

PROGRAM NOTES

NTOZAKE SHANGE & JESSICA HAGEDORN

April 24 & 25, 1981 8:30pm

Tenement Lover: (no palm trees/ in new york city...)
by Jessica Hagedorn

The Gangster Choir:

Jessica Hagedorn, vocals
 Dan Almateen, keyboards, guerilla
 Hiroshi Harada, guitar
 Rick Mascarinas, drums
 Buggy Moore, percussion, vocals
 Butch Morris, cornet
 Eric Turner, bass

Luis Burgos, chauffeur, waiter
 Renee Montagne, Marisol/Maribel/Brooke Shields

Photography, Don Nguyen
 Make-up, Luis Burgos
 Stage Manager, Evelyn Martin

The songs, "Sleazy Desire", "Tenement Lover", "Jose Gets Around", and
 "Ming the Merciless": lyrics by Jessica Hagedorn, music by The Gangster
 Choir. "Alchemy" (taped) by Butch Morris.

Mouths: A Daughter's Geography
by Ntozake Shange

Ntozake Shange, female voice
 Richard Lawson, male voice
 Halifu Osimare, dancer/choreographer
 Elvia Marta, dancer/choreographer
 Ed Mock, dancer/choreographer

Movement Coordinator, Dianne McIntyre
 Set Design, drawings by Ms. Shange
 Costume for Ms. Shange, Marion DeCaires Lake
 Stage Manager, Jerry Cleveland
 Music: Angolan Freedom Songs, The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Leci Brandao,
 Stevie Wonder, Les Maxels, Lester Bowie, Gunter Hampel & Jeanne Lee, Roscoe
 Mitchell.

order of poems

edge of the world
 tween itaparica & itapua
 yr sucha fool
 what are you doin on those goddamned horses
 some men
 it hasn't always been this way, pt. 1
 birthpoem
 about Atlanta
 we need a god who bleeds
 & she bleeds
 edge of the world (reprise)

Mouths is dedicated to Savannah, Khadija, Ozyear and all the children born
 in 1980.

For both shows:

Thulani Davis, director
 John Woo, assistant director & visuals
 Mike Zwack, production manager & lights
 Tom Toeda, sound engineer

The Basement Workshop, now in its tenth year, is an artistic agency/alternative space dedicated to the development of literary, visual, and performance works by specifically, though not exclusively, Asian Americans. This special performance by these very special artists is part of Basement Workshop's program to provide exposure and access to a wide variety of audiences throughout the Metropolitan area.

Among the major productions of NTOZAKE SHANGE are: for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf, performed at Henry Street Playhouse in 1976, at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1976, The Booth Theater 1976-1978, the National Theatre in 1978, Teatro do BNH in 1978 and the Royalty Theater in 1979; Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1978; Spell #7 performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1979; Mother Courage & Her Children performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1979 and Sarannuck Land performed at Basement Workshop in 1981.

JESSICA HAGEDORN, born and raised in the Philippines, is the 1980-81 Basement Workshop writer in residence. Her most recent book, Dangerous Music (Momos Press), is now in its third printing. She is a co-editor of the anthology Third World Women; her poems, plays, and prose have been published widely (Yardbird Reader, The Black Scholar, Rolling Stone, Amerasia Journal, Bridge Magazine). She has performed extensively at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater where her play Mango Tango was presented by Joseph Papp in 1978. Ms. Hagedorn is the founder of the Gangster Choir, an innovative, rockin' seven piece band. Her latest book, Petfood, will be published in the fall of 1981.

THULANI DAVIS is the author of All the Renegade Ghosts Rise, a book of poems published by Anemone Press. She has performed extensively at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater, and her one-woman show Sweet Talk and Stray Desires was performed in 1979 at the Chelsea-West Side Theatre. She has performed in concert with the Cecil Taylor Unit, Anthony Davis, Joseph Jarman, Famoudou Don Moye, Arthur Blythe and others. She is an assistant editor and arts' critic for the Village Voice.

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