



MINAMATA

THE STORY OF A
JAPANESE FISHING CITY

CAP & DAGGER PRESENTS:

MINAMATA

PERFORMANCE PLANNED AND WRITTEN BY:
JEFFRY WALKER

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FROM THE PHOTO ESSAY BOOK MINAMATA
BY W. EUGENE AND AILEEN M. SMITH

MUSIC COMPOSED BY JACKSON HILL

STAGING BY STU GAY AND JOEL GORI

MASK AND COSTUME DESIGN BY F. ELAINE WILLIAMS

PROJECTED DESIGNS BY DEBBIE SLADE AND LOANNE SNAVELY

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY THEATRE

FEBRUARY 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 1982



For most of this century the people of Minamata Japan have been poisoned by the Chisso Chemical Corporation. The farmers and fishermen had welcomed the plant to their town in 1907. By the 1950's nearly one third of the city's workforce had found employment at Chisso. The southern harbor city was enjoying its share of Japan's great industrial boon. But today Minamata is a city in anguish.

By 1950 an unusual number of dead fish began to wash ashore. By 1952 a bizarre affliction sent fish-eating cats into convulsive "dances," leaving most of the pets dead. Between 1953 and 1956 the symptoms of the "dancing cats" began to appear in people. It did not take long to discover that the victims were being poisoned by chemicals in the fish that they ate from local waters, which were being polluted by the Chisso factory. And now, nearly 600 tons of mercury later, the fetally damaged children and other victims in Minamata continue to seek relief from their pain; years after they have stopped eating contaminated fish. Although Chisso was finally forced to stop dumping chemicals into the surrounding waters, the number of victims of the torturous and often fatal "Minamata-Chisso Disease" is increasing.

In the mid 1970's the late W. Eugene Smith, and his wife, Aileen, traveled to Minamata and recorded the ongoing story of human suffering and *systematic* indifference in Minamata, a book of eloquent photographs and striking narrative. Their creative work focused the eyes of the world on the struggle of Minamata.

Seeing the Smith's photo essay generated a theatrical idea. As a performance work the idea held the promise of: the luminescence of shoji screens, the simplicity of haiku poems, the spacious sounds of koto strums and the heavy calmness of the deep sea; face to face with the brashness of downtown Tokyo, the flash of Minoltas, the drone of Sonys and the surge of mercury effluent spraying into the bay. That is why I began drawing and writing a plan for our performance—**Minamata**.

The piece borrows from the ancient theatrical conventions of the traditional Japanese stage to outline a story of the world of today. The masks and contemplation of Noh, the flamboyance and sensuality of Kabuki, and the hooded magic of Banraku are "translated" here to spirit the events you will engage in tonight.

By 1976, 120 Minamata residents had died of mercury poisoning and 800 had mercury caused brain damage. By 1978, 8,100 residents claimed health damage and 1,500 of them had been examined and certified, by a reluctant and painfully slow government, as cases of mercury poisoning. Chisso Chemical Corporation has now paid cash indemnities to its victims totaling more than eighty million dollars. And the anguish in Minamata continues.

Our community here in Pennsylvania now pauses to consider this story of a small city in Japan. We have come together to recall a twisted dream of the past compelling a hopeful vision of the future.

Jeffry Walker

THE NARRATOR VOICES

EDITH CASIMIR BETTYANN SADE
TOM GRONINGER TONY SADE
BRUCE JACKSON SYLVIA SUKOP

THE CAT COLLECTOR

CRISSIE KING

THE MASKED MIMES

ABBY IRWIN CYNTHIA MONTEFUSCO
DOUG ANDERSON QUIXANNA BYRD
SUSAN GRONINGER TOM KASTNER
JUDY CASIMIR CAROL FASANO
LAURA LOPEZ D. TONI BYRD
MARY CRANDON DEAN ANDERSON
KARL PATTEN BRIAN SCHNEIDER
BUDDY FERRIE EILEEN JAGER
WENDY RICH BARBARA SCHAFFER
TOM SHEILDS CHARLES SACKREY
REBECCA SCHAFFER PATTY SNOOK
COREY IRWIN

AND IN SCENE 17:

STU GAY JOEL GORI
OR JEFFRY WALKER

THE PUPPET PEOPLE

GINGER MANNING ROBIN SATTERLY
ELIZABETH DONOVAN HILTON BYRD
BRENDA MILLER F. ELAINE WILLIAMS

Puppets Designed By Puppeteers

THE MUSICIANS

MASATO AOKI.....Violin, Percussion
SETSUKO ITO.....Flute
JUNE ROBBINS.....Koto, Percussion
JIM McCAFFERTY.....Banjo
SHERRY BROOKS.....Percussion
DANA BENNETT.....Cello, Percussion

