

ZVI DANCE

*Big, luscious dancing.
Territories speaks so eloquently of individuality and cooperation.*

Deborah Jowitt, The Village Voice

TERRITORIES (2005)

Composer: Scott Killian
Costume Design: Naoko Nagata
Lighting Design: Mark London
Number of Dancers: 10
Length of Piece: 70 minutes

Artistic Statement:

Coming from a place that has been ravaged by territorial conflicts from the beginning of time, I was always aware of the connection between land and peoples' identities. Although, living today in a "global village" that seems fluid, I feel that we still shape our realities according to archaic subconscious currents that take their power from the tribal sense of connection to the land. In my work "Territories", I reflect on issues of that dilemma in a contemporary setting.

"Territories" is a dance-theater work that uses space and the division of it as a means for action. The stage is divided in varying theatrical ways to create borders and definitions of "place," thereby framing the background from which themes of power, aggression, possession and a group identity come to life. The dance utilizes different groupings from duets and trios to the full ensemble in order to explore conflicts of will, and yearning for a sense of belonging. A specific movement vocabulary has been developed to express these themes, arming the dancers with the tools to explore new "Territories".

The music is a collage of ethnic Middle Eastern songs, juxtaposed with contemporary composition by long time collaborator Scott Killian. Naoko Nagata designed the costumes and Mark London designed the lighting.

"Territories" strikes me as a deeply personal work, exploring relationships between individuals in areas of race, gender and religion. While these differences are oftentimes divisive, they also have the power to be what keeps us going, as "David melech yisrael" reminds us. The introduction to the characters in this dance theater work parody the presentational nature of reality television. Scene by scene, presentation is peeled away to expose the very real, oftentimes crushing consequences of ignorance.

Zvi Gotheiner
Artistic Director

