

DANCE REVIEW | 'IGNORED IN MY HEAVEN'

A World of Dreams With a Burst of Spirit

By [JENNIFER DUNNING](#)

Published: September 17, 2005

Glen Rumsey has kept travel and dream journals for much of his life, including the years he toured with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in the 1990's. The journals are the basis for his new "ignored in my heaven," performed by the Glen Rumsey Dance Project on Thursday night at Location One in SoHo as part of the gallery's Creative Atelier series.



Julietta Cervantes for The New York Times

Members of the Glen Rumsey Dance Project performing in Mr. Rumsey's "ignored in my heaven" at Location One on Thursday night.

Mr. Rumsey creates a dream world in the piece, whose title comes from Alice Sebold's novel "The Lovely Bones." It is a world complete unto itself, with its own crazy logic and dazzlingly imaginative designs by Mr. Rumsey and David Quinn that make inspired use of sheets of plastic, bubble wrap and floating bunches of translucent pillows, as well as bouquets of radishes. Marisela La Grave's video projections wrap the dance in watery images and dappled light that are the amniotic fluid in which this fully developed universe exists.

The all-important look of "ignored," which recalls the messily vital earliest work of Robert Wilson, owes a great deal to Mr. Rumsey's notable second career as the drag artist Shasta Cola.

Towering creatures in white and gorgeously sexy ones in scarlet wind through this fantasy pageant. But the heart of the piece is a brief episode in which a man strips one of the most opulent creatures of her finery to reveal a cringing Mr. Rumsey. It is sensual at first, but there is a growing sadness in his vulnerability and to his reclothing in a red suit and shirt exactly like the man's, who then appears as a dream double.

The evening ends in an explosion of high spirits, set to loud rock music. Mr. Rumsey, who looks like a lanky urban Little Prince, is an endearing presence, and his company is an affectionate community of downtown drag and dance performers. The choreography - chiefly Cunninghamesque back-and-forthing - is the weakest element. But that almost adds to the homemade charm of Mr. Rumsey's magical world.

Glen Rumsey's "ignored in my heaven" will be repeated tonight and Thursday through Saturday at Location One, 26 Greene Street, near Grand Street, SoHo, (212) 334-3347 or www.location1.org.



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