

NEIGHBORS

COVERING YOUR COMMUNITY
The Miami Herald

SUNDAY
APRIL 21, 1996

Performers strip away past abuse and heal themselves through dance

BY CLARISSA J. WALKER
Herald Writer

The Innermotion performers are not driven so much by the music as by their pain.

They dance to heal.

The eight members of the theater company are all survivors of child abuse. Through interpretive dances, they play out and confront their childhood trauma.

"We want a return to innocence," said Sharon Daugherty, 35, the group's director and a licensed mental health counselor. "We want to find joy, hope, recovery and a sense of normalcy."

Innermotion will perform two acts of their "healing" interpretive dance at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the auditorium of Fienberg-Fisher Elementary. With musical accompaniment ranging from *Flight of the Bumble Bee* to Hammer's *U Can't Touch This*, the group will help the school observe Child Abuse Month, which is April.

Using her own money and later a grant from Fort Lauderdale's Ford Jeter Brown, Daugherty advertised the start of her "survivor dance company" in local churches, schools and clinics five years ago.

There were only two requirements. Dancers had to be survivors of abuse who were ready to move on with their lives, she said.

With dances like "Longing to Belong," and "Simply Disappear," the eight-member group takes their performances to

teenage pregnancy clinics, women's correctional facilities and schools all over the country.

"Sexual abuse is more than a physical assault on children," said Daugherty, who has an 11-month-old daughter, Courtney. "You have to deal with the healing of their spirits as well as their body."

Edmund "Bear" Downing, a 52-year-old dancer and survivor of physical abuse, joined the group last year without any dance experience.

"When I was a child, I didn't know that what was happening to me was not right," said Downing, who now has a two-year-old grandson. "We have to help children to recognize adult behavior that is inappropriate."

Some orthodox child abuse therapies, like one-on-one counseling sessions, don't always work, Downing said.

Randy Rapp, program coordinator at Fienberg-Fisher, agrees.

"A lot of kids don't really know a way to express how they feel and find it too painful to talk about it," he said. "If kids don't experience other ways to express themselves, then they see violence as the choice."

Jose Diaz-Balart, WTVJ-Channel 6 anchor, will lead a candlelight vigil, marching with attendees around Washington Avenue and Española Way following the performance. Rapp said the vigil is intended to commemorate survivors of child abuse.

INNERMOTION

THE SURVIVORS DANCE THEATRE COMPANY

MAY 4, 1996



PRESENTED BY
SURVIVORS NETWORK, INC.
AND
SEXUAL ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM
OF THE
CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

ELVIRA YAÑEZ

Baxter

8/18/96

DEAR SHARON,

IT WAS AN HONOR "DANCING"
WITH YOU. NANCY HAD TOLD ME SO
MANY WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT YOU
— AND THEY WERE ALL TRUE!

I HOPE YOU WILL BE PRESENTING
AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE THE
ONE I ATTENDED WAS A REWARDING
EXPERIENCE — BUT TOO SHORT!

PLEASE TELL KIT THAT I SENT
THE PHOTOS TO YOU INSTEAD OF MAILING
THEM TO HER

WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THEM OUT TO
YOU SOONER — BUT HAD A BUSINESS
TRIP BACK TO THE STATES IMMEDIATELY
AFTER GETTING HOME.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND I
HOPE TO SEE YOU IN SAN FRANCISCO.

REGARDS

[Signature]

InnerNews

Volunteers Needed!

Innermotion is pleased to announce that we have some terrific opportunities for volunteers. A number of sub-committees have been formed that will help us address our challenges as a growing arts organization. Some wonderful people are heading up these committees, but we need your input to help us complete our tasks! If you have a desire to make a difference, and want to lend a hand in a specific area, please consider joining one of the following committees. Simply call the committee chairperson to get involved! (All numbers are in Broward)

Special Events Committee
Bear Downing - 525-8273

Publicity/Marketing Committee
Mariah von Hausch - 475-6606

Corporate Contacts Com.
Shelly Keever - 467-8804

Volunteer Recruitment Com.
Jim Morin - 537-0636

This newsletter will help us keep in touch with our wonderful supporters. Please forward your concerns and/or questions to INNERNEWS at INRMoves @ bcfreenet.seflin.lib.us, or you mail your questions to:

INNERNEWS -
c/o von Hausch
1811 NE 15 Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305

A Note from Sharon

If "The state of an organization is the greatest



example of it's leader's mind" (The Tao of Leadership), then transformation describes Inermotion. Thanks to the birth of Courtney Clara, my angelic daughter, I've been graced with the opportunity to see Inermotion fly without me. While I retain final artistic decision and do my consulting by phone, most of my duties have been taken over by other Inermotion dancers and volunteers. And it is here I'd like to turn your attention:

