



SUSPICIOUS



COUNTERPOINT

Dancing in The Kitchen presents

SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT
by

Yoshiko Chuma and The School of
Hard Knocks

in collaboration with Mark Bennett

performers: Harry Whittaker Sheppard, Gonnie Heggen, Robert Black,
Steve Silverstein, Mark Bennett, and Nicky Paraiso

direction and choreography: Yoshiko Chuma

music: Mark Bennett

text: Harry Newman

lighting design: Michael Mazzola

costume design: Gabriel Berry

stage manager: Lori E. Seid

assistants: David Roberto and Kirsten Stuart

The creation of SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT began a year and a half ago and
has evolved through the collaborative efforts of all involved.

PROLOGUE

COUNTERPOINT I

movement creation; Gonnie Heggen
and Harry Whittaker Sheppard

COUNTERPOINT II

"Mermaid's Tango" lyrics: Nicky Paraiso
"Nicky's Ballad" lyrics: Mark Bennett

COUNTERPOINT III

appearance by Mary Shultz
film sculpture: Jacob Burckhardt

COUNTERPOINT IV

EPILOGUE

The commission fees for this composer/choreographer collaboration were
made possible by a grant from Meet The Composer's Composer/Choreographer
Project, a national program funded by the Ford Foundation and The Pew
Charitable Trust.

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A copy of The Kitchen's audited financial statement is available upon request.

The AT&T Foundation is the corporate sponsor of the 1990-91 Dancing in The Kitchen series. Additional support is provided by the Harkness Foundations for Dance.

Yoshiko Chuma would like to thank Mark Bennett and all the performers, especially Harry Whittaker Sheppard for many years of devoted collaboration.

Mark Bennett would like to acknowledge the musicians for their creative input and collaborative role in the creation of the score of SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT.

Thanks to Adrienne Altenhaus, Jonathan Bennett, Jacob Burckhardt, Rudy Burckhardt, Robin DaFano, Robert Flynt, Dan Froot, David Ganon, Howard Greenfield, Adam Guettel, Bill Hart, Cynthia Hedstrom, Robin Holland, Yvonne Jacqueline, Barbara and Joseph Kaufman, Carol McDowell, Jeff McMahon, Harry Newman, Norton Owen and the Jose Limon Dance Foundation, Nonotchka Rosca, Bill Ruban, Emily Rubin, Steve Gross and the staff at The Kitchen.

This performance is a gift to Hugh Edwin.

YOSHIKO CHUMA was born in Japan. At the age of ten, she began her career as a writer, director and performer under Kozo Tagawa, a teacher in the Japanese elementary school system. Taking advantage of the unusually progressive educational program of the time, Ms. Chuma produced radio dramas and was a disc jockey in her school's broadcasting club. In 1977, she moved to N.Y.C. With her childhood skills and subsequent aesthetic and political knowledge, Ms. Chuma founded THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS with musician Alvin Curran and filmmaker Jacob Burckhardt. Since 1985 she has been collaborating with composer/saxophonist Lenny Pickett on a three-part dance opera Nine Songs, with music by Chinese composer Tan Dun at Pace University's Downtown Theater in May 1989. This year Ms. Chuma was commissioned to create two new works, Take 1,000 Episodes for the Dance in New York '90 Festival in Lisbon, Portugal and the opening event on a swing bridge at Dance Umbrella's Festival in Newcastle, England. Ms. Chuma has also completed six 16mm films including Champing at the Bit, Splish Splash, and August 27, 1979 The Girl Can't Help It. She has been awarded choreography fellowships and commissions from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Guggenheim Foundation, Paris Opera, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Japan Society, Dance Umbrella and Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, Dance Umbrella Festival of London, Dublin Contemporary Dance Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, MAYFAIR Celebration of Alentown, Pa. and Dancing in the Streets.

