

Serious Fun

The *Serious Fun* festival presents some of

the more exciting and cutting edge performers and productions on the international scene. Premiering this month at Lincoln Center, the festival kicked off with a German-mounted version of Gertrude Stein's *Dr. Faustus Lights The Lights* directed by the brilliant Robert Wilson. It was taut, technologically vibrant, humorous, visually vital, but a cool, extremely cool, vision to the 1938 tone poem. It is an extremely funny play which is very rarely performed. Wilson has previously created such unusual and exciting productions as the opera *Einstein on the Beach*, collaborating with composer Philip Glass, (due for a revival this fall at the Brooklyn Academy of Music), the 12 hour performance of *The Life and Times of Joseph Stalin*, and perhaps one of the most bizarre productions ever seen on Broadway, *A Letter to Queen Victoria*.

Also on the calendar is another import, *The Flash and Crash Days*, directed by Gerald Thomas and peopled by an entirely Brazilian cast, spoken in somewhat broken English, like the *Dr. Faustus* production. *Flash and Crash* represents both the best and worst of what is the experimental theater; visual brilliance but a surreal story that has no center to hold on to. There is no real plot and it is perhaps just a terrible nightmare, and maybe nothing more than a picture in perpetual motion. A daughter envisions the murder of her mother in many ways, the goriest includes ripping open her chest, tearing out her heart and devouring it like a sandwich.

Also on the schedule are the ever-righteous and furious Karen Finley of the N.E.A. four who premieres *A Certain Level of Denial*, also *The Hittite Empire*, a black blues and dance program written and directed by Keith Antar Mason with a group of six from the Los Angeles inner city, John Kelly, one of the foremost performance artists on the scene, who will use his Soprano to vibrate the house, the clowns Billy Irwin and David Shiner, English performance artist Rose English and her horse live on stage, and closing with a dance bash that includes some of the top choreographers of the last two decades, Paul Taylor, Meredith Monk, Lucinda Childs, Yvonne Rainer, Douglas Dunn and others.

Serious Fun comes to the East End under the auspices of the Renee Fotouhi Fine Arts East series in July at the Southampton College auditorium. For information and tickets call 524-8939.

-Mark Hall Amitin

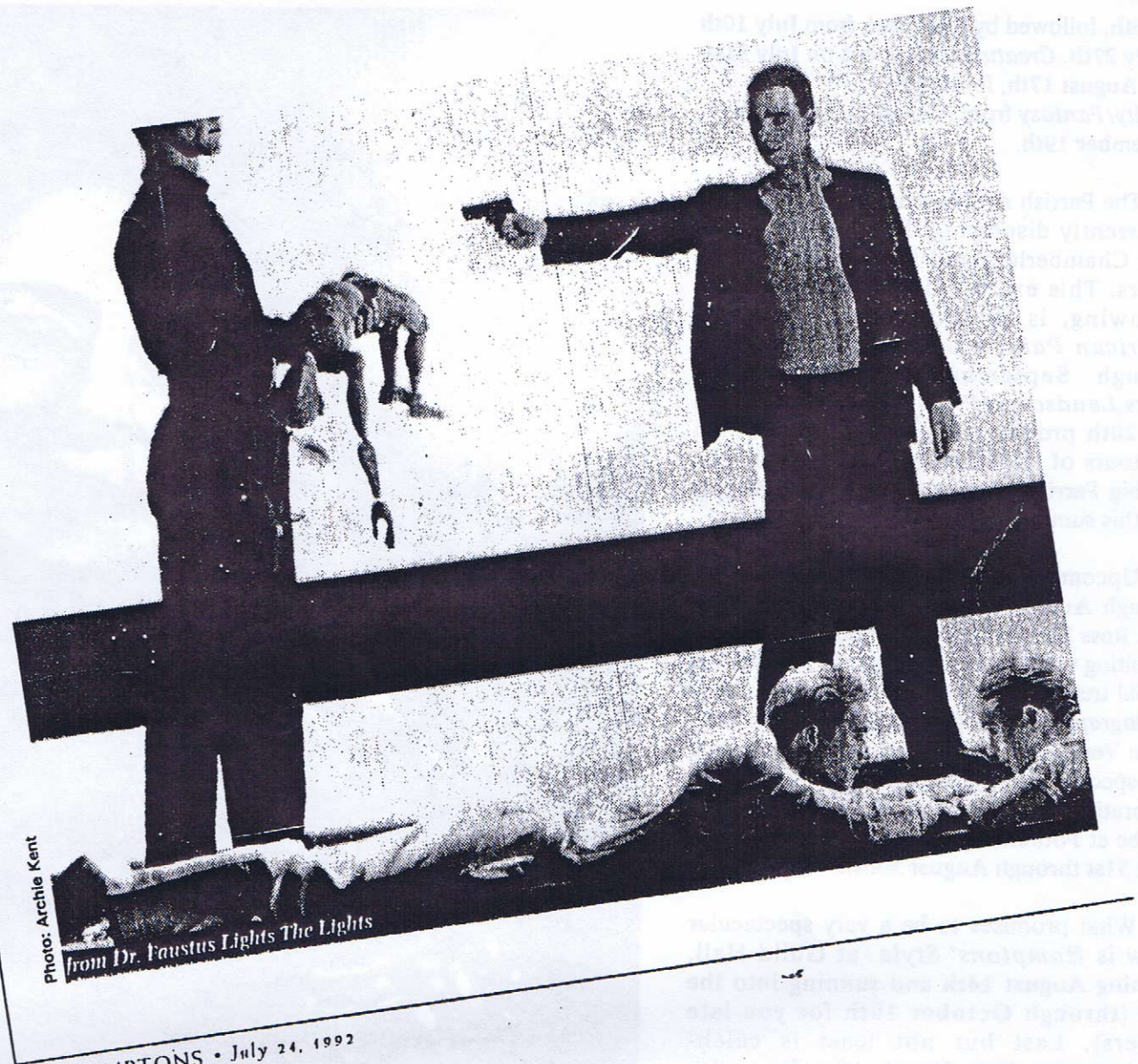


Photo: Archie Kent

from *Dr. Faustus Lights The Lights*

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Renee Fotouhi Fine Art East is pleased to announce the first East End appearance of Reno, the third and final event in its Summer Performance Art Series 1991. Reno will appear Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. at LTV at 211 Springs Fireplace Road in East Hampton.

According to HAMPTONS Magazine's film critic Mark Hall Amitin, "Reno is a cross between Lenny Bruce and Robin Williams in drag in an early Albee play." Call 324-8939 for information.



Reno does the unexpected at Renee Fotouhi