

Table of Silence 2013

Wednesday September 11th, 2013 - For the third year in a row, Jacquelyn Buglisi's ritualistic dance-memorial **TABLE OF SILENCE**, marking the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington DC, was performed this morning on The Plaza at Lincoln Center.

Following a sort of prologue at either end of the space where the dancers strike poses of invocation or grief, they file to the central plaza area where they form concentric rings around the fountain.

The sight of over 100 white-clad dancers moving in unison to the sound of chant, flute and horn becomes mesmerizing. Though secular in nature, the dancework has a prayer-like quality and a deep sense of the spiritual. In a way it is almost too beautiful and private to be exposed to public view. It's a very personal and reflective experience, summoning up memories of the events of 9/11 and of the ways in which our lives have been altered since that fateful day.

Some of my dancer-friends were taking part, including Ursula Verduzco (above), Bethany Lange, Lucia Campoy, Lauren Jaeger, Lindsay Poulis, Lloyd Knight and Darion Smith. Here are some images from today's performance:

The only drawback to the presentation was that it took place - as it did last year - during Fashion Week. The ugly 'tower' next to the fountain undoes the symmetry of the dancework, and the arriving fashion-folk with their blazing cellphones and clicking stilettos was something of a distraction. I was thinking of other possible venues for **TABLE OF SILENCE**; it certainly looks striking at Lincoln Center but it might fare very well at Bethesda Fountain in Central Park.

One of my dance-idols, Christine Dakin, was there this morning...but of course I was too shy to speak to her. My admiration and thanks to Ms. Buglisi and her artistic associates, and to all the dancers involved in this moving dance experience.

More photos from **TABLE OF SILENCE** 2013 in my Facebook album [here](#).
September 11, 2013

