

PASSING THROUGH THE BARDO

Ensemble Created, Conceived & Designed by Blair Thomas

Direction by Adrian Danzig & Yael Rasooly

Song by Brian Dewan

Music arrangement by ark Messing

Costume Design by Caitlin McLeod

Puppets and props painted by Averly Sheltraw

Additional developmental staging by Greg Allen and Tom Lee

Producers Sandy Gerding & Blair Thomas

Silas Thomas

Gravetender

Blair Thomas

Ghost and Demons

Based on the ballad *Cowboy Outlaw* (1992) by Brian Dewan, who based his song on the true-life story of Elmer McCurdy (1880-1911)

DOES A DOG HAVE BUDDHA NATURE?

Conceived, Written, Designed and Puppetry Performed by Blair Thomas

Music by Travis LaPlante

~Nois Quartet

Julian Velasco

Soprano Saxophone

Natalia Warthen

Alto Saxophone

Jordan Lulloff

Tenor Saxophone

János Csontos

Baritone Saxophone

Scrolls painted by Rowena Liu, Aiden O'Hagen, Soph Schiavone, Averly Sheltraw, Sophia Traducci, Silas Thomas and Lingyu Parasol Zhou

Shadow puppets by Linda Wingerter

Stage design and construction by Blair Thomas

Additional construction by Caitlin McLeod, Margaret Nelson, Michael Reed, Dan Reilly, Zac Sun

This piece is built around Travis LaPlante's 2024 composition *Running in a Field of Flowers* commissioned for Nois Quartet combined with the writings of Bodhidharma (early fifth century CE) as translated by Red Pines.

Text by Blair Thomas

Where me warm spot
in this cold place?
Me floor vent or
sunlit space?

Give it, give it,
Now give it me!
The smell, me smell,
No blind! Me see!

On oneness of
dog and human,
meditate it,
bite the shoe in.

Me moody man
comes dragging home,
me wag me tail,
I've been alone.

Away you walk,
me bite the meat.
Lick, lick, lick, lick!
Me teeth it eat.

Conditions make
our joy and pain.
Conditions change,
me stand remain.

In countless ages,
countless drives,
me wandered through
dog countless lives.

Me fast sleeping
Though slight the sound
on feet jumping
no me back down.

The world complete,
all things are pure,
empty of
intrinsic nature.

No dogs nor
humans can foresee
when evil deeds
will fruit there be.

Woof, Woof, it's me!
All world will know.
Me stand me ground.
Me chin pulled low.

All emptiness
reveals itself,
like dust removed
from off the shelf.

Me had anger
without me cause.
Guilt me had too
without me flaws.

Forever, me
Prosperity,
alternates with
calamity.

There is nothing
worth begrudging,
empty dish or
love withholding.

Now though little
me do no wrong,
me punished for
me past dog gone.

To have body,
Suffers increase.
Does any one
body know peace?

Me give me life
and body free
in charity
without regret
and without the
vanity of
giver, gift or
recipient.

In me sufferin'
this injustice
me on dog path,
life is luscious.

On absence of
self and other,
meditate it,
he's my brother.

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