

7 Days in L.A.

May 29-June 4, 2008

Getting Wet



The creator of **Wet Spots: The Story Project**, happening this Friday and Saturday, aims to shed new light on the mystery of the female orgasm and even encourage an open dialogue among participants – both the audience and the performers.

Says **Christine Suarez**, “People will be coming and going the whole night.” And, in more than one sense ... she couldn’t be more accurate.

“It’s pretty fabulous to be in a room full of women of different ages, nationalities, and color and share this common language,” she says. “But this is not geared towards only men and women. I would also like it for both men and women, and it’s not necessarily just for women of a certain sexual orientation either.”

So have men signed on to participate in this project as well? “Looking at who has made reservations, it’s pretty 50-50,” she says with a sense of accomplishment.

Suarez says the inspiration for this work came from her own personal sexual awakening, which she compared to the scene in *Pleasantville* where Joan Allen’s character experiences an orgasm for the first time, transforming into a Technicolor individual amongst the grayscale denizens. No, seriously. “It made me think of the role of women and how women are highly sexualized, or not sexualized. How we straddle being a ‘black & white’ person or being a ‘color’ person and the danger it inhabits.”

Wanting the venue for this project to be an intimate and comfortable setting, Suarez searched Craigslist for a home that was willing to accommodate a certainly unusual event. She stumbled across the Venice Beach Eco Cottages, three solar-powered, green-friendly houses merely a short walk from the ocean, whose overseers were more than happy to host Wet Spots. “They’ve been wanting to bring art to their place, and they were on board,” Suarez says.

Participants are led through the three cottages by a tour guide, as they witness presentations of dance and micro-theater by female performers, ages 19 to 51, and have their senses engaged through audio installations and food. The pieces encompass a wide range of emotions associated with the female orgasm, from the pure sensational joy to the guilt and pain of what is still a taboo subject to some.

Despite the subject matter involved, the performances should still be palatable to more sensitive audience members. “There’s explicit language, but it doesn’t veer toward [the work of] someone like Annie Sprinkle. There’s no one publicly masturbating.”

—Carman Tse

Wet Spots: The Story Project. Fri.-Sat., 7-9:15 p.m. **\$15, \$10 students.** Venice Beach Eco Cottages, 447 Grand Blvd., Venice. Info: Suarezdance.org/wetspots.html.



Paul Antico



MAY 28, 2008



Women to Orgasm in Venice Beach Dance Performance

You know you've experienced it, talked about it or even watched it somewhere along the line, but [Christine Suarez DanceTheater](#) is taking female orgasm and, together with an intergenerational group of women, she's presenting dance theater about it in the ecologically-sound [Eco Cottages](#) this Friday and Saturday nights on the Venice Beach.

Suarez calls *Wet Spots: The Story Project* a collection of miniature dances about the female orgasm. These are revealed to small groups of viewers as they are guided through the non-traditional performance spaces by the ocean. Each of the rooms offers an intimate experience of dance, micro-theater, audio installation and food (what is an orgasm without something to eat?) as hilarious to heartbreaking secrets are uncovered. Though all of the nine performers are female (Meg Wolfe, Pat Payne, Bonnie Lavin, Waewdao Sirisook, Lailye Weidman, Caitlan Brewer, Kai Hazelwood and April Rose Wilson), the original music and sound design is by Joel Stein, lighting design is by Tony Mulanix and costumes are created by Doug Spesert. Interesting choices . . . It looks like Suarez invited men to help the women to achieve their goals, perhaps a feminist statement in and of itself. And all of this in a highly competitive election year!

Because of the intimacy of these events, please be aware that the escorted tours begin every fifteen minutes (beginning at 7 pm and the last one leaves at 9:15pm) and [reservations](#) are necessary.

Ms Suarez has relocated to LA from New York where her work had been presented throughout the downtown performance nexus, as well as in the outer boroughs, Georgia, Louisiana and Indiana. Here, her work has been presented at Highways, REDCAT and Anatomy Riot. This weekend of pleasure by the sea looks like something not to be missed! Breathe deeply!!

By [Benn Widdey](#) in [Arts & Events](#) | [Link](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Recommend this!](#) (3) | [Share](#) =]

Los Angeles Times

Monday, June 2, 2008



Paul Antico

DANCE REVIEW

A sexual journey finds a home in 'Wet Spots'

SuarezDance's ode to 'the Big O' makes the most of its cottage confines with a coyly intimate production.

By SARA WOLF
Special to The Times

More expedition than dance concert, SuarezDanceTheater's site-specific "Wet Spots: The Story Project" led audiences through the Venice Beach Eco Cottages and into a multi-sensory exploration of the female orgasm Friday night.

