



Table of Silence 9/11: A Ceremony for Peace

Friday, September 12th, 2014

by [Marina P. Kennedy](#) on [Living Around](#)

The Upper West Side is normally a hub of activity on weekday mornings, but for a little more than 30 minutes, a crowd gathered quietly at the Revson Fountain of the Josie Robertson Plaza at Lincoln Center to be a part of *The Table of Silence Project 9/11*. New Yorkers were captivated by the poignant dance presentation that was a public ceremony for peace. The free event began at 8:15 a.m. and concluded at 8:46 am, the moment when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

This is the fourth presentation of *The Table of Silence Project 9/11*, conceived and choreographed by Jacquelyn Buglisi in collaboration with Italian visual artist, Rossella Vasta. A moving meditation, it is the human embodiment of Vasta's "Table of Silence" sculptural installation of 100 ceramic plates representing a symbolic banquet table uniting humanity. Buglisi said, "The Table of Silence project represents the common threads of humanity which unite all mankind into a single force with common goals and aspirations regardless of race, culture, or religion. Through this event we wish to achieve the dual purpose of celebrating and honoring peace through listening, a united moment of silence - a call for Peace in our world." The project was established on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. There is a live stream of the event across the United States and worldwide in 82 countries including Guatemala, New Zealand, Russia, Italy, Venezuela, South Africa, Vietnam, Israel, Egypt, and our troops in Afghanistan.

Kathleen Cullen and Joseph Verhauz who live on the Upper West Side were part of the group that gathered for the presentation. Cullen said that she remembers what a hard day 9/11 was for their family and so many others, and both she and Verhauz said that they deeply appreciated the remembrance.

The Buglisi Dance Theatre led over 100 dancers in the presentation who auditioned to participate. They included talented individuals from The Juilliard School, The Ailey School, Dance Theater of Harlem, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School, Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance among many others. The dancers are chosen to represent communities with a diversity of age, personality, dance style to allow as many as possible to participate. Christine Dakin, known globally for her career in dance, is also an associate founder and dancer for Buglisi Dance Theater. She spoke about the role of the dancers. "Being a part of the rehearsal process is as moving as the event itself. Each dancer has a personal reason for wanting to be a part of the event and that reason emerges in the way each one approaches the movement and process of working with 100 other dancers. For some it is a struggle to find an internal focus, for others the formality and clarity of the movement is a challenge, others immediately sink into the ritual and community."

Moving to the ritualistic beat of the tympani, the minimal chant of the singers, the echoes the conch and the melody of the flute, the dancers ascended onto the Plaza to form patterns of concentric circles creating a peace labyrinth that culminated symbolically and signified eternity, purity and the continuous life cycle. This sacred landscape was filled with the transcendent energy of the Mandala, connecting dancers, musicians, and viewers to the healing rituals of the natural world. Clad in flowing white garments, the dancers were a perfect collective. At times they expressed very individual, passionate movements. The beautifully choreographed piece also had the dancers moving in concert seamlessly. Table of Silence 9/11 was a unique and stirring tribute to the tragedy of 9/11. This remembrance united New Yorkers in an essential appeal for peace.

Twitter/Instagram hashtag: #TableofSilence #danceforpeace

To view a live stream of Table of Silence 9/11, visit www.buglisdance.org.

Tags: [American Airlines Flight 11](#), [Christine Dakin](#), [Dance Theater of Harlem](#), [Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School](#), [Jacquelyn Buglisi](#), [Joseph Verhauz](#), [Josie Robertson Plaza](#), [Kathleen Cullen](#), [Lincoln Center](#), [Marina P. Kennedy](#), [Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance](#), [North Tower of the World Trade Center](#), [The Table of Silence Project 9/11 Revson Fountain](#), [Rossella Vasta](#), [The Ailey School](#), [The Buglisi Dance Theatre](#), [The Juilliard School](#),

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