Director explores eternity

‘HereAfterHere’ to be performed at Cabrillo College

REGISTR-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

Director Tandy Beal will return to the stage this weekend to present three performances of her latest work, “HereAfterHere: A Self-Guided Tour of Eternity.”

The production combines dance, multimedia, text, visual narrative and illusion to create concepts of the afterlife and discuss questions related to life after death, such as “If there is an afterlife, where is it located?” “How do we get in?” and “Why might it be for eternity?”

The show includes poignant, wistful, comic, outrageous and chimerical elements performed by 23 dancers and actors. Beal has invited the community to participate in the art-making process by starting a conversation about a possible afterlife at hereafterhere.com, where she has received countless submissions. Before each performance, attendees will be invited to record their thoughts about life after death and those video interviews will be projected in the lobby at the end of the performance.

“Over 40 years I have been making theater and dance, performing, writing, directing, teaching, running non-profits and, through it all, dreaming ... trying to make sense of this life by making moving images,” Beal stated in a press release. “My creative work springs from a sense of the great mystery of being here on this strange planet and the desire to communicate about this with a wide range of the community in celebration and/ or in wonder.”

The production also includes original music by Jon Scoville, scenic design by Kate Edmunds, lighting by Derek Duarte, video segments by Guggenheim Fellow Ellen Bromberg, Denise Gallant, Bruce Lee, and galactic videos from “View From the Center of the Earth” by Joel R. Primack.

Micha Scott performs in a scene from “HereAfterHere,” a production by Tandy Beal.

Actor Fabrizio Olsson holds a sign during a scene in “HereAfterHere.”

Abandon all hope, ye who enter here

Actress from Science, Religion and Art,” a symposium with science writer Nancy Abrams, First Congregational Church Rev. David Grishaw-Jones, Temple Beth El Rabbi Paula Marcus, mindfulness teacher and author Bob Stahl and Beal will take place Saturday at 3 p.m. at the theater. “Always Prepared,” a financial and health care planning seminar, will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at Inner Light Center in Soquel. Both events are free.

Performances will take place Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at Cabrillo College Creek Theatre, 6500 Soquel Drive in Aptos. Tickets cost $16-38 at the door and $13-35 in advance and can be purchased by calling 420-5260 or by visiting the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Box Office or www.santacruztickets.com. Call 430-9082 for information about Friday’s benefit or to purchase tickets.