of War*—a larger-than-life work about war and its effect on several generations of women. Spanning the events of the last 55 years of the 20th-century, *Footprints of War* combines dance, live music and soundtapes. An international cast of dancers participate in the full-length evening performance (70 minutes), which resuscitates the chaos, pain, and joys of people whose lives have required boundless strength to survive.

Footprints of War--Chuma's first work on Japan—was inspired by the choreographer's return to her country in 1995 as an artist under a Japan Foundation Fellowship. Realizing that the world is losing key witnesses of the events of this century, Chuma spent several years interviewing wartime survivors in preparation for choreographing their histories. Performers also contributed to the creation of the work, incorporating their own history into *Footprints of War*, which layers perspectives from different generations and cultures.

Footprints of War features 30 minutes of intense, chaotic live music by Alvin Curran to be performed by two members of Bang On A Can All-Stars, Robert Black and Mark Stewart, plus guest musicians. Pre-recorded tape includes foghorns and an historic recording of the pilot of an Enola Gay—the bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Over...

Sets for *Footprints of War* are created by **Tom Burckhardt** and include a grand set made of corrugated cardboard, symbolic of various wartime ports, such the Japan Sea, a steamship, and a beachfront. Costumes are by **Gabriel Berry**; lights by **Pat Dignan**.

The work received its first work-in-progress presentation in May 1997, as part of Bang on a Can Marathon at Lincoln Center in New York City. Further development of the work was supported by two 1998 residencies, one at Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, NY and the other at Art Awareness in Lexington, NY with funds from the Upstate Task Force for Dance.

About the Artist...

Yoshiko Chuma (choreographer, director), a native of Japan, moved to the United States in 1976 and formed her company, The School of Hard Knocks in 1980. Known as a maverick choreographer of downtown post-modern dance, Chuma has created more than 40 works, which were presented, commissioned and produced across the US and abroad, and have ranged from theatrical dance concerts to street performances and to large scale performance art spectacles. In the course of the company's history, more than 1,000 people have performed under Yoshiko Chuma's direction in the US, Europe, and Asia.

Alvin Curran (composer) makes music with all means, anywhere and for all occasions—from rarefied string quartets to blaring ship-horn concerts to underground sound-installations, and from computerized ram's horns to Midi grand-pianos to international simulcasts. Since 1964 Curran has worked across Europe and the US as a musician and composer. Curran previously collaborated with Yoshiko Chuma and filmmaker Jacob Burckhardt in 1983 on the work which named Chuma's company, *The School of Hard Knocks*.

Footprints of War is made possible with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, Multi-art Production Fund, Philip Morris Companies Inc., the Mary Flagler Cary Trust Live Music for Dance Program, and with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. The composer and choreographer commission fees for this collaboration were made possible by a grant from Meet The Composer's Composer/Choreographer Project, a national program funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and The Helen W. Buckner Trust.

The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th & 11th Avenues). To reserve press comps, call Isabelle Deconinck at 212-255-5793 ext.14.