Accolades to Rosanne T. Morse, M.S., our 1996 recipient of the Artserve Encore "Star Award." This award recognizes outstanding achievement by a volunteer within an organization. Rosanne has helped Inermotion become the recognized and real entity it is today. She is our bottom line - budget - "tell me why we're doing this" person! Applause goes to Robyn Sobrane and Janice O'Boyle for their advancement to "Inermotion Moves Me"

workshop presenters. Their first workshop was presented in Tampa where they received a warm reception and the highest ratings! We're excited to introduce Sonya S. Mitchell of AT&T as our new President. Sonya brings a special presence to Inermotion. Ken Trushaw has become our extremely capable and reliable stage manager, music technician and video coordinator. Hans-Peter van Vliet continues to keep our mailing list in order and faxes all our flyers to the media. He also keeps us on the cutting edge of the wide world of computers. Tracy Cirelli is our on call travel roadie as well as helper at every show, usually ending up on headset because she knows us so well. Lorrie Hjelmeir (recent past President) sends out our promo packages, writes thank-you notes and other correspondence, and performs numerous other vital and behind the scenes duties. Welcome to Mariah von Hausch who

has edited this newsletter and brought lots of great energy to our meetings. Kit Hitchcock and Bear Downing have become expert travel performance coordinators and Jim Morin delegates my delegating! Whew. All that and dancing too. My thanks to all of the people that have ever made and who keep Inermotion moving!

Sharon



Next

Performance:

SHOW-N-TELL Show-N-Tell is a celebration and expression of triumph of the human spirit. A moving presentation of Hope, Empowerment and Joy communicated through interpretive movement and expressive dance.

Performances will be held at:

Broward Community College's Fine Arts Theatre (Bldg 6)

on Sat. 11/23 @ 7:30 pm

Ticket price: \$10 for non-students, \$5 w/BCC student ID

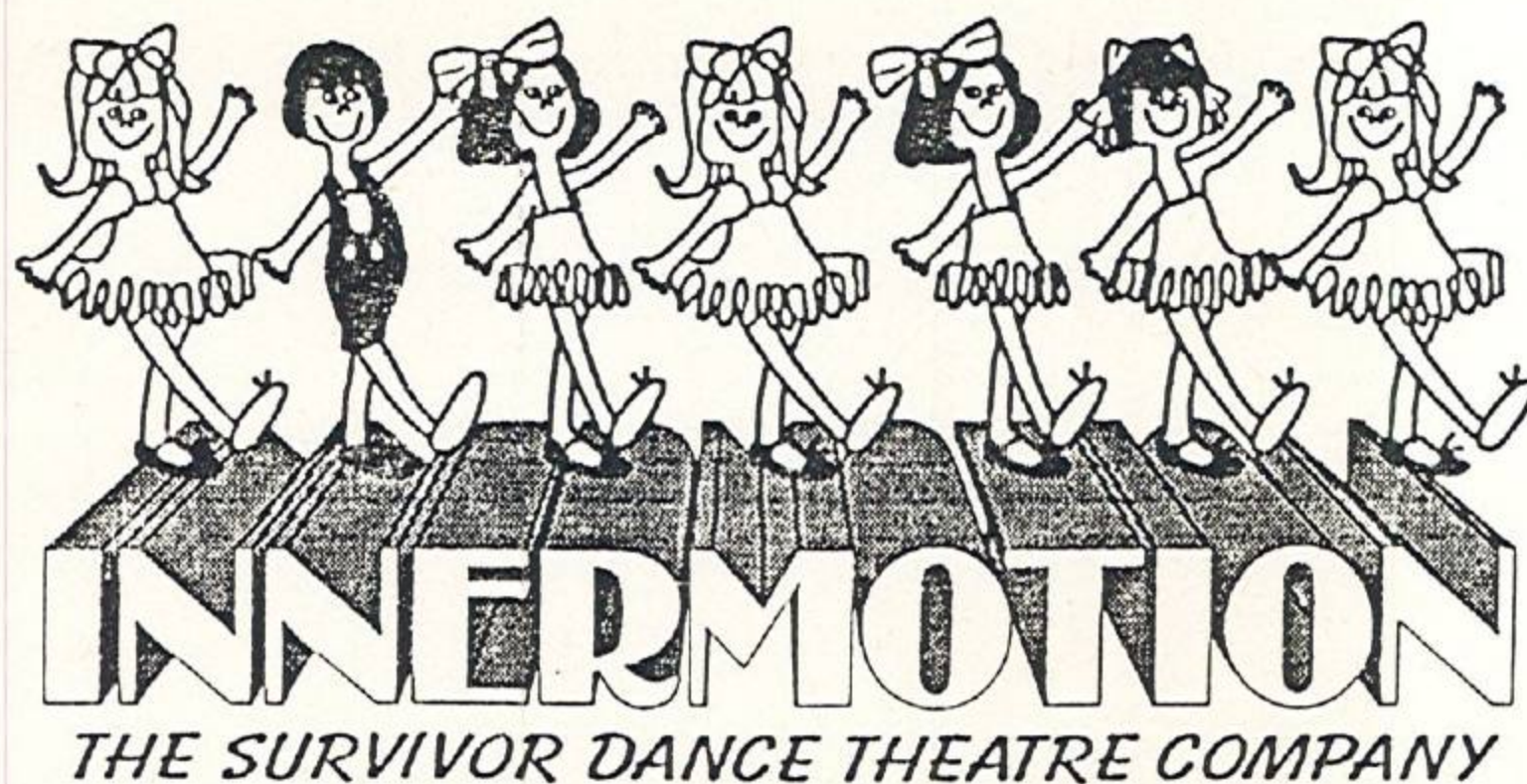
Call Lisa Rubin at 954/475-6981 for reservations/info.