MARK BENNETT is a composer and sound designer whose recent music for the theater includes *Der Ring Gott Farbionjet* and *Camille* (The Ridiculous Theater Company), *The Illusion*, *Athol Fugard's My Children! My Africa!* (New York Theater Workshop), *Out of Order* (The Music Theater Group), *Eric Overmayer's Mi Vida* (Manhattan Theater Club), *Michael Weller's Lake No Bottom* (Second Stage Company), *Burrhead* and *Manhattan Madness* (The Director's Company). He has collaborated with Paul Schmidt on a number of projects including *The Cashman* and *Bugs!* (CSC Reading Series), and for the concert stage with *War Songs* and *The Drunken Boat* (North American New Music Festival). He composed and arranged music for *The American Experience*/PBS documentary *Lindbergh*, and has performed as a pianist and musical director for *Jeff Weiss*, *Nicky Paraiso*, *Gayle Tufts* and *Pablo Vela*. Mark Bennett first performed with *The School of Hard Knocks* at Lincoln Center in *Crazy Dream in Hot Summer*, and created the score, in collaboration with *Jacob Burckhardt*, for *SOHK's Da Costakada Da Da, A Letter to Van Gogh*.

GABRIEL BERRY has designed extensively for dance, theater and opera. She is the recipient of a 1989 Obie award for sustained excellence. Notable dance collaborations include *Donald Byrd's SHARDS* for the *Alvin Ailey Dance Company*, *Yve Musard's Va* for the *American Dance Festival* and *DTW's Song of Lawino*. Ms. Berry is currently working on *JoAnn Akalaitis'* production of *HENRY IV* for the *New York Shakespeare Festival*.

ROBERT BLACK regularly presents solo concerts throughout the United States and Europe appearing at major festivals (Huddersfield, England and *New Music America*), on radio broadcasts (NPR and *Radio Bremen*), and in artist residencies (*American Center, Paris*). He presently performs on the double bass, the electric upright bass, the electric bass guitar, and the MIDI bass guitar. His work with composers, such as *John Cage*, *Paul Drescher* and *Christian Wolff*, among others, has resulted in over thirty commissioned works. Mr. Black has received grants from the *National Endowment for the Arts Solo Recitalist Program*, the *Canada Council*, the *New England Foundation for the Arts*, and the *Preston Fund*. He has recorded for *Neuma Records*, *Opus One*, *Folkways Records*, and *Magnetic Music*. Robert also plays with various acoustic and electronic ensembles and teaches bass at the *University of Connecticut*.

JACOB BURCKHARDT makes films and videos. His two most recent ones are *LANDLORD BLUES* and *THE FRANKIE LYMON'S NEPHEW STORY*. He is also an award winning sound designer and a charter member of *The School of Hard Knocks*.

The Kitchen was created by and for artists. Artists' needs were then and remain now our primary concern. Supporting visionary men and women as they pursue their own distinctive art and explorations is the special contribution of The Kitchen to our cultural community and to the future.

*Paula Cooper, Chairman
Board of Directors*

For those of us who remember the origins of The Kitchen, our present and future plans are truly beyond anything we could have imagined possible when we began working together. I think we can be proud of the fact that several "generations" of artists later, The Kitchen is still one of the premier spaces used by emerging artists in launching their careers.

*Philip Glass, Composer
Board of Directors*

Steeled by two decades of challenges and leadership, The Kitchen of the 90's must be both bold and vital. By continuing the tradition of embracing the new and sometimes startling developments that break with accepted conventions, The Kitchen connects us with the art unique to our time.

*Barbara L. Tsumagari
Executive Director*

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We invite you to make your own statement by supporting creative expression at The Kitchen. With your membership contribution you will help provide the gift of artistic freedom to over 100 choreographers, composers, designers, videomakers, authors, and performance artists this season.

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GONNIE HEGGEN studied musicology at the University of Amsterdam. She graduated from the Theaterschool, School for New Dance Development in Amsterdam. Ms. Heggen has been a member of SOHK since 1988. Her own work, *La Vache Qui Rit*, a collaboration with Frans Poelstra, will be presented at Performance Space 122 on January 25-17, 1991.

MICHAEL MAZZOLA'S recent work has included production manager at FUNDACAO GULBENKIAN in Lisbon, Portugal for ENCONTROS '90, a multi-national theater/dance/performance festival, as well as for DANCA EM NOVO IORQUE, a festival featuring post-modern dance companies from New York. For the past three years he has held the position of lighting designer for the Florida State Dance Festival. Michael Mazzola has been the production supervisor and lighting designer for Bebe Miller and company since 1986 and currently holds the same position with Bill Young and Dancers and with the Randy Warshaw Dance Company.

