



LA CARTA

A PERFORMANCE WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
ROGER SHIMOMURA

FLAMENCO DANCER: POLI REYES

VOICE AND VIDEO PERFORMER: KIMIKO YAMAMOTO

KUROGO: TRACI TULLIUS

LIGHTS: DELBERT UNRUH

AUDIO AND VIDEO MIX: JANET DAVIDSON-HUES

LA CARTA

LA CARTA CELEBRATES THE LAST LETTER ROGER SHIMOMURA'S GRANDMOTHER, TOKU SHIMOMURA (1888-1968) WROTE, JUST PRIOR TO HER DEATH. THE LETTER WHICH WAS RECITED ONTO A TAPE RECORDER BEFORE IT WAS MAILED IN 1968, OUTLINED HER LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AFTER 56 YEARS OF LIVING IN AMERICA.

THE THEATRE IS DARK THE SOUND OF TIBETAN CHANTS BEGINS, FOLLOWED BY ACCELERATING GONG SOUNDS. A LARGE CHINESE PARASOL IS LOWERED ONTO THE STAGE, AND INTO A SPOTLIGHT, AND STOPS APPROXIMATELY 10 FEET OVERHEAD.

STEADY GONG SOUNDS ARE HEARD, THEN FADES DOWN AS A FEMALE VOICE READS, IN JAPANESE, THE LAST LETTER TO JAPAN. SIMULTANEOUSLY, A LARGE VIDEO PROJECTION FADES UP SHOWING A WOMAN'S HAND, WRITING THAT LETTER, IN JAPANESE. ZEN BUDDHIST CHANTS BY A MALE VOICE BEGINS. FLAMENCO DANCER RUSHES INTO SPOTLIGHT UNDER UMBRELLA AND DANCES TO THE CHANTING.



LA CARTA

LA CARTA CELEBRATES THE LAST LETTER ROGER SHIMOMURA'S GRANDMOTHER, TOKU SHIMOMURA (1888-1968) WROTE, JUST PRIOR TO HER DEATH. THE LETTER WHICH WAS RECITED ONTO A TAPE RECORDER BEFORE IT WAS MAILED IN 1968, OUTLINED HER LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AFTER 56 YEARS OF LIVING IN AMERICA.

THE THEATRE IS DARK THE SOUND OF TIBETAN CHANTS BEGINS, FOLLOWED BY ACCELERATING GONG SOUNDS. A LARGE CHINESE PARASOL IS LOWERED ONTO THE STAGE, AND INTO A SPOTLIGHT, AND STOPS APPROXIMATELY 10 FEET OVERHEAD.

STEADY GONG SOUNDS ARE HEARD, THEN FADES DOWN AS A FEMALE VOICE READS, IN JAPANESE, THE LAST LETTER TO JAPAN. SIMULTANEOUSLY, A LARGE VIDEO PROJECTION FADES UP SHOWING A WOMAN'S HAND, WRITING THAT LETTER, IN JAPANESE. ZEN BUDDHIST CHANTS BY A MALE VOICE BEGIN. CLARENCE DANCOB DANCER BEGINS HER SPO



LCPR

HALFWAY THROUGH HER DANCE, A BLUE OVERHEAD SPOTLIGHT ILLUMINATES, FOR 15 SECONDS, A LARGE STACK OF BABY DOLLS JUST OUTSIDE OF THE SPOTLIGHT, THE STACK OF BABIES REFER TO MRS. SHIMOMURA'S 25 YEAR CAREER AS A MIDWIFE IN THE SEATTLE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.



AFTER AN APPROXIMATE 3 MINUTE DANCE, BOTH THE VIDEO AND VOICE FADE OUT. DANCER QUICKLY MOVES TO EDGE OF ADJACENT SPOTLIGHT. COMPAS MUSIC BEGINS AND FLAMENCO DANCER BEGINS HER SECOND DANCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT IN FRONT OF THE VIDEO PROJECTION. THE VIDEO OF THE HAND WRITING THE LAST LETTER TO JAPAN RESUMES. APPROXIMATELY HALF WAY THROUGH THE DANCE, KUROGO (STAGE ASSISTANT DRESSED IN BLACK) HANDS RED SHAWL TO DANCER. WHO CONTINUES HER DANCE. SHORTLY AFTER, KUROGO SLOWLY PUSHES REPLICA OF INTERNMENT CAMP GUARD TOWER, ACROSS THE SCREEN.



LCF

AFTER AN APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTE DANCE, THE VIDEO FADES TO BLACK AND THE PERFORMANCE ENDS.

END OF PERFORMANCE

