



THE COYOTE MOON

June 1997

Premiere Issue

The task of Art is to take hold of the shining, the radiance, the manifestation, of that which as spirit weaves and lives throughout the world. All genuine Art seeks the spirit

Rudolf Steiner

Our first Coyote newsletter is an effort to let you get to know us better. WELCOME!!

Coyote Dancers was born four years ago on an island in the French Wet Indies. Since then, we have formed a core of inspired and devoted dancers who have persevered against daunting odds to keep our vision alive. We are a family of artists who inspire each other to higher levels of discovery, freedom and creativity. Our love for our work, mutual trust, and support have brought us through these endless challenges which have made us stronger and more determined to prevail.

The life of the artist is a sacred path, "an ecstatic voyage," in the words of Martha Graham. We are blessed and privileged to embark upon it. This path is loaded with obstacles, and yet within each obstacle a gift awaits to be revealed. The ecstasy of the discovery of each gift is always greater than the struggle.

Art heals, art purifies, art uplifts, art illuminates. Art reveals the truth. Art is an essential aspect of life, society, and culture. Coyote Dancers seek to offer dancers which contribute to the lives of all people everywhere. We look forward to sharing the fruits of our creative efforts with you, our audience. In Joy and Gratitude, Maher Benham. CM

"Dances With Coyotes" A Subscription Series

by Susanne Trani

Beginning on June 15, 1997, Maher Benham and Coyote Dancers will begin a series of four informal showings hosted by the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre. The first of these "behind the scenes" events will feature works of Maher Benham, Erica Dankmeyer, Jeanette Hemstad and Trebien Pollard. Within this intimate setting there will be an opportunity for the audience to talk with the artists about their creative processes. Recently we have experimented with a similar format and the overwhelming response has led us to establish this series as a Coyote tradition. Following the June 15 showing, the series will continue on Sunday, September 14, December 14 and March 15. Tadej Brdnik, curator of "Dances with Coyotes," describes the subscription series as, "an effort to nurture and expand the family of Coyote artists and encourage their growth as they share in our vision." Tadej also explains, "One of the goals of the subscription series is to push past the limitations of performance as the end result and to break the barriers between performers and audience by encouraging them to participate in the process."

You can help to continue the success of these showings by joining our family. If you act soon you can join the Coyote Dancers' Subscription Series and Save!! You can see all *Four* performances for only \$25!! If purchased at the door, each performance is \$10. This gives you a savings of \$15!! Let this encourage you to join the Coyote Family.

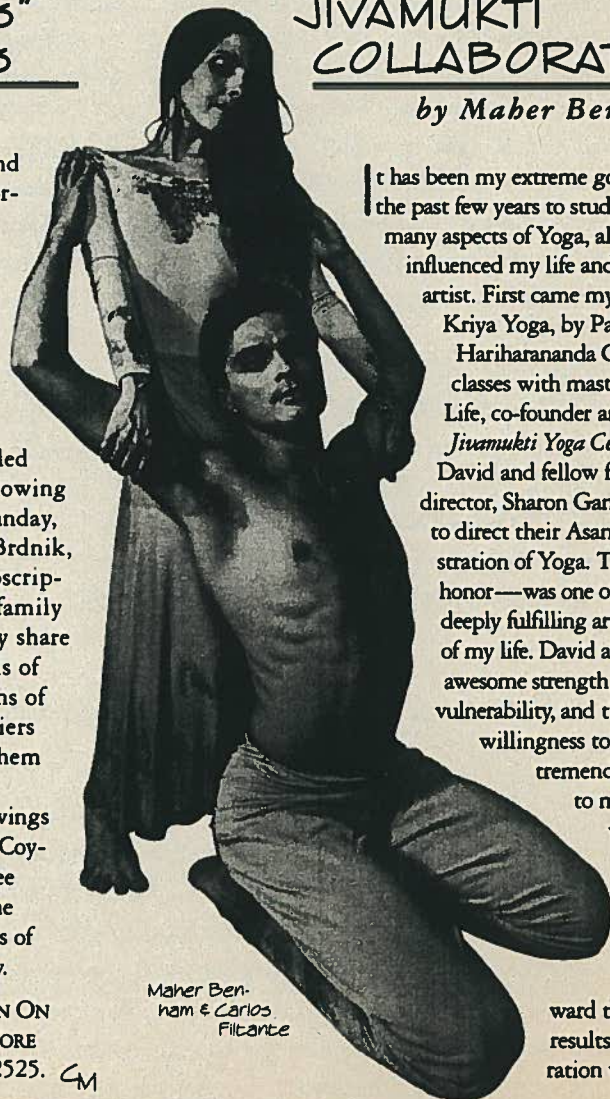
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY THE COUPON ON PAGE 3 CAN BE RETURNED TO COYOTE DANCERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT COYOTE DANCERS AT 212•505•2525. CM

