



Directed and conceived by
Paul Lazar and Annie-B Parson

Choreography
Annie-B Parson

Original Songs
Robyn Hitchcock

Sound
Jane Shaw

Set
Joanne Howard

Costumes
Claudia Stephens

Video
Jeff Larson

Lights
Joe Levasseur

Executive Project Producer
Barbara Hogue

Performers
Tymberly Canale, Molly Hickok, Kourtney
Rutherford, Chris Giarmo and Ryutaro
Mishima

*The production is sponsored by
The National Dance Project*

Big Dance Theater's new work, entitled *COMME TOUJOURS HERE I STAND*, re-invents Agnes Varda's classic New Wave film, *CLEO FROM 5 TO 7* for the stage. Shot in Paris in 1961, the film tracks the early evening hours in the life of a marginally talented pop singer, as she waits to hear if she has terminal cancer. The Company uses the script as a found object to create an intimate portrait of a woman shadowed by death, while still caught up in the breezy pleasures of the day: shopping, visiting, strolling. The piece serves also as a critique of the flexible and facile nature of the medium of film, when set against the hand made qualities of live dance and theater.

BDT teams up with video artist Jeff Larson to make Cleo's activities come alive via the intersection of three rolling walls and decidedly low-budget video, fracturing space to capture the agile quality of film. In a unique collaboration between costumes, set and video, the clothes, and wallpaper merge on video into one expressive medium to describe the vivid, colorful interiors of a filmic world. BDT's innovative use of dance as staging will collide the fear of death, the minutiae of everyday life, and the beauty of a city.

The work is directed by and choreographed by Annie-B Parson with co-direction by Paul Lazar, and with the original title song by Robyn Hitchcock. Commissioned by the French Institute/Alliance Francaise in New York, with residency support by Les Subsistances in Lyon France. It premiered at Les Subsistances' Ca Tchatche Festival April 23-26 2009 and will have its NYC premiere at The Kitchen Oct. 1-Oct 10, 2009.

COMME TOUJOURS HERE I STAND was commissioned by FIAF (the French Institute Alliance Française), New York City, with co-production, production and residency support by Les Subsistances 2008/09, Lyon France. Additional support has been provided by Altria Group, Mental Insight Foundation, the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award, the LMCC Swing Space Program, the Edith Lutyens and Norman Bel Geddes Foundation at Alliance of Resident Theaters/NY, Mary Sharp Cronson, Barbara Parson, Micki Wesson, and public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

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