
The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume X/No. 3

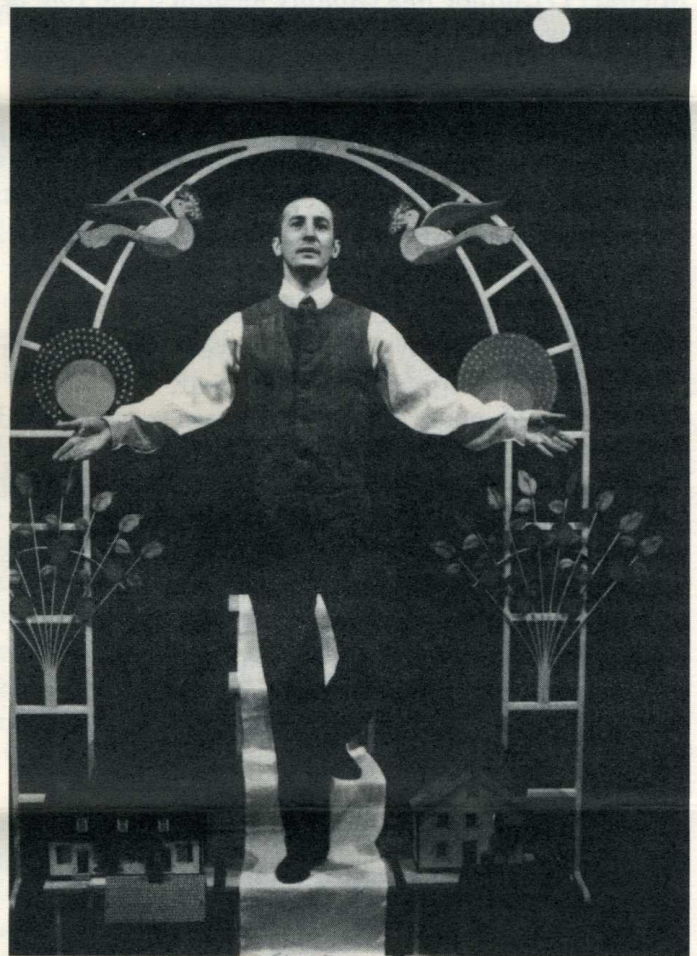
Fall 1998

Pontine Movement Theater Coming to Enfield "Journey to Heaven: The Shaker Way"

Museum members and friends will have an opportunity to share in a unique theater experience at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, October 25th when one of New Hampshire's most talented performance groups presents "Journey to Heaven: The Shaker Way." Pontine Movement Theater of Portsmouth will perform in "a place just right," the Meeting Room of the Great Stone Dwelling at Enfield Shaker Village.

"Journey to Heaven: The Shaker Way" is a dialogue between the historical and contemporary importance of the Shakers' theology and lifestyle, and contrasts the small everyday tasks that made up that lifestyle with the utopian ideal that framed it. Every word spoken in the production is taken from a Shaker journal, letter, testimony or spirit message. The six part structure of the journey, according to one reviewer, is "highly thematic, highly relevant and cleverly constructed. We are faced, ultimately with the same metaphysical and secular questions that the Shakers were."

Critics have hailed the work of this veteran company. "Each time I see a Pontine production, I feel as though I've stumbled into a diamond mine. The work they do is creative, original, exciting, produced in exquisite detail, and performed to perfection." M. Marguerite Mathews and Gregory Gathers, the artistic co-directors of the Pontine Movement Theater, "perfectly reflect the discipline of the Shakers with the intricate discipline of their performances. Not a movement is wasted, not an unnecessary expression crosses their faces, not a superfluous syllable is spoken. There is a gentleness and all-absorbing simplicity to every aspect of what is seen and heard." The creation of "Journey to Heaven" was made possible by grants from the Morton Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the New Works Program of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We are grateful for grant support from the Samuel P. Hunt Foun-



Historically accurate dialog and costuming make this performance one you will not want to miss.

ation, Bell Atlantic and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts for bringing the production to the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Seating is limited, so call the Museum office (603-632-4346) today to reserve your ticket. Adults \$14, museum members \$12. The Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling will serve a Shaker dinner following performance. Please call the Inn (603-632-7810) for reservations.
