

**LUMIERE & SON in association with
THE COMBINATION LTD
AND THE BASEMENT THEATRE,
ALBANY EMPIRE**

Present



A STRING OF PERILS

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Devised by Hilary Westlake with the company

LUMIERE & SON

Eiji Kusuhara
Trevor Stuart
George Yiasoumi
Sarah Sankey

FROM THE COMBINATION

Julia Brown
Gregory Dunk
Pam Foster
Joe Grossi
Glenda Roberts
Carmen Taggart

Tom Cairns
Tony Foley
Jenny Giddings
Flavia Rittner
Glen Stevens

MUSICIANS

Jimmy Haycraft
Trix Worrell

Director
Designer
Lighting Design
Properties
Make-up
Mask
Technician
Albany Co-ordinators

Hilary Westlake
Helen Turner
Clive Crotty
Monika Biskupek
Heather Jones
Conrad Clark
Clive Crotty
Pam Foster
Trix Worrell

FOR THE COMBINATION LTD

Jenny Harris, Dave O'Donnell, Ross Williams, Dave Perry, Pete Zygadlo

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LUMIERE & SON AND THE COMBINATION LTD RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE GREATER LONDON
ARTS ASSOCIATION

A STRING OF PERILS

Throughout the summer Lumiere & Son toured 'Circus Lumiere', a black circus show in a tent. The show contained some brief sequences of wrestling which the company found exciting to devise and agreeable to perform. Consequently, when the possibility of working in residence at the Albany was proposed, the director felt that the theatrical potential of fighting and martial arts techniques, allied with choreographed movement, would be a fruitful area to explore.

In the three week preparation period the company became engrossed in a great variety of fighting techniques, and found ways in which these could be structured into dances. Many of the more popular forms of Eastern martial arts were taken as starting points, and these in turn influenced the tone of the designs for costumes and set.

The company for the Albany residency is composed of a small core group from Lumiere & Son and 13 non-professional performers, including two musicians and members of the Albany Basement Theatre and the dance workshop group.

Before the project started the local people were chosen from workshops arranged by the Albany on Lumiere & Son's behalf. The musicians were invited to compose a score that related to Asian rhythms and the martial themes of the show.

The fights and dances in 'A String of Perils' were devised by the core group and then rehearsed by the whole company. As with all of Lumiere & Son's residential work, our aim was to find dance, movement and fighting forms that could be used by untrained performers without modifying the style that characterises our work.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Lumiere & Son was founded by David Gale & Hilary Westlake in 1973. For much of the work David Gale writes the scripts and Hilary Westlake directs them. A number of plays have been produced in this way: **'Jack . . . the Flames!'** (1974), **'Trickster'** (1974), **'Pest Cure & Molester'** (1975), **'White Men Dancing'** (1975), **'The Sleeping Quarter of Sophia'** (1975), **'Indications Leading to . . .'** (1975), **'Dogs'** (1976), **'Special Forces'** (1976), **'Passionate Positions'** (1977), and **'Night Fall'** (1978). Hilary Westlake has also devised and directed three plays: **'Tip Top Condition'** (1974), **'Icing'** (1977) and **'Giants'** (1979). **'Jean Pool'** (1979) was directed by Trevor Stuart while Hilary Westlake was on a study tour of China and South-East Asia.

In 1979 the company undertook a number of linked residential projects, out of which grew three shows. In these the co-director choreographed and wrote dialogue for material generated in a workshop situation. The first residential show was **'The Dancers'**, performed by final year students at the East 15 Acting School in Loughton, Essex, then toured to Poland. After this came **'Glazed'**, produced at Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, then **'Giants'** developed in residence at Birmingham Arts Lab. Both these shows were performed by a small core of company members and large groups of non-professional local people, including ten-year old twins, teenagers and old age pensioners.

In 1980 the company was invited by the Wimbledon School of Art Theatre Design Department to work in residence for five weeks on the devising of a show for which all costumes, properties and set would be designed and made by students at the college. The company decided to mount a black circus show that would concentrate on various aspects of clowning. A six-masted tent was designed and built specifically for the tour, and **'Circus Lumiere'** travelled throughout the U.K. this summer, receiving unprecedented public and critical acclaim. The tour closed to a packed tent at the Edinburgh Festival, followed by a similarly sold-out fortnight indoors at the ICA, London'. **'Circus Lumiere'**, in various versions, may well become a feature of Lumiere & Son's summer work.

Lumiere & Son have performed throughout the U.K. and Europe, at festivals, theatres, arts centres, universities, polytechnics, drama colleges and community centres. Our events have been presented in a variety of outdoor public situations, including a waterfall, a ferry boat, a rugby club, and London Airport, not to mention a 260 seater tent.

EIJI KUSUHARA worked with Lumiere & Son from 1974 to 1976. Other work includes Tokyo Kid Brothers, Red Buddah, R.S.C., Bristol Old Vic, Oxford Playhouse. T.V. and films include **'Spy'**, **'Gentle Touch'**, **'North Sea Hijack'**, and **'Superman II'**.

TREVOR STUART worked in Australian theatre then studied mime with Etienne Decroux in Paris. He has performed in eight plays with the company. In 1978 he directed Lumiere & Son's **'Passionate Positions'** in Australia and in 1979 directed **'Jean Pool'** for the company.

HILARY WESTLAKE is a co-director of the company. She trained at East 15 and worked as an actress in Inter Action's TOC and the London La Mama company among others. She has directed most of the company's plays, and during 1979/80 visited China and South-East Asia on a study tour.

GEORGE YIASOUMI trained at East 15 Acting School, leaving to join the company's Polish tour of **'The Dancers'**. This is his sixth play with the company.