

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 73B
FOR RELEASE:
SEPTEMBER 19, 1973

DANCE INVENTIONS: ELAINE SUMMERS COMPANY OF TWELVE PERFORMERS
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATES ON BELLS AND GONGS
TWO ORIGINAL SCORES HEARD IN COMBINATION OF ART, MUSIC, DANCE, FILM
IN MUSEUM SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Sculpture Garden of The Museum of Modern Art will become the scene of a three-hour free-flowing entertainment of dance, music and films on two weekend evenings, Friday and Sunday, September 21 and 23, starting at six o'clock. Diverse dance structures, improvised to original music on flutes and wind instruments, with musicians and dancers stationed in various places, aided by the public playing on gongs and bells, constitute the major part of this Summergarden program. Experimental films projected simultaneously around the world-famous garden conclude the performance. The public is admitted free.

The designer of this evening is Elaine Summers, whose company of twelve dancers, will perform "Energy Changes." Original scores were composed for the Friday performance by Philip Corner and by Carman Moore for the Sunday performance. The dance and dance structures will be similar for both evenings.

The Corner composition will be played by four musicians using trombone, trumpet and flutes. At that performance the audience will be invited to play bells and gongs, for which Mr. Corner has prepared specific directions, to be distributed in booklets and on easel board signs.

For Sunday night Carman Moore has composed music for ten musicians and a sound tape. The instruments include an Arp synthesizer, African xylophone, percussions, harps, and various wind instruments played by such well-known musicians as Sam Rivers, the legendary jazz saxophonist; Robert Cram, principal flutist of the Ottawa Chamber Symphony; and Kenneth Bichel, well-known Arp synthesizer artist.

This unusual entertainment, featuring two composers on the different evenings, also includes one half-hour of films. However, the experimental films, as well as

(more)

the dance structures, will be the same on both occasions.

Both the films and dances are the work of Ms. Summers, dancer, choreographer, teacher, filmmaker, and a founder of the Elaine Summers Experimental Intermedia Foundation, a non-profit center for the interrelationship of dance, film, and music.

The Summers dancers will appear to be part of the environment of the Museum's garden with its sculptures, weeping birches, and running fountains. Two of the dancers will greet visitors as they enter, and so that they do not become "chair-oriented," the audience will be encouraged to move around or settle into areas from which they can see the dancers from many angles performing in various parts of the garden.

Ms. Summers studied with Martha Graham, Anthony Tudor, Yuriko and Mary Anthony; she also worked with the Janet Collins Dance Company and with the Judson Dance and Theater Workshop. She feels that even though the basic structure of her dances is fixed, it offers endless variations as performed by the individual performers.

In the finale films will be shown with seven projectors focusing simultaneously on garden walls, trees laden with light gauze and on the fountains. The films are "City People Moving," which was filmed at 34th Street, in The Museum of Modern Art Garden, and in Central Park; the second is called "Collage"; and the third, "Bodyscape," is based on close-ups of dancers' bodies in movement with emphasis on one or another part of the body, or what could be considered "geographic concentration." These films are intended to "capture kinetic visions and forces around us," and they are edited as choreography, so they become collages of kinetic images and communication. Ms. Summers describes them as "strange juxtapositions of subject matter, rhythms, fantasy, space, distorted time and fragmented action." She points out "ordinary actions in everyday situations become choreographic patterns or constantly happening dances."

(more)

Summargarden and its entertainment is made available to New Yorkers and other visitors by Mobil Foundation.

PLEASE NOTE: A FULL DRESS REHEARSAL will take place September 20 from 6 pm to 10 pm since the Museum is open to the public on that particular evening and the dress rehearsal will have the benefit of audience observation and participation.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of
Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019.
Phone: (212) 956-7501; 956-7504.
