

Feb 5th, 2009

Press Release: Performance Art Project - *Staged Exclusively in Churches*

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What: *Parsifal Unspoken* (at The Church) by Ella Joseph

Where: Babeville: Asbury Hall, 341 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY

When: March 5 - 6, General Admission: 5 pm - 9 pm

With: John Kasten, August Lascola, Sifu Chik Qadir Mason, Ella Joseph, and Patrick Gus Posey

Featuring: Percussionist Rin Ozaki

Admission Fee: \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance; \$10 seniors and students

“My first encounter with *Parsifal* was in 1999 when I participated in the Wagner Forum Graz Festival, Austria with my scenographic concept. Since then, *Parsifal* remained hauntingly dormant, while other ideas and projects came to fruition. However, four years ago, while visiting Asbury Hall, a raw space undergoing renovation, the image of *Parsifal* strongly resurfaced in my mind, bringing new excitement and purpose to my move to Buffalo, NY. In correlation with the thematic of my work entitled Theatre of Truth(s), *Parsifal* represents the search for one's true self in time and space. Thus, became *Parsifal Unspoken*, a personal interpretation of Chretien de Troyes' *Perceval, le Conte du Graal* (late 12th century), Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival* (first 13th century) and ultimately Wagner's opera, *Parsifal* (late 19th century). This is an experimental work, a large scale multimedia performance, using non-spoken, abstract, metaphorical and minimal use of elements to connote intent, event and outcomes.” (Ella Joseph)

“Ella’s greatest accomplishment as a contemporary artist is found in her strength of genre revolving around avant-garde performance art and tantalizing theatrical ambiance. Sometimes unsettling, always intriguing, her art really ‘makes you think.’ Her unique style toys with, if not appeals to, the subconscious and brings the subconscious to the forefront in such a revolutionary way that ever eludes totally dismissing the experience. You come away from the initial experience finding yourself pulling layers of meaning and metaphor out of her work the more time distances you from the original experience.” (Elena Greco, Artist, Buffalo, NY)

Bio:

Ella Joseph is a visual and theater performance artist, holding a Master of Arts in scenography from Central Saint Martins School of Art & Design, London, United Kingdom, a Master of Fine Arts in theater design from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada and a Bachelor of Science in textile design from the University of Iasi, Romania. She studied theater, performance art, video, photography, public art and painting and trained in the Grotowski method and Body Weather Laboratory. Her work has been shown throughout Europe, Canada and the United States. During the last four years, Ella has been particularly active in the Western New York art community as a member of the Buffalo Society of Artists, Western New York Artists Group and the Albright-Knox Collectors Gallery. Her newest video installation work has been featured at Hallwalls, Artists & Models in 2008, the Buffalo Infringement Festival (2007-2008), as well as ScenoArt Studio & Gallery, the artist's residence. Ella taught scenography at the Amsterdam School for New Dance Development, The Netherlands; video at the Nieuw Millenium Foundation in The Netherlands and art and technology at the University of Hawaii's Pacific New Media Center in Honolulu. Currently, the artist brings her technical expertise as a video specialist to Synacor, Inc. located on the Buffalo waterfront.