

EMBRACING



The Root

Embracing The Root is a tribute to the healing powers of nature and plants... a performance piece made up of 16 songs being created by New York composer/keyboardist Carman Moore and Danish lyricist/vocalist Lotte Arnsbjerg, the result of walks in New York's Central Park and new scientific discoveries about how plants communicate, have memory and senses. It is also a music-dramatic story about a human being who has lost her way in a life, built on too much fast and artificial living, too high ambition, too little peace of mind and too little spiritual connection with nature, which also means with her own being.

Plot: A modern young woman is lost in the woods, trying to find her way home, but no matter how hard her efforts, she keeps on ending up at the foot of the same tree, an old oak in the depths of the forest. It drives her mad, and she feels great fear at being surrounded by nature, especially as its spirits begin to speak to her. The old oak is speaking as if it is inside of her mind, speaking with a language she has never heard before, and a consciousness and connected living species and forms that she has never thought of in her wildest dreams. As a parallel to Orpheus descending and Alice in wonderland, she enters a wild world in motion inhabited by roots and underground life. Here she is confronted by an intelligence that seems to mirror the endlessness of the universe. And it shares its powers of communication with her, revealing a superior and multi-creative intelligence below the ground, an underground internet that reaches further, deeper and faster than humans have ever imagined. Through codes and symbols utilized by the different characters underground, - knowledge and ancient wisdom, that can only be achieved through the emotional language and that is given every human kind at birth - the woman is educated to look within her self without judgement and fear. From here she moves towards her death and rebirth as just another season of the holistic whole, where everything is one and in constant evolution. The piece closes with her entering another world. Is she dying or is she beginning to live? We are invited to find out..

A JOURNEY TOWARDS ONENESS

Through 4 Seasons of personal development and growth

1. Resistance:

Holding onto the physical form and the habits of the surface world of doing, success, reputations, youth, death as a threat, fear of losing /aging/dying, with time as an enemy or limiting factor. Fear of nature and its powers.

Human behaviour related to this scene:

Refusing to spend time outside. Choosing technology and material life over natural life. Fear of facing the truth. Choosing comfort or dysfunction over truth and true love in relationships. Mistrusting rather than trusting your feelings.

2. Invitation:

Curiosity overcomes fear. The woman dares to walk into the forest, driven by a deep longing for change. This curiosity is the seed of knowledge waiting to be watered.

Human behaviour related to this scene: The experience of having been bored...

An inner sense and past experiences telling us there is always something good that can transform out of troubled situations.

3. The Underworld:

Preparing to let go and listen to new information and fresh experience. This leads to fresh awareness /consciousness - the living philosophy in real forms. Noticing the "isness" of all things and life, including the communication life of roots and fungi as their speaking tongue. This is all presented as characters in action solving problems and feeling feelings - actually exciting in our world, even though we are only beginning to notice.

Human behaviour related to this scene: The human joy in actually understanding what is real. An innate wish to be better and "get things right." The innate sense of preserving the human species.

4. Embracing

Letting go to be able to receive. Coming to experience the love affair of life and the individual. Learning to value the "sacred embrace." Allowing Nature to be the messenger of this eternal truth. Letting go of fear to become a part of the oneness.

Human behaviour related to this scene: Past experiences of having overcome traumas. Having experienced love and having treasured loving and being loved. Remembering babyhood.

EMBRACING THE ROOT: NOTES ON THE MUSIC, DRAMATURGI & VISUAL WORK

Composed and written by: Carman Moore & Lotte Arnsbjerg.

EMBRACING THE ROOT is a music theater work to be built around 16 songs, chorales, and instrumental pieces created, composed and performed by Danish vocalist/actor/librettist Lotte Arnsbjerg and American pianist/keyboardist/composer Carman Moore.

Its plot tells the story of a modern Western young woman, literally lost in the woods, who goes from annoyance with Nature to a deep appreciation of how joined to and dependent upon all natural forces are all human beings.

Along with Mr. Moore and Ms. Arnsbjerg's vocal and keyboard presentations, the work is also scored for string quartet, electric bass, African griot, a vocal choir quartet (which will also join in on occasional stage actions), and electronic sounds. The creation will be worked out in 3 versions according to different stages, collaborations and budgets. The work will be enhanced by artistic visual projections as well made by Japanese video artists Masashi Nagara and Italian video artist Caterina Bertolotto.

As EMBRACING THE ROOT takes us "Alice In Wonderland"- like deep into the above and underground worlds of plants, roots, and fungi, the audience will walk through 4 different sensory spaces representing 4 possible seasons of personally human growth. These four emotional seasons draws references to the 4 seasons of the year, and the four ages of life: Spring/ Childhood, Summer/Youth, Autumn/ Midlife and Winter/ Aging.

The journey is an experienced walk/journey through landscapes presented mainly by visuals, but also sound, plasma, and material for touching by hand and body - appearing in different locations and coming in many, although connected forms. All to enhance the sense of a oneness, a whole, who's creativity is built on real phantasy, real experience, real limitlessness and real time (none) - each space invoking a season and a state of mind for an audience that moves throughout as the piece progresses - beginning to end.

Sound will be strategically placed in the performance spaces, and the live performers will move with the audience through the spaces and the journey.

Team: / Musicians: Carman Moore, (NYC); Lotte Arnsbjerg(DK) Singer solists: Lotte Arnsbjerg, Mr. Mordior Bamba (AFRICA) Quartet: 4 acting singers (NYC) String Quartet: NYC musicians

Directors: Malte Claudio Lind (DK) Mask Director: Per Brahe (BALI)

Scenografi/Video Art : Masashi Nagara (JAPAN) **Sound tech:** Inuk Thomsen (DK) **Light tech:** Sonja Lea (DK)

Supporters:

- Peter Yarrow (Peter Paul and Mary) <https://www.peteryarrow.net/>
- The Lieber Institute for Brain Development at Johns Hopkins Medical Campus
- <https://www.libd.org>
- Reverends Donna Schaper and Micah Bucey of Judson Memorial Church Manhattan • <https://www.judson.org/>
- Rita Putnam, Music Director of the New York State Council on the Arts
- <https://www.arts.ny.gov/>
- Trevor Davies; <https://www.metropolis.dk/>