



Summergarden

JENNIFER MULLER/THE WORKS

SUMMERGARDEN, The Museum of Modern Art's series of free evenings in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, continues on July 12 with a performance of contemporary dance by Jennifer Muller/The Works. Made possible by a grant from Mobil, the series' sponsor for nine seasons in the seventies, SUMMERGARDEN takes place on Friday and Saturday nights in July and August from 6 to 10 p.m. Short, informal presentations of music, dance, and performance art are scheduled for Friday nights at 8 p.m.

Jennifer Muller/The Works will present a composite of Muller's latest work and pieces from the group's repertory. The program will be performed to live music by saxophonist Marty Ehrlich, violinist David Sanella, and percussionists Pheeroan ak Laff and Aaron Mendelsohn.

Muller creates an accessible blend of theater and dance, taking common experience and common objects as a basis for choreography which "viscerally reveals the state of the soul" (Le Monde). In her 1973 piece, "Tub," the dancers splash in and out of a translucent bathtub full of water; in "Armless," a couple perform, despite their confining, straight-jacket-like costumes, surrounded by playful dancers.

Muller began her career at age fifteen with the Pearl Lang Dance Company. In 1963 she joined the Jose Limon Company where she was principal dancer and partner to Limon for nine years, premiering all of his creations

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**Friday and Saturday evenings in the Sculpture Garden of
The Museum of Modern Art are made possible by a grant from Mobil**

and assisting him in restaging works for various companies, including the American Ballet Theater. During the Limon years, Muller graduated from The Juilliard School and studied with Anthony Tudor, Martha Graham, Margaret Craske, Louis Horst, and Anna Sokolow. She also performed with the New York City Ballet and the Washington Ballet and established her own recital trio.

As associate artistic director of the Louis Falco Dance Company, Muller choreographed works for the repertory, and, in addition, performed as principal dancer for seven years. She has been commissioned to create pieces by numerous companies including the Nederlands Dans Theater, the Hartford Ballet, the Utah Repertory Company, and the Palais des Papes. Her signature work, "Speeds," created in 1974, will be performed in August by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at Wolftrap, marking the first time that one of her pieces for The Works will have been performed by another company.

The music which accompanies Muller's works has been created by the musicians especially for the SUMMERGARDEN performance. Reed player Marty Ehrlich has performed with a diverse group of contemporary instrumentalists and composers including Anthony Braxton, Jack de Johnette, Julius Hemphill, Anthony Davis, Muhal Richard Abrams, John Lindberg, and Leroy Jenkins. Pheeroan ak Laff has lent his talents as a percussionist to the work of Oliver Lake and Jump Up, the Air Trio, and Henry Threadgill's sextets, as well as to his own distinctive group. Violinist and composer David Sanella has worked with the Philadelphia String Quartet and the Hopi Indians of Arizona. Percussionist Aaron Mendelsohn is a dancer as well as a musician. He has worked as an accompanist at Jacob's Pillow, and has been collaborating

with members of The Works for the past year. All four musicians will be featured on the noon radio program, Around New York, in a segment hosted by Brooke Wentz on WNYC (FM 94) on Wednesday, July 10.

Admission to SUMMERGARDEN is free, on a first-come, first-served basis. Entrance begins at 6 p.m. both Friday and Saturday evenings through the Garden Gate at 14 West 54 Street, between Fifth Avenue and The Avenue of the Americas. In the event of rain, Friday night performances are held the following evening (Saturday) at 8 p.m. Refreshments are available at the Garden Cafe.

SUMMERGARDEN project director is Andrew B. Caploe; associate project director is Peter S. Pretsfelder.

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For more information contact the SUMMERGARDEN office at 212/708-9850, or the Department of Public Information at 212/708-9750.