



ArtSmarts

2006-2007 Wells Fargo School Matinee Series

MOMIX: *Lunar Sea*

October 30, 2006 11:00am

Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center

Dear Teacher:

We hope you find this CueSheet helpful in preparing your students for the MOMIX: *Lunar Sea* school matinee. This guide, which is intended to complement the Dance Curriculum Guide, provides information about the company and their performance. Also included in the guide is a review of audience etiquette.

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MOMIX



Foto di MAX PUCCIARIELLO

The Dance Company - MOMIX

MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists that is internationally known for presenting works of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty. It freely mixes classical ballet, modern dance, and gymnastics with theater illusion. The company has received acclaim for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using humor, props, light, shadow, and the human body. It has been in existence since 1981 under the direction of its founder Moses Pendleton and is based in Washington, Connecticut.

MOMIX is constantly involved in a variety of projects. It has given live performances in 22 countries. It has also participated in a number of film and television projects. MOMIX was featured in PBS's "Dance in America" series and in one of the first IMAX films in 3-D, *Imagine*.

The Founder, Artistic Director, and Choreographer - Moses Pendleton

Moses Pendleton was born and raised on a dairy farm in northern Vermont and named his dance company MOMIX, after a brand of cattle feed. In addition to his commitment to his dance company, the multi-talented Pendleton has been active as a solo dancer and/or a choreographer with numerous companies all over the world. He has been involved in ballet, opera, symphony orchestras, film, TV, music videos, and gymnastics and was one of the founding members of the ground-breaking Pilobolus Dance Company. He choreographed the closing ceremonies for the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid in 1980 and his work appears in Prince's *Batdance* music video for the movie *Batman*. Pendleton has received many prizes and fellowships for his work in dance.

LUNAR SEA



Foto di MAX PUCCIARIELLO

MOMIX's newest creation is *Lunar Sea*. The show is a procession of dreamlike sequences performed mostly in black light, with glowing phosphorescent shapes rather than identifiable human forms. Moses Pendleton stated that he was “trying to devise a ballet as if you were witnessing it on the moon with one-sixth of the Earth’s gravity”. He notes that *Lunar Sea* requires the dancers to become fast-change artists as they switch in and out of costumes that make parts, or even all, of their bodies invisible. The dancers wear bodysuits that are sheer black and phosphorescent white. The sheer black material “disappears” into the black background and the phosphorescent white reflects the black lighting. This costume allows the dancers to maneuver their visible parts while the rest of their bodies remain invisible. When the female dancers must float or perform dolphin kicks, they are assisted by men cloaked in black from head to toe – they propel the women while they themselves remain invisible to the audience. This illusionist choreography requires drill-team precision, even though it is in slow motion.

LUNAR SEA SOUNDTRACK:

PART 1

1. **“White Arcades”** by Harold Budd from the album “White Arcades”.
2. **“K2”** by David Roberts from the album “Buddha Experience- Zen Trance”.
3. **“A Trip to Ihasa”** by Bass Meditation from the album “Buddha Experience- Zen Trance”.
4. **“Miles Away”** by Apollo Nova from the album “Buddha Experience- Zen Trance”.
- *5. **“Dream Catcher”** by Phil Thornton as Omnimotion, from the Waveform release "Omnimotion".
- *6. **“Underdub”** by Stefan Lundaahl as Omnimotion, from the Waveform release "Omnimotion".
- *7. **“Kojan”** by Stefan Lundaahl as Omnimotion, from the Waveform release "Omnimotion".
- *8. **“Like This”** by Aaron Dysart as Eastern Dub Tactik, from the Waveform release "Blood is Shining".
9. **“Bright Light Shining Star”** by The N. Beat Poets Feat from the album “Buddha Experience- Zen Trance”.

PART 2

- * 1. **“Treasure”** by Elliot Morgan Jones & Nick Woolfson as Sounds from the Ground, from the Waveform release "Terra Firma".
2. **"Vista/Strange New World; "Ship of Lights" and "Lament"** from the CD, "Leaving Eden".
Written and performed by Bruce Odland. Courtesy of Arcadian Publishing. For more information, visit the artist at www.bruceodland.com.
- * 3. **“Rye”** by Elliot Morgan Jones & Nick Woolfson as Sounds From the Ground, from the Waveform release "Terra Firma".
- *4. **"Waken,"** by Kevin Dooley as ZerO One, from the Waveform release "ZerO One".
5. **“Behind the Sun”** by The Star Seeds from the Waveform compilation “Two AD”.
6. **“Hold the Ice”** composed by Hans Zimmer.
7. **“Budget Meeting”** composed by Hans Zimmer.
8. **“All of Them”** composed by Hans Zimmer.
9. **“Another Brick in Hadrian’s Wall”** composed by Hans Zimmer.

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THINK ABOUT IT!

Talking with your teacher, friends, and family about a performance is part of the experience. You can now compare ideas, ask questions and find out how to learn even more.

Here are some questions to think about:

1. How would you describe *Lunar Sea* to a friend?
2. What did you like best about *Lunar Sea* and why? Was it what you had expected?
3. What do you think life would be like if you were part of a dance company?
4. Did you find fun and humor in the performance? Name some examples.

ATTENDING THE THEATER

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- * Enter the auditorium quietly and take seats immediately;
- * Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times;
- * Demonstrate appreciation for the artist's work by applauding at the appropriate times;
- * Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements;
- * Please eat lunch before or after the performance to avoid disruption;
- * Please turn off cell phones and pagers;
- * Photography is strictly prohibited;
- * Relate any information acquired from the pre-matinee discussion to the new information gained from the matinee.

What you can expect of your experience in a performing arts theater:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, rustling of papers, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best possible work. The audience shows respect for the performers by watching attentively. Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, such as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. While the audience at a dance performance will sit quietly, other types of performance invite audience participation.