

MOTUS O dance theatre
Presents
THE SHUNNING



Based on the book of poetry by Canadian poet Patrick Friesen, *THE SHUNNING* tells the story of Peter, a Mennonite farmer who tries to survive after being shunned from his community for questioning its doctrines. In order for him to be reunited with his family and friends, the community demands he ask for forgiveness from its authorities. If he does not, he must remain alone. As time passes, Peter begins to see that while on the surface the community infers that a united world of harmony exists, when openly challenged, it reels with contradictions. Because of this conflict, he realizes he can never go back to his former way of life, leaving him desperately confused with no sense of belonging.

MOTUS O dance theatre is a company of three Artistic Directors: Jack Langenhuizen, Cynthia Croker and James Croker. This company is unique in that they create in a collaborative style, challenging each other's perceptions in order to achieve genuine expression. In presenting works which are visually stimulating, physically challenging and communicative, MOTUS O expands the art of dance to our all sections of society.

Known for non-stop movement, the company derives its name from *motus operandi*, Latin for 'the moving way of doing things'. In 1988 the directors began their first project as a collective and in 1990 they formally established themselves as MOTUS O dance theatre and have since created over 50 new works touring them throughout Canada, the U.S.A, Europe and the South Seas.

Integrating dance and text, humour and tragedy, *THE SHUNNING* is a story of one man's struggle to express his personal views within a society that demands conformity. This story penetrates to the very heart of the human soul.

Original story by Patrick Friesen

Adapted and Choreographed by James Croker, Cynthia Croker and Jack Langenhuizen

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