

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

# press release

## Dance

# eiko & koma

November 27-30 8:30pm  
\$5.00/\$2.50 members/TDF  
The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street  
Reservations: 925-3615

On November 27-30, Dancing in The Kitchen will present recent and new work by choreographers Eiko & Koma.

"Nurse's Song" is the premiere of one section from a work-in-progress entitled Songs of Innocense, after the work of William Blake; it is an acknowledgment of the childhood joy in all of us and a celebration of our link to it. A child-like sense of time and play invades the adult world and distorts this linear world into a wondrous reality. The music is by Allen Ginsberg and performed by stand-up and lie-down comedian Bob Carroll and his Dirt Band. Eiko & Koma dedicate this work to Peter Orlofsky and Allen Ginsberg.

Trilogy - Part 1, "Cell"; Part 2, "Fission"; Part 3, "Entropy" - is a study in mediation between infinitely large and infinitesimally small energies. Eiko & Koma dance towards the point where our distinctions between animal, vegetable and mineral blur and where our sense of time approaches that of sea creatures and other wise beings.

Although EIKO & KOMA were born and raised in Japan, neither has studied traditional Japanese dance or theater, but instead have devoted themselves to experimental forms. In 1971, they joined the Tatsumi Hijakata Company in Tokyo, which is where they met. Their collaboration began as an experiment and then developed into an exclusive partnership. In 1972 they made their debut in Tokyo, while simultaneously studying with Kazuno Ohno, who along with Hijakata was the central figure in the Japanese avant-garde theatrical movement.

Their interest in Neue Tanz, the German modern dance movement which flourished alongside the Bauhaus movement in art and architecture, and their desire to explore non-verbal theatre took them to Hanover, West Germany, in 1972. There they studied with Manja Chmiel, a disciple of Mary Wigman. In 1973, they moved to Amsterdam, and for the next three years toured extensively throughout Europe. It was in the Netherlands that they met Lucas Hoving, who encouraged them to come to the United States.

In May of 1976, the Japan Society sponsored the first American performance of Eiko & Koma's "White Dance". Since then, they have presented their full-evening works - Fur Seal (1977), Before the Cock Crows (1978), Fluttering Black (1979) and Trilogy (1980-81) - at theatres, universities, museums and galleries across the United States and Mexico. The pair have just returned from a European tour, which included the Dance Umbrella in London.

"Nurse's Song" was made possible in part with a Choreography Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Creative Artists Public Service (CAPS) Program.