

THE KITCHEN VIDEO MUSIC DANCE PERFORMANCE FILM

512 West 19th St. (Btwn 10th & 11th Aves) New York, NY 10011

Reservations. 255-5793

EIKO & KOMA BY THE RIVER

October 6 - 11, 1987

Tues - Sat at 8:30pm/Sun at 4:00pm

Admission: \$10/TDF on rush basis Tues - Thurs

TDF with reservation and \$5 surcharge Fri - Sun

Contact: Cynthia Hedstrom or Patrick Moore
255-5793

Bessie award winning performance artists Eiko & Koma will present the first New York performances of By The River at The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street. By The River is an inter-media performance work conceived by Eiko & Koma:

"At the end of our lives runs a black river. The piece is set on its banks, which reflect our living world and dim recollections of our ancient past. Here, pain is not feared. Memory is lost."

The set of By The River is executed by artist Clayton Campbell, incorporating a film by David Geary. Lighting is provided by Eiko and Koma's longtime collaborator, Blu, and the costumes and music were created by the choreographers. Poems evoking the work's themes, written by Eiko & Koma in collaboration with Irene Oppenheim and with graphics by Joseph Krysiak, will be distributed at the completion of each performance.

By The River was originally commissioned by the Dance Umbrella, Boston, with funds from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities New Works Program, and was first presented in Boston in June, 1986. Additional funding was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts Inter-Arts Program.

Eiko (female) and Koma (male) were raised in post-war Japan. They made their debut as independent artists in Tokyo in 1972 and at the same time began to study with Kazuo Ohno, who along with Hijikata was the central figure in the Japanese avant garde theatrical movement of the 1960s. In the early 70s, their interest in Neue Tanz, the Bauhaus-related modern dance movement, took them to West Germany, and for the next few years they studied, choreographed and performed in Europe and North Africa.

(Over)

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The Japan Society sponsored the first American performance of Eiko & Koma's White Dance in 1976. Since then, they have made over a dozen works in the United States, including commissions by Dance Theater Workshop, the American Dance Festival and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival as well as a National Choreography Project commission for CoDanceCo. They have toured widely to theaters, universities, museums, galleries and festivals across North America and Europe and have produced a number of video dance works.

In addition for being awarded one of the first Bessies for Grain and Night Tide in 1984, Eiko & Koma were named John Simon Memorial Guggenheim Fellows for the same year. Among other awards, they received a 1987 New York Foundation for the Arts Choreography Fellowship.

"Looking at these creatures, you're not sure if they represent...the first organization of cells struggling to become a coherent being or the last representative of human civilization in the aftermath of the unthinkable. The ambiguity is surely intentional and thought provoking... They make obsession look eerily beautiful."

--Toni Tobias, New York Magazine

"The Adam and Eve of a post-nuclear garden of ash."

--Lisa F. Hillyer, Boston Phoenix