

The performance of Suzanne Lacy's "Whisper--the waves, the wind," to be held some time in October

August 1, 1983

Over 100 San Diego women have joined together to plan and produce a public performance art piece on the subject of women and aging.

"Whisper--the waves, the wind," the art performance directed by artist Suzanne Lacy, is involving local senior women in all aspects of its production. The performance itself, slated for October, will give over six dozen nonprofessional actresses a chance to speak for themselves. The scenario calls for these elderly women, dressed in white, to tell their stories while seated elegantly on the beach at white-draped tables.

In addition to the actresses, there are many other women working on the performance. A public project of this scope has required, to date, over three months of work and cooperation between advocates for seniors, seniors' organizations, artists and cultural institutions. Women in all walks of life have volunteered for the project's many working committees handling planning, production, fundraising and publicity.

Central direction for "Whisper--the waves, the wind" is provided by the project's steering committee. Among those serving on this committee are Evelyn S. Herrmann, chief of the Senior Citizens Division of the San Diego Park and Recreation Department; Norma N. Block, one of the founders of the San Diego Gray Panther Network; Ellie Stein, president of the Older Women's League (OWL) of San Diego; Doris Steinman, vice-president of OWL; Donna Janich, Program Coordinator at Casa de Manana Retirement Home in La Jolla; Sharon Allen Crampton, a performance artist who was recently awarded an M.F.A. from UC Irvine, and Suzanne Lacy. Also on the steering committee are Wilma Metcalf, Stella Smiler, Joann Kerr and Sascha Garson.

Volunteers are still needed to participate as actresses, organize the actresses, work on production, staging, documentation, public relations and fundraising. To volunteer, phone Sharon Crampton at (619) 280-2599 or Ellie Stein at (619) 298-0880.

"Whisper--the waves, the wind" is co-sponsored by the Center for Music Experiment at the University of California, San Diego; the Senior Citizens Services of San Diego; the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, and the San Diego Museum of Art. It is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information contact: Jan Seagrave, 452-3120

Whisper- the waves, the wind a unique theater event for elderly women

From the cliffs we cannot bear them directly, but Pieces of conversations are transported up through nearby loudspeakers, woven together with wind and wave sounds. They are talking about their lives - about the special joys, problems and circumstances of aging.

Imagine a sunny day on a beach in La Jolla. The waves wash in and out along a single stretch of sand, enclosed on three sides by high rock walls. As you look down from the cliffs you are surprised, perhaps, to witness a gathering below: white cloths on forty small tables dance in the breeze, and around each are sitting four elderly women all dressed in white.

"Whisper, the waves, the wind" is a performance by Los Angeles artist Suzanne Lacy that eulogizes aging women and presents, within a compelling visual framework, their own experiences as they tell them. Unlike theater with its prepared scripts, here over 100 non-actresses will get an opportunity to speak for themselves in a live public performance that will be videotaped for television.

JOIN US ... October as we prepare for an October showing of this one day only event. For more information, call 452-4363, or 280-2S99

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