Palm Beach Community College's Duncan Theatre, 6th Avenue S. & Congress Ave.

on Sun, 11/24 @ 7:00 pm

Ticket price: \$10 each

Call Pam Patton at 561/585-5229 for reservations/info.



SHOW-N-TELL

September 30, 1996 8:00 pm

Tenth Statewide Child Abuse Prevention
Conference

Hyatt Regency
Tampa, Florida

Session III, Monday, September 30, 3:30 - 5:00
(Choose One to Attend)

(17) **Innermotion Moves Me.** Sharon Daugherty, M.S., Founder & Director of Inermotion, The Survivors Dance Theatre Company. This workshop is an uplifting, positive and powerful approach to facilitate mind and body integration, using many movement styles to create a broader range of expression for you and your clients.

Ms. Daugherty serves as the Program Coordinator for "Our House" of Children's Victim Services, and is a national speaker and consultant regarding Child Abuse and Recovery issues. Ms. Daugherty's most exciting adventure has just begun as Courtney Clara, her first child, was recently born!



*The 10th Statewide
Child Abuse Prevention
Conference*

Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, 1996
Hyatt Regency - Tampa, Florida

WELCOME

to the 10th Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference

This conference has a long history of excellence and relevance for Florida's community of professionals working with children and their families. Consider this conference your opportunity to make new connections, be exposed to new ideas and to leave feeling a renewed sense of dedication to the work involved in strengthening Florida's families.

In order to provide the most comprehensive learning experience possible for participants, the conference has been organized around five themes: Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Leadership, and Personal Development. These five themes helped to guide the planning of the conference and the creation of workshop sessions. You will find at least one of these themes present in each of our workshops and keynote speeches.

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: ALL STAFF

Victim Services and Innermotion, Inc. will be presenting to the residents of the Juvenile Sex Offenders Program through the Brown Schools at Florida State Hospital on

Tuesday, October 29, 1996

7 - 8:30 PM

Florida State Hospital
1000 SW 84 Avenue
Pembroke Pines

Five Victim Services staff members will be permitted to participate. The goal of the presentation is to sensitize juvenile offenders to victims' feelings. Male and female adult survivors of all types of sexual abuse will be presenting a one hour program using the medium of theater and dance, followed by a half hour of discussion. This promises to be a moving experience for everyone.

Please contact Sharon if you wish to attend.

Thank you.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

PERFORMANCE OF

"SHOW - N- TELL"

presented by



Come share the gifts of healing and joy through this provocative and uplifting performance. During this holiday season celebrate with us the triumph of the human spirit. Inermotion is a dance theatre company comprised of adult survivors of childhood abuse. Our goal is to create a place of warmth, acceptance, and sense of community.

- WHEN:** SPECIAL ^{FREE} PERFORMANCE FOR BCC STUDENTS & EMPLOYEES ONLY: TUESDAY, 11/19/96, 7:30 PM
GENERAL PERFORMANCE: SATURDAY, 11/23/96, 7:30 PM
- WHERE:** BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTRAL CAMPUS
FINE ARTS THEATRE BUILDING 6
DAVIE, FLORIDA
- TICKETS:** \$10.00 SATURDAY & \$5.00 WITH BCC ID
FREE TUESDAY: MUST PRESENT BCC ID
- CONTACT:** SHARON DAUGHERTY (954) 537-0636
BCC STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER 475-6981

(Inermotion, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit private corporation. Donations are tax deductible.)

A special thank you to BCC STUDENT LIFE for their sponsorship.

Thank you to BELL SOUTH for their continued support.



