

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Vangeline Theater Wake Up and Smell the Coffee, Butoh for Waste Prevention: Reducing Coffee Trash - Available on Demand thru 5/2

Company: Vangeline Theater Online
Venue: Online
Location: New York, NY

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Vangeline

Vangeline Theater's live stream archival footage of Wake Up and Smell the Coffee, a 60-minute dance piece performed in 2017 at Triskelion Arts, premiered on Earth Day 2021 and is available on demand at <https://vimeo.com/539620835> until May 2.

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee utilizes the intensity of the art form *butoh* to convey a serious problem: the environmental repercussions of non-recyclable waste. The performers danced through garbage; a set made of 1500 collected unsalvageable coffee cups, illustrating the extensive amount of non-recyclable waste generated by society. Currently, Americans are responsible for a staggering 58% of the paper cup consumption in the world. This issue is directly linked to the threat of global warming.

"We are not quite ready to get back into the theater yet," explained Vangeline. "As a result, I have been looking for archival footage to share with our audiences this Spring. In 2017, I conceived Wake Up and Smell the Coffee as a cautionary tale about global warming; four years and one pandemic later, this piece has never felt more relevant."

"Brilliantly, Vangeline Theater defied a stereotype of contemporary dance: rather than reaching for abstract meaning, Wake Up and Smell the Coffee clearly presents its audience with an inspiring environmental narrative through movement alone."

— Emily McNeely, The Dance Enthusiast

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee is a good fit for streaming; it is family-friendly and has a fairy tale narrative that is really accessible. It tackles a serious subject, but the piece can be whimsical at times. I drew as much from *butoh* as I did from European traditions, infusing *butoh* with satire, poking fun at the preciousness of Western cultural heritage. These days, we all could use a little humor; hopefully, on Earth Day weekend, the message of this piece—overconsumption, and hubris—will resonate while audiences are entertained." Conceived, choreographed and directed by Vangeline. Dancers: Azumi Oe, Leah Marie Beltran, Maki Shinagawa, Margherita Tisato, Maddy Sher, Cindy Butz, Stacy Lynn Smith and Vangeline. Originally performed on April 22nd, 2017 at Triskelion Arts.

About Vangeline

Vangeline is a teacher, dancer, and choreographer specializing in the Japanese postwar avant-garde movement form *butoh*. She is the artistic director of the Vangeline Theater (New York), a dance company firmly rooted in the tradition of Japanese *butoh* and the New York *Butoh* Institute's founder. She is a 2018 NYFA/NYSCA Artist Fellow in Choreography. Vangeline's work has been heralded in publications such as the New York Times ("captivating"), Los Angeles Times ("moves with the clockwork deliberation of a practiced Japanese *Butoh* artist"), and LA Weekly, to name a few. More recently, her solo *Hijikata Mon Amour* received critical acclaim in New York *Butoh* Institute Festival 2019 ("a triumphant experience for both performer and viewer"—Broadway World). With her all-female dance company, Vangeline's socially conscious performances tie together *butoh* and activism. She is the founder of the 15-year running, award-winning program "Dream a Dream Project," which brings *butoh* dance to incarcerated men and women at correctional facilities across New York State. Vangeline has taught and performed internationally in Japan, Finland, Chile, Hong Kong, the UK, Denmark, Germany, France, the United States, and Taiwan. She is the author of the book of non-fiction *Butoh: Cradling Empty Space* (2020). www.vangeline.com. This program was supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

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Schedule
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