

Koora Butoh project [HU-MAN-DALA]

Author:
Tanja Zgonc

▶ PROJECTS ▶ ▶▶ ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Butoh project *Koora* is a Croatian-Slovenian collaboration of performers who share an interest in the butoh method. The author of the project is Tanja Zgonc, Slovenian dancer and choreographer, who studied the butoh method with leading Japanese teachers: Kazuo Oono, Min Tanaka, Ko Murobushi, Tadashi Endo and Carlotta Ikeda. She teaches Scene movement at the Theater Academy (AGRFT) in Ljubljana. ▶ Tanja Zgonc has created about ten independent performances and was awarded the National Slovenian award for culture, the Prešern award, for her last performance *Kagami/Odrazi*. ▶ The Butoh project *Koora* was initiated and produced by the Croatian Institute for Movement and Dance and Dance Theatre Ljubljana.

▶▶ ABOUT *Koora*

choreographer: Tanja Zgonc
number of performers: 8
The story of *Koora* is based on the content of Tibet mandalas. Mandala means a circle, even when painted in a complex way or put into a square frame. The circle hides a possibility of original insight.
▶ This philosophical-religious concept is presented in a visually mesmerizing atmosphere, with white painted bodies moving in slow motion, playing with wooden sticks and fire, thus disturbing and contrasting the sand base. *Koora* won the Triton prize for the best dance performance in 2002 in Slovenia, as selected by dance critics.

▶▶ REVIEW EXTRACT

...The spectators could watch the performance from above, from the balcony, thus being able to see the clear and symbolic geometry of the



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story, the system of mandala - the combination of circles and imprinted squares or from within, inside the space of mandala, sitting on a small stool (square) positioned in the middle of a circular pile of salt... strange and beautiful group situations... process, movement, space which the performers obviously deliberately build by scattering sand from hollow bamboo sticks or by rearranging the salt...

Vijenac





Photo | Nino Šolc