

IMPORTS

PERFORMANCE ARTISTS FROM OTHER SHORES
NOVEMBER 1979

NOVEMBER 1st 8:30pm LUIGI ONTANI--"ASTRONAUT"
\$3.00 / \$2.00 members

NOVEMBER 4th-5th 8:30pm MIN TANAKA and DEREK BAILEY--
DANCE AND MUSIC IMPROVISATION
\$4.00 / \$3.00 members / TDF Dance Voucher

NOVEMBER 8th-10th 8:30pm THE KIPPER KIDS--SILLY CEREMONIES
Special Musical Guests: Peter Gordon (Nov 8),
Rhys Chatham (Nov 9), John Lurie (Nov 10)
\$4.00 / \$3.00 members

NOVEMBER 27th 8:30pm MARC CAMILLE CHAIMOWICZ--"DOUBTS..."
\$3.00 / \$2.00 members

All performances will take place at
THE KITCHEN CENTER, 484 BROOME STREET, NYC
Reservations are recommended: 925-3615



ONTANI



TANAKA/BAILEY



KIPPER KIDS



CHAIMOWICZ

press information and photos: Joe Hannan, 925-3615

The Kitchen Center's second annual IMPORTS series takes place in November. IMPORTS was created to showcase the finest foreign practitioners of performance art. (Performance art can be loosely defined as live presentations created by visual artists; works in the medium run the gamut from tableaux vivants to full-fledged enacted theater pieces.) This year, the presentations which form the core of the IMPORTS series are supplemented by film and video showings, which are detailed in a separate press release. While IMPORTS '78 focused on artists from Great Britain and Canada, this year's series presents a broader international cross-section, featuring performance artists from Japan, Italy and Great Britain and film and video artists from Germany and Australia. IMPORTS was curated by RoseLee Goldberg.

NOVEMBER 1st, 8:30pm LUIGI ONTANI

IMPORTS opens with a performance by Italian artist LUIGI ONTANI. On November 1st, Ontani will perform his piece "Astronaut: Tableaux Vivants." Dressed in a shiny space suit, Ontani will levitate to the strains of opera arias by Verdi, Puccini and Haydn. Projected images and recorded sounds combine with Ontani's live performance in a startling evocation of interstellar travel.

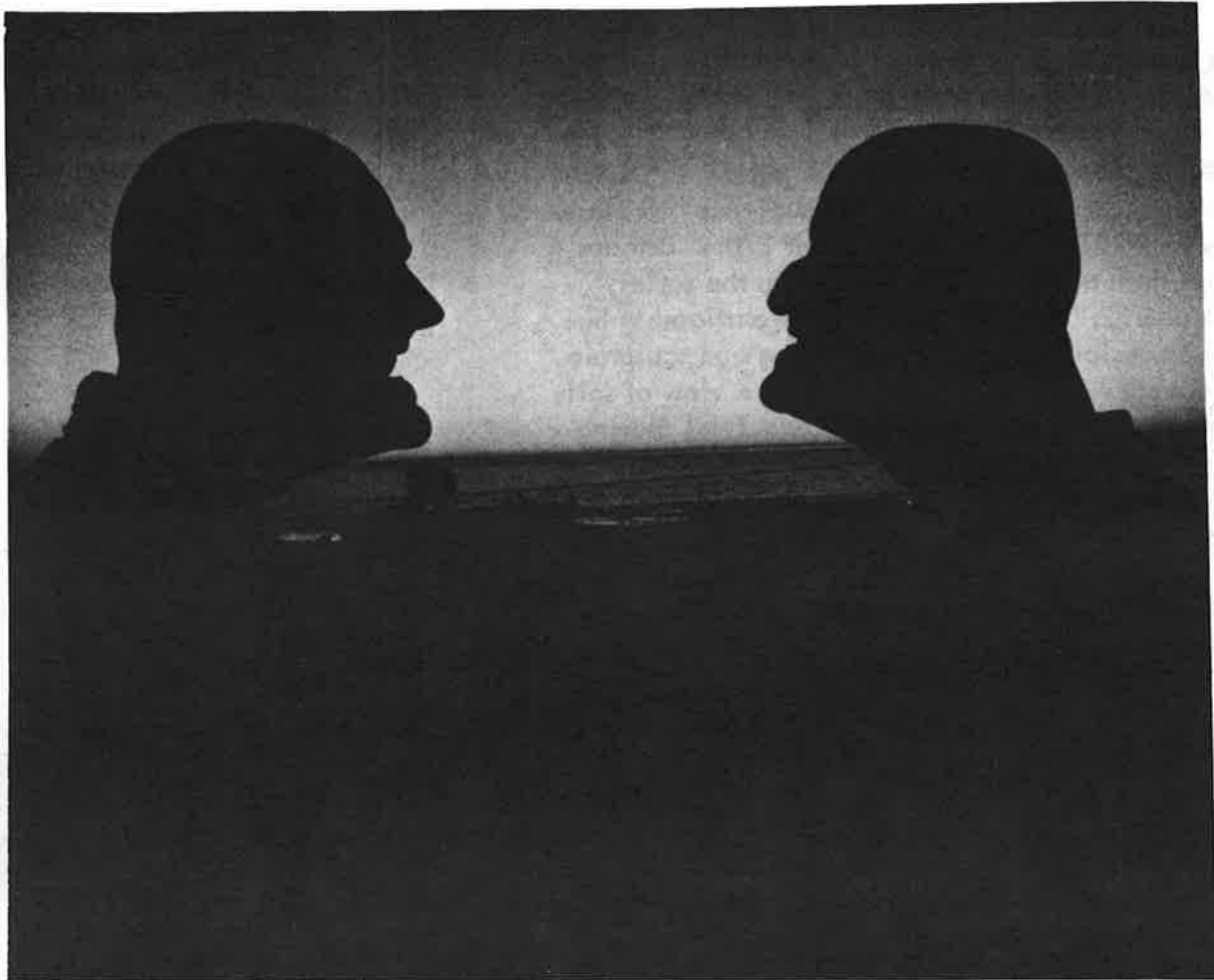
In the past, Ontani has reconstructed personal visions of historical and art-historical figures. His performances have included personifications of Saint Sebastian (after Guido Renni) and figures from the paintings of Jacques-Louis David. Landing in America for the first time in 1974, Ontani evoked an earlier arrival to the American continent by traveling in a costume recreated from drawings of Christopher Columbus. The performance of "Astronaut" marks Luigi Ontani's Kitchen debut.