JIVAMUKTI COLLABORATION

by Maher Benham

It has been my extreme good fortune in the past few years to study and practice many aspects of Yoga, all of which have influenced my life and work as an artist. First came my initiation into Kriya Yoga, by Paramahansa Hariharananda Giri, followed by classes with master teacher David Life, co-founder and co-director of *Jivamukti Yoga Center*. Recently David and fellow founder and director, Sharon Gannan, asked me to direct their Asana Dance demonstration of Yoga. This—a great honor—was one of the most deeply fulfilling artistic experiences of my life. David and Sharon's awesome strength, complete vulnerability, and their undoubting willingness to take risks was tremendously inspiring to me. Asana Dance will be

performed at our June 15th showing. We are looking forward to sharing the results of our collaboration with you. CM



Maher Benham & Carlos Filante

Photos by: Donald Greenhaus

Coyote Dancers Summer 1997 Calander



Photos by: Donald Greenhaus

Maher Benham

Early Summer

Maher Benham appears on "Dance Vista" aired on Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

June 3rd

Workshop Begins: Maher Banham & Coyote Dancers at Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre.

June 15th

"Dances with Coyote" First sucription series showing.

June 18th & 19th

Coyote Dancers performs select works at Riverside Church

July 31st

Workshop Ends

Unified
be our
hearts,
Common
be our
intentions,
Perfect
be our
Unity.

Rig Veda

Letter From the President

Welcome to the first Coyote Moon newsletter! First, thank you for your continuing support of Coyote Dancers, Inc. Let me introduce myself. I relocated from Santa Barbara, California, in 1995, after a 14 year career in Banking, to study theatre. I studied with Maher Benham at the Neighborhood Playhouse in 1995 and 1996. Her spirituality in dance and life captured my attention immediately. I began to attend concerts to see her work, which transcended my human spirit to a higher place. Working with Maher to fundraise and plan concerts, as I have done with other non-profit organizations, I joined the Board of Directors as President in January 1997.

I am pleased with our progress to date. Coyote Dancers now has an active, working Board of Directors which includes Maher Benham and Susanne Trani as Vice Presidents and Patrick Wood as Secretary/Treasurer. We also have an active working Committe of volunteers. Coyote Dancer's work has been performed six times since January 1997. Through our concerts and meetings with

people, we have received many gifts, both money and gifts in-kind, such as computers and rehearsal space. A big thank you to Amelia Petro at American Express for her assistance in obtaining computers for us, and Harold Baldrige at the Neighborhood Playhouse for the rehearsal space.

What is next for Coyote Dancer's? LOTS!!! We are creating this newsletter to update you quarterly on our journey. We have applied to perform at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and the Joyce Soho. We have created a subscription series of dance concerts called "Dances With Coyotes." We are continuing to build our Board of Directors, Committees and establish a business office. How can you help? Continuing your support in whatever way possible. Attend Coyote Dancer's events. Tell your friends about us. Volunteer some of your time on a committee today. Whatever it is, we thank you!

Carl Battles
President, Coyote Dancers, Inc.

A
constant
yearning
to know
the inner
spirit; and
a vision of
truth
which
gives
liberation:
this is the
true
wisdom
leading to
vision.

Bhagavad-Gita
13:11

In response to our March 9, 1997, Catherine Kirkpatrick, writes Maher Benham of her inspiring experience.

Dear Maher

I am not a dance fan. You gave me your flyer, but I wasn't sure whether or not to go [to the March 9, concert]. ...I knew I would have to rush, shell out for a cab, all for something I probably wouldn't like.

How wrong I was. I cannot tell you how stunning your dances were. As I write, images stand out in my mind—your brushing your hair reminded me for some reason of Botticelli, the "Night of Light" made me think of Stonehenge, primitive people and unspoken mysteries. I don't know what your dancers think about when they work, but they all seemed to project very specific images and thoughts. The whole thing was beautifully and professionally done...

