

News
from

THE KITCHEN

Video Music **Dance** Performance Film Literature

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SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT

By Yoshiko Chuma and The School of Hard Knocks
in collaboration with Mark Bennett

Thursday, December 13, 8:00pm, \$10, Members \$5

Friday - Saturday, December 14 - 15, 8:00pm, \$12, Members \$7

Friday - Saturday, December 14 - 15, 10:00pm, \$10, Members \$5

Sunday, December 16, 3:00pm, \$10, Members \$5

SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT follows a man's obsession with a beautiful woman who is both not quite real and not all there. Terrorized by eight insistent metronomes, Bessie Award-winner Nicky Paraiso must find his way through his own musical dreams of order and chaos in pursuit of the elusive and spectral figure of Mary Schultz. As the tour guides and catalysts of Paraiso's adventures, Harry Whittaker Shephard, Gonnle Heggen, and Yoshiko Chuma create a world where chance meetings and unplanned disruptions toss aside traditional views of courtship and classical concert stages. Serenading this unpredictable landscape in a variety of musical styles and turns are Robert Black (double bass), Steve Silverstein (clarinet, saxophone), Mark Bennett (piano), and Mr. Paraiso (violin, concertina, and keyboards). Lighting for SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT is designed by Michael Mazzoia; the costumes are created by Obie Award Winner Gabriel Berry.

Previous collaborations between choreographer/director Yoshiko Chuma and composer Mark Bennett include *Crazy Dream in Hot Summer II* (Lincoln Center Out of Doors Series, 1988), *Da Costakada Da Da, A Letter to Van Gogh* (Joyce Theater Womansworks Festival, 1989; Dance Chance at DTW, 1990), and a workshop version of SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT presented as part of the Central Park Summerfare Series in 1989.

Yoshiko Chuma moved to New York from Japan in 1977. In 1980 she founded The School of Hard Knocks along with musician Alvin Curran and filmmaker Jacob Burckhardt. The School of Hard Knocks presented their premiere performance at the Venice Biennale. Performances by The School of Hard Knocks, under the direction of Yoshiko Chuma, have been presented in New York City, across the United States, and throughout Europe. Since 1985 she has been working on a continuing collaboration with composer Lenny Pickett. This year, she created two new works for festivals in Lisbon, Portugal and New Castle, England. Yoshiko Chuma has received 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, and the Japan Society.

Mark Bennett is a composer and sound designer whose recent music for the theater includes *Der Ring Gott Farbjnet* and *Camille* (The Ridiculous Theater Company), *The Illusion*, Athol Fugard's *My Children! My Africal* (New York Theater Workshop), *Out of Order* (The Music Theater Group), Eric Overmeyer'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, Gall 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 SHK's *Da Costakada Da Da, A Letter to Van Gogh*.

The AT&T Foundation is the corporate sponsor of the 1990/91 "Dancing In The Kitchen" series. The creation of SUSPICIOUS COUNTERPOINT was made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet The Composer, The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Phillip Morris Companies, Inc., and the AT&T Foundation.