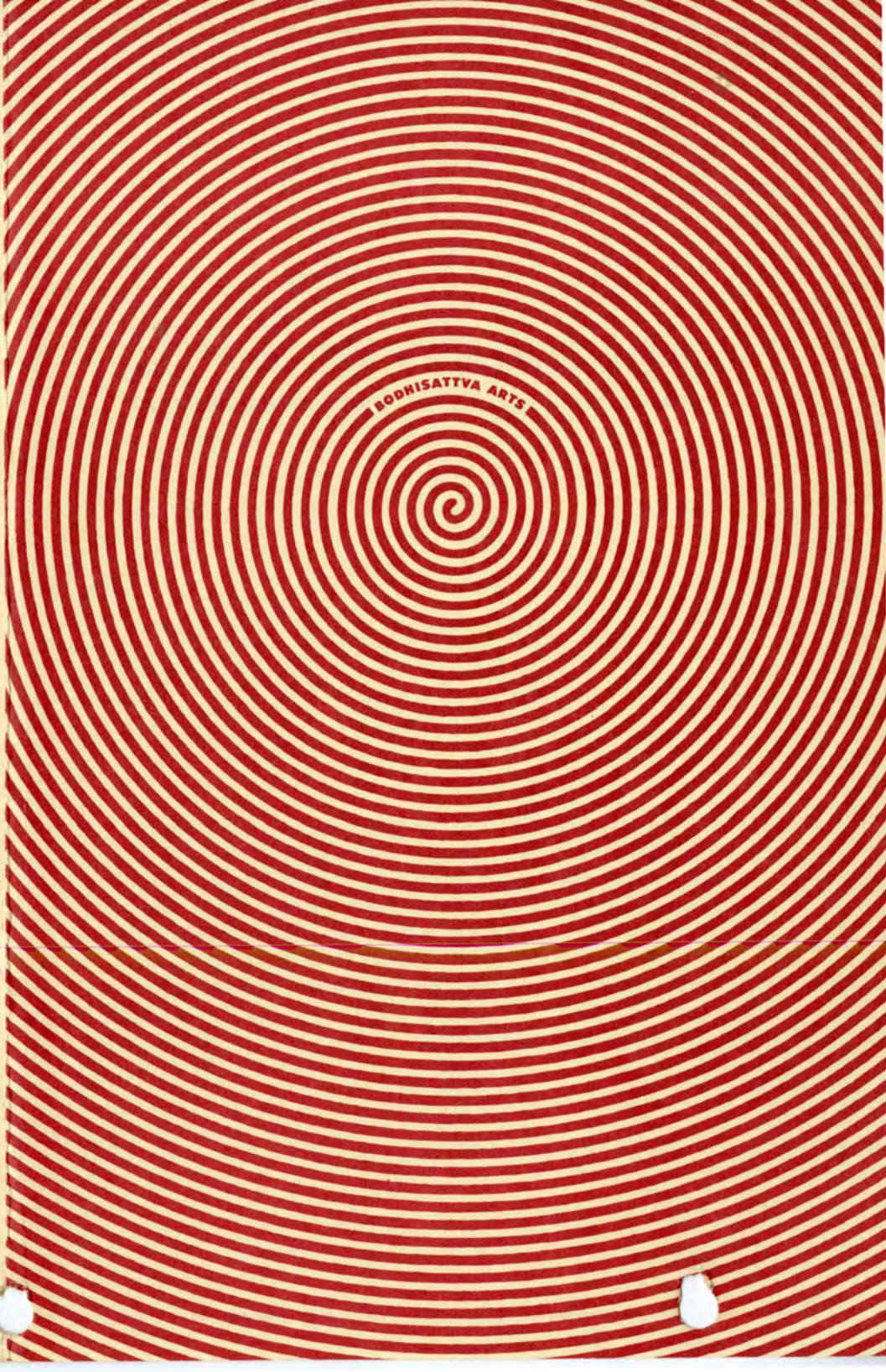


BODHISATTVA ARTS



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Entertainment for Transformation

"Bodhisattva" means a Buddha in essence, a Buddha in seed, a Buddha asleep, but with all the potential to be awake. In that sense, everybody is a Bodhisattva. But everybody cannot be called a "Bodhisattva"; only those who have started groping for the light, who have started longing for the dawn, in whose heart the seed is no more a seed but has become a sprout, has started growing ...

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh

BODHISATTVA ARTS is an innovative performing arts company bringing the concepts and inspiration of the consciousness movement into forms of entertainment that produce transformation in actor and audience alike. It is an art form that is a path to realization.

The BODHISATTVA ARTS Company is oriented towards process as well as production. It represents a new departure in group collaboration. It is dedicated to exploring creativity and returning to the roots of theater in ritual and archetype, combining the techniques of spiritual and personal growth, psychodrama, improvisation and audience participation.