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER LYNNE RUTHERFORD
LIGHTING VINCE MEHRINGER
GRETТА JOHNSON
PUBLICITY ED ROBINSON
HOUSE MANAGERS JULIE WOLFE
DAVID HANCOCK
PUBLICITY DESIGNS DEBBIE SLADE
STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS
SHERRY BROOKS, EILEEN JAGER

OTHER CRAFTSPEOPLE

JIM CALVIN MANIZHEH ZAVAREEI
ELIZABETH BARBER SUE TAYLOR
LORI SCOZZAFAVA BETSY KURTZ
REBECCA BURNS CAROL DUNCAN
JAN MUZYCZKA

And All Members Of The Company

Our production company is fortunate in bringing together citizens of Lewisburg and surrounding communities, as well as Bucknell students, staff, faculty and alumni.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE STAFF

DIRECTOR.....HARVEY POWERS
DESIGNER/TECHNICAL DIRECTORS.....F. ELAINE WILLIAMS, JEFFRY WALKER
TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS.....BRUCE DELAPLANE, WADE HUTCHINSON,
JACKIE KRULL, DON LAPHAM, DAWN SANDERSON, CARRIE WILSHUSEN
BUSINESS MANAGER.....JIM SMITH

THE PERFORMANCE IS IN 3 PARTS AND 17 SCENES

PART ONE: The mysteries unfold here; the spirit of the fishing village has been touched; something is wrong; suspicions end with symptoms:

1. UNDERLYING PREMISES
2. INTERRUPTED BY THE CATS
3. SCOLDING THE FAMILY GIRLS
4. CLOUDING OVER, CASTING OUT
5. EPIDEMIC LITANY

PART TWO: The searches are undertaken here; Who are the sick? What is the cause? Who is responsible? What must be done?

6. BLANKETING THE HIDDEN SICK
7. MERCURIAL DEVICES
8. FACTIONING AT CHISSO'S GATES
9. OCEAN FLOOR DANCES OF DEATH
10. REACHING FOR JUSTICE
11. COMPANY VISITATION
12. PICTURE OF A BATH

PART THREE: The arrangements are made here; the laws lame decrees; the human confrontation; the ineptness of coins; the patient union of broken bodies; the implications:

13. GIVING WITNESS AND VERDICT
14. DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS
15. THE COUNTERFEIT GIFTS
16. A PATIENT CELEBRATION
17. DANCING FURTHER OUT TO SEA

There will be no intermission

The taking of flash pictures is prohibited.

WITH THANKS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PERFORMANCE

- *ALLEGRA FULLER SNYDER, UCLA DEPT. OF DANCE
- *JUDY MITOMA SUSILO, THE CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTS FRIENDSHIP MISSION OF JAPAN
- *MAKO, EAST-WEST PLAYERS, LOS ANGELES
- *THE JAPANESE FOUNDATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.
- *THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
- *EMMY IWATATE, BUCKNELL JAPANESE STUDIES
- *JIMMY DENTON
- *CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA INTERMEDIATE UNIT
- *PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNORS SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
- *HANK ROSS
- *SUNBURY MEDICAL SURGICAL SUPPLIES
- ...AND SO MANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT....

POISONS, PEOPLE AND POEMS presents issues of contamination at Minamata Bay, Love Canal, and Three Mile Island. It is the study behind the poetry of MINAMATA, the play. **POISONS, PEOPLE AND POEMS** offers workshops, discussions, programs and a library photo exhibit on the politics of pollutants and the sanctity of the environment.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1982

- 11:00 - Louella Kenny - University Center Forum
Love Canal:Community Response - Talk and Discussion
- 1:30 - People Energy Theatre: TMI - University Center Forum
- 2:00 - Judy Johnsrud and Jim Hurst - University Center Forum
The People Of TMI - Talk and Discussion
- 3:30 - Masanobu Kato - University Center Forum
Citizen Action In Minamata - Talk and Discussion
- 4:45 - Reception - University Center Faculty Lounge
- 8:30 - Minamata - University Theatre - Tickets \$3.00
(Senior Citizens \$2.00)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1982

- 2:30 - Workshops
Charlie King - "The History Of Struggle Through Music"
- Coleman 102 A
- Court Dorsey - "Street and Political Theatre"
- Coleman 102B
- 4:00 - Open Discussion - "Performing Arts and Politics"
- Coleman 102A
with members of "People Energy" and "Bright Morning Star"
- 8:00 - Bright Morning Star in Concert - University Theatre
Advance Ticket Sales \$3.50 At The Door \$4.50

1981 - 1982

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