Tucked into a corner of one of the three picturesque cottages arrayed in Americana décor, small tour groups became proverbial flies on the wall, listening in on intimate details about the almighty "O" that women had shared with choreographer Christine Suarez and watching her vignettes and tiny dances ingeniously crafted to the scale of the cozy surrounds.

Spectators huddled in a breakfast nook to view a solo in the postage stamp-sized kitchenette. Set against the beat of an egg timer, this mini-dance featured Suarez, fulsome at seven months pregnant, performing an ode to fingers.

Alternately, one could follow dancers from room to room, such as with Bonnie Lavin and Meg Wolfe's bittersweet duet in the middle cottage. Fleeting but poignant spatial alignments marked the distance between the two as they orbited each other or erupted in motion — fluid swirls of reaching out by the liquid Wolfe and contained searching by the earthier Lavin.

Surprisingly, room was found for cellist Rachel Sexton and viola player Allison Spieth, performing Joel Stein's haunting score.

Some pieces only suggested the topic at hand, such as Lai-

lye Weidman's welcoming solo as a bird let loose from its perch in a Victorian bird cage-cum-chair. Others more directly illustrated the search for satisfaction to hilarious effect.

Such was the case with "The Hot Tub Dance," an object lesson on the maxim that men don't like to ask for directions. Turning to the semaphoric language of aircraft landing signals and highly animated facial expressions, a submerged Caitlin Brewer and Waewdao Siroosuk silently mimed the patient and at times horrified task of counseling an anatomically clueless lover.

Yet Suarez and the cast, listed as collaborators in the program, never resorted to salacious titillation or even nudity. Instead, using allusive and euphemistic gestures, they traversed an emotional terrain of expectation, vulnerability, embarrassment and, finally, in the third cottage, the fulfillment of sexual excitation.

More entertaining than polemical, "Wet Spots" nevertheless confirmed that women do indeed know what is best for themselves. Exemplifying a DIY resourcefulness, Suarez, Kai Hazelwood, Pat Payne and April Rose enthusiastically jerked and jolted in pulsating unison in "The Dance of the Vibrators," a play on both apparatus and gratified user.

Hazelwood and Rose (a tulle-wrapped orgasm fairy) returned for the lively climax, which involved a tangle of limbs atop a bed and stories of "first times." Suarez and cohorts pulled out all the stops on the physical puns, with Hazelwood literally winding up Wilson, then sending her spinning.

After the cork was popped — off a bottle of champagne, that is — the audience met the Orgasmic Advisor (Payne), who fielded questions before turning them out into the night, armed with anatomically correct gingerbread people.

LAWEEKLY

WET SPOTS: THE STORY PROJECT The flier for the show is provocative — a close-up shot of a woman's crotch, moisture soaking through her hot-pink panties, dark pubic hair peeking out from the fuchsia lace. Text runs along her inner thigh: "Tiny dances about the female orgasm." But this production of dance and spoken word by the Suarez Dance Theater shied away from the transgressive or shocking. Instead, it shared a series of tales that were as much about the inner journey to orgasm as the physical one. "Micro Theater," as the company calls its work, was staged within three tiny cottages in a residential area of Venice. The audience was guided in groups of five or six to each performer's space. The small rooms provided an instant intimacy, and the home environment lent itself to a sense of voyeurism. Dancers could be found in the kitchen, the shower, the closet, even soaking in a hot tub. One piece, about a girl having a spontaneous orgasm on the dance floor during a rave, took place entirely in bed. But the height of the voyeuristic experience was the dance by Bonnie Lanvin and Meg Woolfe, about sexual dysfunction within a relationship. They moved through the rooms of one cottage as though they lived there, their dance one of everyday life and annoyance. The audience had to follow the dancers on their unpredictable path, and the tight quarters would sometimes only allow peeking around a corner to catch a glimpse of their motion. As captivating as these small performances were, strung together they felt disjointed and random. There was no arc to the storytelling, no real payoff at the end. For a show about orgasms, it left the audience — frustratingly — without a climax. Venice Beach Eco Cottages, 447 Grand Blvd., Venice; closed. (Pandora Young)

DANCE

GO WET SPOTS: THE STORY PROJECT For those who were waiting for a dance concert devoted to the female orgasm, here it is. Described as "semi-site specific," the performance choreographed by Christine Suarez promises to guide the audience in small groups through a "micro-theater environment" inside three 1922 beach cottages with new groups leaving every 15 minutes from 7 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Reservations are required. VENICE BEACH ECO COTTAGES, 447 Grand Blvd., Venice; May 30-31, 7 & 9:15 p.m. \$15, \$10 students & seniors.