

BIG DANCE THEATER

THE OTHER HERE PROJECT DESCRIPTION



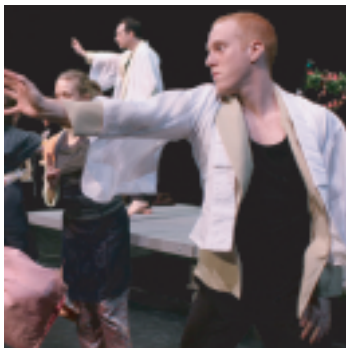
BIG DANCE THEATER's new work, **THE OTHER HERE** collides Eastern and Western elements to offer an engaging meditation on the quest for purpose in a modern world rife with perplexity. Layered with the pleasures of **BIG DANCE THEATER's** expert use of dance, music, and visual design, including re-inventions of ancient Okinawan dance, as well as singing and dancing to the Okinawan pop music of Shoukichi Kina, **THE OTHER HERE** moves us through a surprising day inspired by the real-life Million Dollar Round Table, the exuberant global gathering of top life insurance salespeople. As the salesmen sing, dance, drink tea, make speeches and take lunch around a large table/dance-floor/stage, they embody for us the slipperiness of contemporary life, where death and disaster mean everything and nothing, sincerity and falsity are hopelessly intertwined, and cultures exist in global free-fall.



Woven in and around this world of surfaces, and gradually taking it over, is "the other here", an alternative reality inspired by the classic stories of the legendary Japanese writer Masuji Ibuse. Masterpieces of subtle, emotional accumulation, the stories—"Life at Mr. Tange's", a servant-master tale of vanished prosperity, and "The Carp", a restrained tale of loss—turn the convention's surface agendas inside out to root us in a realm of meaning and depth. Suffused with the wisdom and humanity of Ibuse, and the beauty and wit of **BIG DANCE THEATER's** artistry, **THE OTHER HERE** elegantly and entertainingly takes us on a journey from disjunction to connection, from artifice to truth.



Co-Directed by Paul Lazar and Annie-B Parson, choreographed by Annie-B Parson, **THE OTHER HERE** promises to be an exquisite evening of theater, with Takeshi Kata's set beautifully cycling through the seasons, and Peter Flaherty's video carp swimming in and out of the action. **THE OTHER HERE** will also feature lighting by Jennifer Tipton, sound by Jane Shaw and costumes by Claudia Stephens. Veteran **BIG DANCE THEATER** members Paul Lazar and Molly Hickok will be at the center of the six-member ensemble.



The Japan Society, New York, is the lead commissioner and co-producer of **THE OTHER HERE**, with a premiere planned for February 8-11, 2007. **THE OTHER HERE** is co-produced by **BIG DANCE THEATER**, and co-commissioned by Dance Theater Workshop, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. Additional residency support is provided by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Lafayette College in Easton, PA. Kim Whitener, KiWi Productions, Executive Producer.

Contact for **THE OTHER HERE**

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