Catherine A. Kirkpatrick

"DANCES WITH COYOTE" A SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

June 15, 1997
December 14, 1997

September 14, 1997
March 15, 1998

All performances start at 7:00PM

at The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre
340 East 54th Street (Between 1st & 2nd Avenues)

Please reserve _____ subscriptions at \$25 each = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

I would like to contribute an additional tax deductible gift towards the support of Coyote Dancers!

\$25— Friend

\$100— Angel

\$1,000— Archangel

\$50— Supporter

\$500— Saint

\$2,000 and above— Bodhisattva

First Subscription:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Second Subscription:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to Coyote Dancers Inc. and mail to Coyote Dancers at 131 Thompson Street, #7A, New York, NY 10012. Subscribers may pick up their tickets at the door. A heartfelt thanks to all who have and continue to support Coyote Dancers. For further information, contact Coyote Dancers at 212•505•2525.

Please cut along the dotted line

Coyote Dancers Wish List

As Coyote Dancers grows, so does our need for administrative equipment. To move into the future, we need the following items. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Fax Machine
Copier
Camcorder

Maher Benham will be interviewed on Sunday, may 31, 1997 by "Dance Vista" a show on Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

Diane Dragone will interview her & it will be aired in Early Summer 1997

Special thanks to.....

AMERICAN EXPRESS and Amelia Petro for their recent donation of Computer. Dreams do come true!!

JOHN CARBONE for his recent computer donation.

HAROLD BALDRIDGE for his generous gift of rehearsal space at the *Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre*.

PLAYHOUSE STUDENTS for their continued support and technical assistance.

MR. RAY AND MRS. KATHY OLESON for their recent financial support.

JO DAVIS for her recent financial support.

It is not important that you should know what a dance means. It is only important that you be stirred.

Martha Graham

Only the heart which embraces the world can beat in rythum with the cosmos.

Helena Roerich

MAILING LABEL

Stamp
goes
here

Coyote Dancers, Inc.
131 Thompson St., Apt. 7A
New York NY 10012

Coyote happenings...

by Adam Lobato

Quintin *Chiappetta*, musical director of Coyote Dancers, is working on the score for Maher's latest dance which will go into rehearsal June 3 and which will be performed in the fall.

Tadej Brdnik will set new work on Milwaukee Ballet to be performed in October. He is also collaborating with **Trebién Pollard** for their own concert set for September or October. Tadej will venture to his country of Slovenia in September to teach dance at the Fall Festival of Dance. Tadej is also a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company.

Catherine Cabeen, a student at the Martha Graham School, is an understudy for the Martha Graham Dance Ensemble. Recently a solo she choreographed was presented in the student concert at the school. She also was a finalist for the Coca-Cola Scholarship.

In May of 1996 **Kelly Ciccarelli** graduated from Marymount Manhattan College with a B.F.A. in Dance and a Minor in Education. Not soon after graduation, Kelly accepted a six month contract at Tokyo Disneyland performing in "Feel the Magic".

Other than performing with the Martha Graham Co. and Coyote Dancers, **Erica Dankmeyer** is continually choreographing her own work. Her latest endeavor is a duet. Don't miss her dance "The Chalice" at the "Dances with Coyotes" performance on June 15th.

Penny Diamatopoulou keeps busy performing with the Martha Graham Dance Ensemble and Gomez Dance Theater. Her next performance is July 18th & 19th with Gomez Dance Theater.

Jeanette Hemstad is currently working with The Morita Study Group at The Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital. Together they are creating choreography for use in the Meaningful Life Therapy program for cancer patients. The result of this collaboration will be featured at The Cunningham Studio this summer. In February of this year Jeanette's piece "Far More Drums" was performed in Merano, Italy and will be performed at Cunningham Studio.

Maribel Lizardo collaborates with the "Creative Arts Team". This educational theater project uses improvisational theater to promote critical thinking on topics such as; AIDS, violence, prejudice and racism.

Adam Lobato is working with choreographer Bart Baptista for work to be presented in September

Coyote dancer **Blakeley White** has just returned from Italy where she danced with newly established NYLOC. While on tour she performed the choreographic works of Nixon Beltran, Simone Willet (a former Coyote), and fellow Coyote Dancer Jeanette Hemstad.

Blakeley also performed a solo work of her own at Catterdrale di St. Nicolas in Merano, Italy. CM

