

Iona Pear Dance Theatre to perform The Mythology of Angels Nov. 23 at UCSD

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IONA PEAR DANCE THEATRE TO PERFORM THE MYTHOLOGY OF ANGELS NOV. 23 AT UCSD

The Iona Pear Dance Theatre, praised by the Honolulu Advertiser as "one of the most innovative forces in Hawaii today," will present The Mythology of Angels Nov. 23 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Created in 1992 and performed annually throughout the Hawaiian Islands and more recently on tour, The Mythology of Angels is directed by choreographer Cheryl Flaharty, who also dances in the production. The 10-member troupe performs in the Japanese butoh dance form which emphasizes the connection between the dancer and the universe.

"The intensity of concentration derived from (Flaharty's) training in the Japanese butoh dance form, and her utter mastery of movement, provide her with an astonishing range of expression," writes West Hawaii Today. "Her choreographic insight is impeccable."

The Nov. 23 performance of The Mythology of Angels is presented by UCSD's University Events Office.

The Angels performance is carried out in six distinct sections. The first rendering is a whimsical look at guardian angels; the second, "Between Two Worlds," brings to life angels as depicted in the paintings of artists from Eastern and Western cultures throughout the ages; the third depicts angels of war, danced by Andrea Torres and Norbert Larsen; the fourth explores the idea of the fallen angel, portrayed by Iona Pear Dance Theatre assistant director Sami L. A. Akuna, drawing parallels between fallen angels and homosexuals dying of AIDS; the fifth section delves into the essence of the angel as energy, color, and light, and the concluding section, "Angels Have Landed," presents a futuristic image of the angel whose flight between heaven and earth no longer requires wings.

Flaharty received her bachelor's degree in dance from the University of Hawaii and has performed as principle dancer with the Betty Jones' Dances We Dance Company and with New York butoh master Poppo Shiraishi. She teaches throughout the Hawaiian Islands and in New York.

Writes the Honolulu Weekly: "The choreographer who makes such a convincing case for angels has taught her dancers how to move with the incredible lightness of being at their core they glide, float, meld into forms with a sense of timelessness that utilizes butoh's emphasis on spontaneity."

The Iona Pear Dance Company has received numerous grants and awards, including those from the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and Arts and the Hawaii Community Foundation. The troupe's works range from theatrical productions to site-specific pieces to art installations and private engagements.

"The works of choreographer Cheryl Flaharty and her Iona Pear Dance Theatre...are as provocatively original a fusion of Western exhibitionism and Eastern introversion as one can possibly imagine," writes the Honolulu Advertiser. The Honolulu Star Bulletin says "absolutely stunning."

Tickets for the Nov. 23 performance of *The Mythology of Angels* are \$20 general admission, \$18 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$16 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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