NOVEMBER 4th-5th, 8:30pm MIN TANAKA and DEREK BAILEY

MIN TANAKA, from Body Weather Labs in Tokyo, will join British guitarist DEREK BAILEY in the second set of the IMPORTS series, which will be presented on November 4th and 5th. Tanaka and Bailey have been collaborating for about a year; their joint performances have drawn huge crowds in London and Paris. In their performances, Tanaka's sensory immersion of body into environment dovetail with Bailey's guitar improvisations, as each looks to the other's performance medium for mutual resonance and stimulation.

Min Tanaka helped to coin the phrase 'body weather' as a term for "the sensory thread that must exist" between the body skin of the dancer and the audience/environment. Tanaka tunes in to elemental and vibrational forces--air currents, water temperatures, sounds, as well as the energy (the lines of vision) created by the audience--through a perception of the body as having its own climate, a climate fully susceptible and responsive to the external climate. His performances give serene organic expression to his "search for nature and freedom on both sides of the skin." Tanaka has danced atop a windswept New York City roof and in rushing streams, as well as in better-known performance spaces in Japan, Europe and the US. Derek Bailey has presented improvisational guitar performances in Europe and Canada. He was recently a resident artist at the Music Gallery in Toronto. In Great Britain, he is well-known as a former member of Music Improvisation Co. Bailey has recorded albums of collaborative music with Anthony Braxton and Dave Holland. Although he sometimes works with electric guitar and electronic sound modifiers, his music has the intimate feeling of chamber music to it. The performance at The Kitchen marks Bailey's New York City debut.



NOVEMBER 8th-10th, 8:30pm THE KIPPER KIDS with Special Musical Guests

Once more THE KIPPER KIDS are in New York to treat their audiences to a pageant of body movements, beatific ballads, bunsen burners and the other ingredients of their comical cuisine. The November 8th-10th performances at The Kitchen are billed as "Silly Ceremonies with Musical Interludes." The high priests of the preposterous were warmly received by Kitchen audiences last year, who saw the Kippers sing strange songs ("Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend," "Eight Days a Week") while munching pickles, conduct fetishistic tea ceremonies and generally attain levels of unspeakably irreverent humor. Launched from a tradition that runs from the commedia del'arte to The Goon Show, brothers Harry Kipper and Harry Kipper are notorious for their merciless stimulation of the chuckle and belly laugh.

The Kipper Kids have served up their spiced humor in galleries and clubs in London, New York and California, notably on The Gong Show and as the opening act for The Rolling Stones. Originally from the British Isles (the style of the British music hall pervades their act), they now reside in Venice, California. Music lovers have always found much to savor in the Kippers' act; not only do the Kipper Kids sing, they also play ukelele, kazoos and clarinet. The November 8th-10th performances will feature added musical attractions: special guests will provide opening musical sets for the shows, a different guest each evening. Thursday, Nov 8: PETER GORDON, solo saxophone. Friday, Nov. 9: RHYS CHATHAM, solo guitar. Friday, Nov. 10, JOHN LURIE, solo saxophone.

NOVEMBER 27th, 8:30pm
MARC CAMILLE CHAIMOWICZ

MARC CAMILLE CHAIMOWICZ performs "Doubts, a sketch for video-camera and audience" to close the IMPORTS series on November 27th. Perhaps more than any other performance in the series, "Doubts..." underlines the close relationship between performance art and painting and sculpture. The work is a private, contemplative view of solitary existence, rather than the convivial sharing we associate with more theatrical performers. Chaimowicz uses videotapes of domestic activities such as writing, taking tea and looking out a window, as well as his own presence onstage to create a private, subdued atmosphere. The audience is presented with "a world of gentle contemplation, delicate senses, intrigue and clandestinism; suggestions of, hints toward, rather than over-stated causes." (Tamara Krikorian, in the June 1979 issue of "Art Monthly.")

Chaimowicz has presented his performance pieces for several years. Previous performances have been based on autobiographical or dream material, impersonation and reenactment of past gestures. "Doubts..." was premiered at the Paris Biennale. This performance marks Chaimowicz's first appearance in the United States.



The "Open Dialogue" with Joseph Beuys (originally scheduled for November 4th) planned as part of IMPORTS has been postponed. Beuys will appear at The Kitchen on January 6th (Sunday) at 3:00pm to meet with the public and discuss his theories and art. A full press release on this event will be available in late November; reservations will be taken after December 1st.

To obtain photographs or more information on IMPORTS, please contact Joe Hannan at 925-3615.