SHOW-N-TELL

Tuesday, November 19th, 1996
Saturday, November 23rd, 1996
7:30 pm

Fine Arts Theatre (Bldg. 6)
Central Campus
Broward Community College
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

PERFORMANCE OF

"SHOW - N- TELL"

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WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1996

**WHERE: BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTRAL CAMPUS
FINE ARTS BUILDING 6
DAVIE, FLORIDA**

**TICKETS: \$10.00
\$ 5.00 WITH BCC STUDENT ID**

CONTACT: SHARON DAUGHERTY (954) 537-0636

(Innermotion, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit private corporation. Donations are tax deductible.)

Thank you to BELL SOUTH for their continued support.

INNERMOTION

SHOW-N-TELL

**Sunday, November 24th, 1996
7:00 pm**

**co-presented by
ToTell The Truth & Home Safe**

**Duncan Theatre
Palm Beach Community College
Lake Worth, Florida**

XS magazine

South Florida's free weekly source of news and entertainment April 2-8, 1996

VOICE of the accused

**Dean Tong details the pain of being falsely accused
of child abuse in *Don't Blame Me, Daddy*.**

by Colleen Dougher-Telcik

Dean Tong, author of *Don't Blame Me, Daddy*, says his book addresses the flip side of child abuse allegations. And according to Tong, "There's been a plethora of unfounded or false repressed memory cases," he says. "It's what I call the Roseanne Barr syndrome."

Tong, head of the Tampa chapter of VOCAL (Victims of Child Abuse Laws) has spent several years preaching about the unfairness of the justice system in dealing with child abuse cases. And not just as an author.

He's taken his message to newspapers (stories ran in *The Boston Globe* and *Washington Times*), radio shows (more than 300 stations nationwide), and television shows (everything from *Inside Edition* to *Jerry Springer*).

In 1985, in the midst of a divorce and custody battle, Tong's former wife accused him of sexually abusing his 3-year-old daughter.

The charge was eventually dropped. But Tong spent \$120,000 and employed eight lawyers and six psychologists in fighting the allegations. In the process, he also took a polygraph test and a penile plethymograph. "It's more specific than a polygraph," he says, "because you are elicited audio and visual stimuli, and you watch gross homosexual and heterosexual activity with children, and if you are a pedophile, you will respond."

Even after he was vindicated of the criminal charges, he says, a family court judge still did not believe him. And while the family courts couldn't keep him in jail, they could — and did — preclude him from unsupervised visits with his children. It was 1990 before he saw them again, without supervision.

When it comes to child abuse, he says, you are guilty until proven innocent. The belief of the system, Tong says, is that children don't lie, that they must be believed at all costs. But members of VOCAL, which consists mainly of people who have been accused of

child abuse, disagree.

For several years, Tong has spread the message that not every child abuse report is well-founded, that anyone, at any time, can be falsely accused, and that we are all just one accusation away from a living nightmare. People, he says, can report anyone anonymously via a hotline, and the accused never even gets to find out who they are. "It's like fighting a ghost," he says.

According to Tong, "Well-meaning but misguided child protection interviewers engage in interviews that are tainted. They use play therapies and anatomically exaggerated dolls. They bring out a Cabbage Patch doll with attached genitalia and they use suggestive and leading questions. They will keep drilling the child and after awhile I assure you that they will get the desired responses they are seeking."

Tong has other criticisms, too, some of which he will discuss this week while in South Florida.

Not everyone here is a supporter. Sharon Daugherty, head of Innermotion, a Fort Lauderdale dance theater company of child abuse survivors, says that while Tong does raise some valid points, they are valid on both sides of the issue. Interviewers do need to know how to ask nonleading questions, and it's important to have a child interviewed by one consistent trained person, but it's something we've all been fighting for. People are working feverishly to come to the best system we can, and skills have improved over the years, but undeniably there is still a tidal wave of child abuse occurring.

While she knows that people are sometimes wrongly accused of child abuse, she says, "We can't give the foothold we have gained and go back to the days where perverts can hide behind archaic laws,

Forew

Don't Blame ME, Daddy

FALSE ACCUSATIONS
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE:
HIDDEN NATIONAL TRAGEDY



Dean Tong

by Ralph Underwager, Ph.D., M. Div.

which
is what I see happening with orga-
nizations like VOCAL."

As an example, she cites VOCAL's
support of a law that would require
HRS workers to get a court order
to take children. An abusive par-
ent who has sufficient warning,
she says, is likely to be gone by
the time HRS returns with a court
order.

Tong is well aware that VOCAL has
its critics — people who say that this
organization shows child abusers how to get off
the hook. But he disagrees. "It goes without saying
that those who sodomize, molest, exploit, or sexually
harass children are the lowest forms this society has
to offer."

Dean Tong

will discuss his book from
noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday
on WFTL (1400-AM).

Afterwards, he will sign
books from 2 to 4 p.m. at
All Books & Records at
Searstown Center, 917 N.
Federal Highway, Fort
Lauderdale.