HARRY NEWMAN recently returned from a year as the playwright-in-residence at the Cincinnati Playhouse in Ohio. His plays and translations have been seen at BACA/Downtown, The New Theatre of Company in New York. He is also the co-founder of the Non-Traditional Casting Project.

NICKY PARAISO is an actor, singer, dancer, musician, and writer. He recently shared a collaborative evening with Laurie Carlos and Don Meissner entitled *Two Times Less Than a Kiss* as part of Dance Theatre Workshop's NEW SONG series. He first performed with Meredith Monk/The House at the Public Theater in 1981, and continues to tour the U.S. and internationally as a member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble. He has also worked with Anne Bogart, Yoshiko Chuma, Blondell Cummings, Richard Elovich, Kaja Gam, Jessica Hagedorn, Fred Holland, Dan Hurlin, John Jesurun, Jeffrey Jones, Susan Mosakowski, Pablo Vela, the legendary Jeff Weiss, the Wooster Group, and maintains an ongoing collaboration with Mary Shultz. He received a VILLAGER award and a 1987 BESSIE (New York Dance and Performance award). He presented his own solo cabaret *20th Century Blues* at La MaMa, with musical direction by Mark Bennett. Nicky was born of Filipino parents and raised in Queens, N.Y. He is a member of GET SMART, an ad hoc artists' organization created to combat all forms of censorship in the arts.

MARY SHULTZ is currently in rehearsal at the Public Theater for David Greenspan's play *Dead Mother*. She has worked with many other artists including Meredith Monk, Otrabanda Co., Jeff Jones, John Jesurun, Jeffrey Essman, Jeff Weiss, Ping Chong, Dan Hurlin, Creation Co., Ellen Fisher, Nicky Paraiso and Anne Bogart. Mary Shultz is the recipient of a 1986 Bessie and a 1990 Obie for sustained excellence.

LORI E. SEID works as a free-lance technical director and stage manager for such artists as Karen Finley, DANCENOISE, Mimi Goese, John Kelly, David Cale, Tim Miller, Holy Hughes, Ann Carlson and the P.S. 122 Field Trips. She has worked with Yoshiko Chuma and SOHK since 1986 (smiling the whole time). She will be curating the Ethyl Eichelberger Film Festival at P.S. 122 on December 19-22, 1990.

HARRY WHITTAKER SHEPPARD is an independent choreographer and dancer who has also been a member of SOHK since 1984. He has danced with a number of internationally known choreographers and has shown his work in Europe and in New York City at Dance Theatre Workshop, St. Mark's Church, the Dance Center at the Emanu-El YM-YWHA, among others. Mr. Sheppard also makes super-8 movies. He has received grants and commissions from the New York Foundation on the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and is a 1989 BESSIE award winner.

STEVEN SILVERSTEIN has appeared with Dance Theatre Productions including an Obie award winning role in The Garden of Earthly Delights (Music Theatre Group and Vienna Lusthaus), where he performed in the Paul Winter Consort film The Grand Canyon. He has designed and made historical replicas of woodwinds for several companies and is currently finishing a degree in clarinet from the University of South Carolina. Steven has also taught at Sarah Lawrence University, the San Francisco Conservatory, the State University of New York at Purchase and numerous workshops elsewhere.

THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS was the title of a collaboration between Yoshiko Chuma, Jacob Burckhardt (filmmaker), and Alvin Curran (musician), presented at the Venice Biennale in 1980. Under Yoshiko Chuma's directions, the SOHK grew into a collaborative of dancers, actors, singers, musicians, designers and visual artists. She has created pieces across the United States and throughout Europe, continually expanding The School of Hard Knocks' "Pipeline". In the course of the company's history more than 500 people have performed under Chuma's direction. Current and former performing members include Harry Whittaker Sheppard, Donald Fleming, Gayle Tufts, Dan Froot, David Rousseve, Kaja Gam, Brian Moran, Nelson Zayas, and Gonnig Heggen.

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Yoshiko Chuma
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For touring and performance information, please contact:

The School of Hard Knocks
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or

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SOHK is a not-for-profit organization, contributions are welcome.

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A workshop version of SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT was presented as part of the Central Park Summerfare Series in 1989.

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