

IONA

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

"Because IONA dancers train physically and spiritually, they execute moves intended to move you inside and out. To be in their eye beams is to give in to this extraordinary sensibility."

(Honolulu Star Bulletin)

iona360.com

LA MADONNA

Reclaiming the Goddess



"La Madonna Full of Delight! IONA dancers are objects d'art creating a gallery of performance artworks. No detail of production has been overlooked. Every costume, prop, makeup and setting is meticulously executed."

(Honolulu Advertiser)

LA MADONNA

Reclaiming the Goddess

[PROMO VIDEO LINK](#)

The recognition of the need for women's equality is one of the driving messages in Artistic Director Cheryl Flaharty's work. IONA's La Madonna seeks to place women in positions of spiritual power, using Christianity's Mary as the launching pad for 13 living altars depicting ancient and contemporary goddesses brought to life through IONA's mesmerizing dance style.

Just like the Happy Buddha, Flaharty spins her spiritual work on its side, using humor to light the dark. Surrounded by a mandala of cut fruit and inspired by feminist theory, Madonna of the Sacred Fruit's chalice is a goblet of chocolate and the blade a butcher knife.

Blueberries ride on the tip of her knife as she feeds her chocolate dipped wisdom to the audience - both male and female. Who says chocolate isn't a unifying force?

La Madonna can be performed in an art gallery, a church, or even an empty retail space, varying the number of alters and performers.



LA MADONNA

Press Quotes

"Last night at Studio One, real men who don't eat quiche were amongst the expected metrosexuals lapping chocolate coating off of strawberries fed straight from the graceful hands of Madonna of the Sacred Fruit.

And it didn't matter if you were from Mars or Venus or any constellation betwixt the two, you'd still be struggling for your planetary bearings if Pandora Out of the Box summoned you with red apples, red bras and, oh yes, weren't those baby bottle nipples on her fingers? And why did you oblige her by slithering along atop the art deco dresser that must qualify as the ultimate box a la Pandora?

Oh, the things we do for art!

Well, not usually. But exceptions to the rule were meant to be savored last night as the Iona Contemporary Dance Company debuted La Madonna."

(Honolulu Star Bulletin)

"For intensity of performance and superior control of ever-so-slow-motion actions, IONA's performers cannot be beat. No detail of production has been overlooked. Every costume, prop, makeup and setting is meticulously executed."

(Honolulu Advertiser)

"Check them out. Interact! You might never want to sit in a darkened theater again, but that's the price you pay for being in the presence of the goddess."

(Honolulu Star Bulletin)



LA MADONNA

Outreach & Promotion

IONA
CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

SoulBody Dance Workshop

Taught by Artistic Director, Cheryl Flaharty, SoulBody is a meditative movement technique based on the Japanese Butoh dance form that integrates consciousness with physicality. The concepts taught in SoulBody form the basis of IONA's work both on stage and off. Anyone interested in the mind body connection would appreciate this workshop and no dance training is required.

Post-Performance Discussion on Women

La Madonna is the perfect springboard to start a conversation with your community about women's rights. IONA's Artistic Director and dancers will conduct an enlightening post-show discussion with your audience.



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Community Performances of Show Excerpts

Free promotional performances are included with all bookings! The IONA dancers bring their passionate and whimsical performance directly to your community with excerpts from the show.

TOURING OPTIONS

Fit the Show to Your Venue and Budget

The installations in La Madonna can be varied to suit your space and budget. The full show of 15 installations can be brought down as few as eight or even just one—the powerful, Word Made Flesh, has riveted audiences when performed on it's own. IONA can also reduce travel expenses by creating some of the sets on site.

"Flaharty has earned a well-deserved reputation in the Performance Art world as a maverick, highly innovative choreographer . . . whose dances are alternately - and even simultaneously - dark, funny, perplexing, mystical, and always provocative."

(Honolulu Advertiser)

IONA

Artistic Director, Cheryl Flaharty

IONA Artistic Director Cheryl Flaharty is a visionary artist whose work seeks to unveil the mystery of the human spirit. Raised in Hawaii, she performed as a principle dancer with Betty Jones' Dances We Dance Company. Flaharty's choreographic vision has been equally influenced by her work with butoh master Poppo Shiraishi, with whom she performed as a principle dancer in New York. Flaharty's experience with these two differing dance forms has brought forth the unique synthesis of Eastern and Western movement and spirituality that IONA is known for.

Over the past 30 years, Flaharty has been a leader in the Hawai'i dance community, bringing the Japanese butoh dance form to the islands, creating new audiences for dance, and inspiring countless performers and creators throughout the state. She is the recipient of six Hawaii State Dance Council choreographic awards, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' Individual Artists Fellowship, and the Baci Award for cutting edge work. Flaharty's vision has expanded beyond the realms of contemporary dance with the creation choreography and costumes for Hawaii Opera Theatre and Honolulu Theatre for Youth. An inspiring teacher, Flaharty has taught numerous workshops throughout Hawaii, in New York, and California.



"As always with Flaharty's creations, the whole assemblage is unlike anything you've ever seen before, asserting her and her company once again as one of the most innovative forces in Hawaii today."

(Honolulu Advertiser)

"... a visionary coup de theatre... the production casts a genuine spell."

(Los Angeles Times)

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CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

In a finely-tuned balancing act, IONA places universal themes in contemporary settings. Witty and buoyant modern dance is juxtaposed with the meditative elements of butoh in performances made monumental through magnificent sound and colors.

Now celebrating their 30th year as Hawaii's leading dance company, IONA has wowed audiences with performances that are topical, expressive, intellectually and visually stimulating, and spiritually engaging. IONA's spectacular productions are presented on the Main Stage or in non-traditional venues through their Salon Series.

The IONA dancers entertain and delight thousands of audience members annually from local residents to visitors where Flaharty's mind boggling costume designs have been brought to life by the dancers for more than 200 corporations including Amway, Microsoft, Fed Ex, and Cisco.

CONTACT:

Cheryl Flaharty, Artistic Director
cflaharty@iona360.com
www.iona360.com



@iona360



@iona360



@ionadance

www.iona360.com

