### Tandy Beal’s guide to the Other Side

**What happens after we die?**

I don’t know, but I’m prepared to be disappointed. At least we can say for sure that the Afterlife is that cell-phone reception back to the Land of the Living has to be pretty damn awful, because the question of what comes next is as stubbornly mysterious as it’s always been. Which is exactly why it is so intriguing to Tandy Beal.

The famed Santa Cruz dancer and choreographer is preparing the return of her luminous performance piece “HereAfterHere: A Self-Guided Tour of Eternity” to the Crocker Theater at Cabrillo College this weekend. You’d think that artists would be falling over themselves in plugging the mystery of the Hereafter, but so few are. You’d think the lasting legacy of 9/11 might be the mutated and imaginative urge to look into the depth of that mystery, but it is.

### BAINÉ

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Tandy by the way, doesn’t have an answer to that maddening eternal question – she’s got hundreds of them. If you didn’t see the production last year...

“HereAfterHere” is a stunning assemblage of word and image, including dance, music, video, text and spoken word, all aimed at expanding the imagination on what could be waiting on the other side of the grave. The tone is not religious or even particularly spiritual or at how that term has come to be defined. The dominant theme of the show is curiosity. And it tries to interpret that curiosity and the vulnerability we fall in the face of it with metaphor of beauty and transformation.

As graceful as Tandy has been a dancer, she’s just as graceful in her concept of this show, striking a fine thematic balance. Her approach takes away the sense of dread about death, without turning it into some kind of comforting fantasy. Some laugh in the face of death. Tandy just smiles and looks over her shoulder.

“I just lost someone close to me,” Julie Doucette told me. Julie is the education and outreach coordinator at Hospice of Santa Cruz County. She describes a part in “HereAfterHere” in which Tandy slowly recedes behind a curtain. “The way she did that really captures what it felt like to me.”

Another thing I come to understand about this remarkable performance piece is that Tandy Beal is just a piece in a much larger mosaic. She brings in more than 25 other artists, from composer Jon Scoville to videographer Denise Gallant, Bruce Lee, Tandy Beal and Noa Mijovic to name a few.

### SCHEDULE

**Friday:** Director of Hospice of Santa Cruz Ann Pomper will lead a post-show discussion.

**Saturday:** An afternoon symposium titled “Metaphysics in Science, Religion, and Art” features guest science writer Nancy Abrams, First Congregational Church pastor David Griswold, Temple Beth El rabbi Paula Marcus, teacher and author Bob Shiff and dancers/choreographer Tandy Beal. Free, 3 p.m., at the Crocker Theater.

**Sunday:** The Rev. Deborah L. Johnson of Inner Light Ministries leads the after-show discussion.


**Ongoing:** Video pieces from artist/photographer Denise Gallant, Bruce Lee, Tandy Beal and Noa Mijovic are aired on Community TV of Santa Cruz County throughout the month.

For more information, visit www.tandybeal.com.