The Company will present theatrical events, produce films and television shows, and perform at consciousness-oriented conferences and other special events. It will create love stories, and adventure tales that take entertainment back to ritual and myth—not back in time, but back into the living exploration of the psyche and the highest possibilities of the human spirit.





THE PRODUCTIONS

With the skills learned in the Trainings, the BODHISATTVA ARTS TROUPE shapes the archetype into whatever entertainment form is required, creating each production according to the nature of the audience, the degree of audience participation, and the stage or setting.

The Troupe is organized not along traditional lines of permanently delegated authority, but as a "geodesic structure" in which roles and responsibilities shift for each production. The discipline of the group is to accede collectively and individually to the sense of the archetype and to the needs of the production so that each participant uses the skills taught in the training to complement the creativity of the group.

BODHISATTVA ARTS productions reach towards the primordial roots of theater as the expression of living mythology and the transformation of audience and actor alike through true ritual.



DIRECTOR

Swami Anand Veereshwar

Formerly William Pennell Rock, M.Litt., Ph.D., Veereshwar began his theatrical career as a professional child actor. He was educated in the behavioral sciences, philosophy, and comparative religion at Yale, Harvard, the Sorbonne, and King's College, Cambridge. Subsequently he has had academic appointments at Banaras Hindu University, the Jung Institute in Zurich, the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, and the University of California at Santa Barbara and Los Angeles.

In 1970 he came to California where he became involved with the human potential movement and experimental theatre. For four years he was an instructor with the Arica Institute. For the past five years he has spent half his time with his Master, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in India, and has taught workshops at UCLA extension, Arica Institute, Esalen Institute, and many other growth centers around the United States and Europe.



THE SOURCE

Sigmund Freud reduced the problem of Western Civilization to the repression of vital energy. Carl Jung discovered that Western psychopathology was due to the suppression of myth and its realities. BODHISATTVA ARTS is dedicated to returning the power of vital energy, myth, and ritual to human experience.

ARCHETYPE

An archetype is a universal meaning form that is common to all human experience. Archetypes reside in each human being as elemental forms of experience: the feminine, the masculine, the source, the whole, the union of opposites, etc. Because there are archetypes, we can speak of the collective psyche of humanity. Contemplating the archetypes within allows us to comprehend the gods without.

MYTH

Archetypes express themselves as images such as the hero, the heroine, the womb, the circle, the magic implement, the wise old man, etc. All myths, legends, and fairytales—even Hollywood movies—are systems of such images. Myth as such is the artistic expression of the archetypes and their influence upon the lives of human beings.

RITUAL

To encounter the archetypes and their power is the essence of religious experience and the source of self-knowledge. The events of life are seen and interpreted in the context of the transcendent. Ritual has as its purpose to bring the separate individual into the power of the whole from which life draws its meaning. Initiation is bringing the archetypes and their power into present, workable self-understanding.

SIGNIFICANCE

Myth is the natural way of expressing ourselves from the inside out. The true, inner significance of myth has been lost to our object-oriented, de-mythologized consciousness. So deeply has it been suppressed and so great is the hunger for inner richness that, when the true significance of myth becomes manifest, its content will explode upon the culture.





THE TRAININGS

The trainings are intended not only for prospective members of the Company, but also for those interested in coming to a new understanding of the whole self and its journey towards individuation.

The techniques used in the trainings derive from many Western and Eastern disciplines. Greatly strengthened by love and mutual support, participants learn the secrets of total "let go", the surrender method of improvisational expression, dance, and music making. Aided by this experience, each participant explores the archetype deeply within himself.



THE LOVE STORY

The first half of the training is a penetrating individual exploration of the archetype of the androgyne: the internal union of masculine and feminine. Each participant explores within:

- The masculine, yang, or active principle.
- The feminine, yin, or receptive principle.
- The ego-resistance by which the two are held in unconscious separation.
- The nature spirit by which they are united in alchemical transformation.

In the climax of the workshop each participant stages his own psychodramatic version of the archetype in which he plays all four characters. The group gives feedback on the expressive quality and the psychological significance for the performer of the "myth" that has been created.

The final session of the training reflects the purpose of the entire process: to experience the balanced energies resulting from the mystical union of the masculine and feminine within.

The group uses the framework of the love story archetype to create their own production which is performed on the final Sunday before an audience of friends of the participants.

THE JOURNEY

In this training the group explores the archetype of the hero's journey. They begin by a comprehensive survey of the home or status quo. Each participant then explores within:

- The hero or heroine.
- The magic helper and his implement of power.
- The monster of resistance.

Each participant then stages his own psychodramatic version of the archetypal battle of the hero and the monster, and the group gives feedback on each performance. Having thus passed through the threshold of adventure, newly strengthened by victory, the heroic participants are individually led through their own supreme ordeal in which each confronts his most primordial fear. Finally, each receives the reward or boon of new strength and knowledge and is brought back home, newly transformed, able to move through life in a new way.

In the second weekend, the group creates its own version of a hero's journey for an invited audience of their friends.