



Opening

A Better Logic

Now that everything has changed, says Shoja Azari, co-creator of **Logic of the Birds**, "I really think it becomes even more urgent to have this show open." Like his collaborators—video artist Shirin Neshat, singer Sussan Deyhim (pictured, in a video still used in the production), and filmmaker Ghasem Ebrahimian—Azari is Iranian-American, and *Logic*, intended to celebrate the Kitchen's thirtieth-anniversary season, reinterprets a classic Persian text. "We show the other side of the culture, its more human feeling, and its involvement in creation rather than destruction," says Azari. For this production, which combines high-res video with live performance and music, the group has turned to a twelfth-century tale that tracks the spiritual journey of birds seeking their king. "At that time, there was a great deal of fanaticism, as there is now, and the establishment of mysticism in Iran was, in a way, a form of resistance to all the atrocities and the repression," says Azari. He adds that the terror of the past week has been personally painful—"We're here in exile, running away from realities that we do not identify with, and then things like this happen," he says—and he's worried about hate crimes. "I think New York is fairly safe, but you're affected by it psychologically," he says, "and that's why I think this piece is even more timely. It is about looking beyond all this stupidity and prejudice and arriving at the fact that we're basically made of the same things, flesh and divinity at the same time." Performances, recently delayed a few days, begin October 5. (See "Off-Off Broadway.")



L.H.

The Logic of Birds

To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Kitchen, this anticipated collaboration by writer Shoja Azari, singer Sussan Deyhim, filmmaker Ghasem Ebrahimian, art director Shahram Karini, and red-hot video artist Shirin Neshat reinterprets a classic Persian tale about a bird's mystic journey. Performance-art legend RoseLee Goldberg coproduces the project. \$20. Performances begin 10/5. Call for schedule. • The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St. (212-255-5793).