

in concert

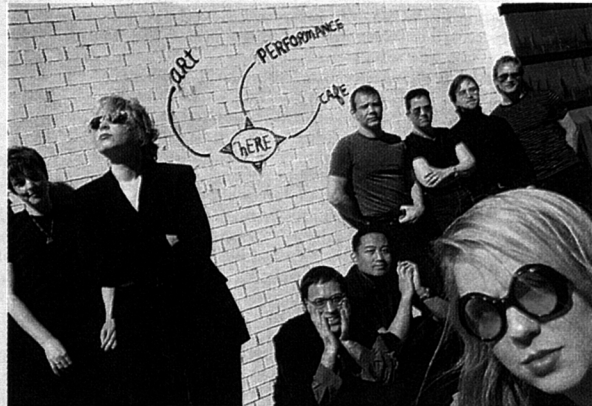
Alvin Ailey...Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival

Preview Rhythm and Muse

Eleven poets and composers collaborating in the Non Sequitur 2000 festival are gathered in poet Ron Drummond's Chelsea apartment, tinkering with their works in the seemingly contrary pairings they were assigned to a couple of months ago. Two weeks before the performance, no one's quite sure what to expect. Anne Elliott (pictured, far right) won't even hear the music her poem "Puppy" inspired for another few days. The spare words of Drummond's "Praeludere," a poem about flirting, are transformed by Elaine Kaplinsky (second from left) in a lavish choral arrangement that alternates between hesitation and forcefulness. "One of the things that attracted me to the poem was the sense of longing about it," she says, "the sense of forlornness without totally giving up hope." Tina Davidson's short, guilty bass notes emphasize the running theme in Regie Cabico's poem "Forbidden Fruit," and repeating chords echo the swinging meter of "In the Hammock of Her Skirt." Davidson is recounting how she and Cabico bonded over food as he starts to read the third poem in a series recalling his childhood in the Philippines: "Mother fetched the fruit from the mango grove/When the

sun blazed in the dust she let the mellifluous fluids fall on her assignment books." Director Valeria Vasilevski is steering the performance away from traditional staging. "Each collaboration has its own extraordinary signature," she notes. "I'm trying to put them in an order where they have a trajectory, a real dramatic arc. We've been putting music and words together since we lived in caves, but when it actually ignites, it's so exciting." (See "Classical Music.")

TARA PEPPER



Classical Music

Non Sequitur Festival—Premieres six collaborative works by new composers and poets, with artistic director Jed Distler. 8/21 and 8/22 at 8. *HERE*, 145 Sixth Ave. (212-647-0202); \$15.

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