A TRIBUTE TO ERICK HAWKINS

An Informal Showing at Ailey Studios 5D, 405 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019

Choreographer Gloria McLean and visiting dance artist Bert Gstettner from Vienna present an informal showing of works in tribute to their shared mentor, the great poet of Modern Dance Erick Hawkins.

Program

I Am. It Dances/The Athens Solo
Choreographed and danced by Gloria McLean
Music Somei Satoh

I Am. It Dances began as a longer investigation of McLean's embodied movement history as a dancer in her retrospective performance of 2019, with live music of Marshall Coid. She created this lyric 6-minute excerpted version for her performance in Athens in 2023. The choreography abounds with quotations from McLean's early influences, her life-changing encounter with Hawkins, and her own choreography. Today the dance is offered as an homage to Erick Hawkins whose depth of aesthetic and physical training have provided an anchor for McLean's work as a choreographer, and an inspiration to "have your own adventure" in art (to quote Erick).
Gloria performed with Hawkins from 1982-1993, was appointed rehearsal director 1991-1993, and taught at the Hawkins school for decades. She created LIFEDANCE/Gloria McLean & Dancers while still a member of the company as a vehicle for her own richly varied choreography. Jennifer Dunning of the NY Times noted Ms. McLean's "…intelligent, witty and sensuous choreographic voice." "An exquisite dancer… She fills the stage with lush transcendent movement … an artist in complete command of her instrument." (Phyllis Goldman, Backstage, 1992)
www.gloriamcleandance.com

Skin, Flesh, and Bone, Part II (1998, re-created 2026)
Choreography: Gloria McLean
Dancer: FiNa
Music composed and played: Takao Heisho

Skin, Flesh and Bone is inspired by the 3-part image of the qualities of the performer, found in the writings of Motokiyo Zeami on the Japanese Noh Drama in the 15th century.
Fina, originally from Germany, graduate of The Neighborhood Playhouse, is a freelance dancer and actor in New York City. She began studying with Gloria at the 92nd Street Y in 2022 and performed in Gloria's choreography Archaic Intrusion at Ailey Citigroup Theater (2024); One Line String Piece at Corner Gallery (2026); and in summer Squid Farm productions since 2022. She performs with Rachel Cohen/Racoco and other independent performance artists. https://www.fi-na.com
Takao Heisho, percussionist, has been working with Gloria McLean as accompanist and composer for the past 10 years. He plays percussion regularly with and arranges for Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band, in many venues including Lincoln Center.

END.LESS.BOW
A solo performance by Bert Gstettner

"His mind was always roving like a free spirit in a new land."
- Erick Hawkins on Frederick Kiesler

The outstanding American dancer and choreographer Erick Hawkins shared a close friendship with the Austrian-American architect and artist Frederick Kiesler. At Kiesler's funeral on December 30, 1965 in New York, Hawkins held a eulogy and performed a slow bow in front of the coffin — a gesture that resonates as both farewell and continuation.

Taking this act as a point of departure, Bert Gstettner expands Hawkins' funeral speech through present text. He wonders about the slow bow, recalls selected Hawkins movement shapes and develops his piece end.less.bow - a choreographic tribute to friendship, legacy and artistic transmission.

While tracing back the paths he has walked, Bert discovers notions of the unending, ponders over the passing of the torch where the question arises: on whose shoulders are we able to stand and is such a standing even truly possible or in today's world of interest? Echoing Arthur Rimbaud's words and the necessity of the illusionary renewal: "Art must be reinvented, that much is certain."

Choreography, Performance, Script, Costume Bert Gstettner
Music ZART una cantata moebius – Hofstetter Kurt
Artifacts Peter Sandbichler

Text excerpts For Kiesler (1965) by Erick Hawkins, Inclination (2024) by Reinhard F. Handl
Adaptation Bert Gstettner
Production Tanz*Hotel / Art*Act Kunstverein, Vienna AT

Financial support Vienna City Council
Cooperations Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation | The Estate of Frederick Kiesler, New York | Austrian Cultural Forum Bern | Kunsthaus Zug, Switzerland | Erick Hawkins Dance Company, Director Katherine Duke | Erick Hawkins Legacy, New York - Gloria McLean, Laura Pettibone Wright

Bert Gstettner (AT) is a dancer, choreographer and artistic director of Tanz*Hotel in Vienna. He studied dance and choreography in Vienna, Paris and in New York directly with Erick Hawkins, where he stays connected to his artistic legacy. In 1992, Gstettner founded his company Tanz*Hotel. Since then, he has been constantly creating choreographic works, presenting productions at international festivals and collaborating with major theaters. Alongside his artistic practice, he is deeply engaged in teaching, mentoring and directing AAR-residency programs at Tanz*Hotel Studios. Information: http://www.tanzhotel.at/de/aktuell

Link: http://www.tanzhotel.at/de/produktionen/2020er-jahre/end-less-xxx-en
Instagram: @bert_gstettner
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TANZHOTEL/