

People Being People ~ 9 Ways

Performed at the IEA conference, San Francisco, CA, August 2000

Directed & choreographed by Andrea Isaacs

Review by Courtney Behm

Many of us who study the Enneagram do so in order to identify the barriers our personality puts in the path of our ultimate success and satisfaction. Once identified, these barriers can be surmounted through deeper understanding, resulting in greater freedom of choice and a deepening sense of inner well-being. The more limiting habits and patterns of our Enneagram type are rarely the objects of our admiration, nor do we usually go out of our way to invite hundreds of people to watch us act out our less attractive characteristics. The fearless cast of Andrea Isaacs' EnneaMotion production, "People Being People, 9 Ways," had no such reservations. Guided by Isaacs' sure sense of choreography, they used improvisational movement and small scenarios based on their personal experiences to create powerful, wordless vignettes of the struggles, gifts, and ultimate resolution of their personal growth journeys, and performed them to a background of music chosen to represent the emotional content of their portrayals.



Ken Jenkins, man behind the audio & video

Three Threes Steal the Deal: Drew Shinnick, Laura Fenamore and Claes Lilja



underlying truth. In a seamless flow of music and movement, the cast drew us with them

The performance began with the first of a series of "family scenes," in which the cast formed and reformed in and out of relationship like a personality kaleidoscope. Then, beginning with Type One, Isaacs directed the cast to move in reverse order around the circle, an offbeat structural choice that, though initially disconcerting, shook us out of our habitual way of "knowing" the types into a new understanding of their

into shared laughter and compassion, and we recognized ourselves and the others in our lives, our foibles and our transcendent moments. Each type performance was punctuated by a family scene and, as one audience member said after the show, people who were at first strangers to us suddenly came fully in to focus as a living, breathing family full of laughter and tears, fun and fury.



L to R: Lynne Gonzalez (8), Courtney Behm (4, on floor), Anjali Crawford (1), and Sue Ann McKean (2)



One taking a Four for a spin: David Brown and Courtney Behm

It is difficult to single out any one element of the performance for special mention, as every scene had its own particular power: the beauty and terror of the One's search for perfection; the mellow ease and the confused immobility of the Nine; the powerful stance of an Eight in and out of control; Seven's optimistic joy and its counterpoint of "more, more, more;" the Six struggle between doubt and faith; Five's delicate balance of detached knowing and isolated information hoarding; the ease of Three's ability to accomplish and their hunger for approval and reward; and the rage that can lie buried



beneath Two's desire to give and love freely. Type Four was not represented by a solo turn, but instead by two powerful duets in which we saw the dynamic interactions between Two and Four, and then between One and Four, giving us not only an experience of a Four caught in the web of push and pull, love and disdain, friendship and competition, but also an insight into the relationship between these three types linked across the diagram by bonds of stress and security.

Andrea Isaacs

We talk a lot in Enneagram land, we know a lot, we have lots of ideas and strategies and insights and practical tips. But we seldom let our bodies talk for us. Andrea Isaacs has brought to our attention the importance of being fully embodied within our full range of functioning. Many cast members spoke of the pure pleasure of physically expressing their inner experiences, whether wicked or wise, confused or clear. They relished the freedom to say, "This is who I am, see me whole," without words, without justification, just bodies moving through space, careening off each other, then coming to resolution. We need more of this in our lives, in our personal growth, in our conferences, wherever we come together to know ourselves more deeply. To Andrea and her intrepid cast, we say thank you for the revelation.



Family Scene. Standing, L to R: Drew Shinnick (3), Chuck Moss (9), Laura Fenamore (3), Betsy Ross (9), David Brown (1), Jim Rinde (5), Claes Lilja (3).

On chairs: Lynne Gonzalez (8), Sue Ann McKean (2), Carolyn Moss (7), Anjali Crawford (1). On floor: Joyce Harris (6), Courtney Behm (4), Liz McKean (5)

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