



Dance Theater Foundation, Inc.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center
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February 1, 1983

To whom it may concern:

For five weeks during the summer of 1982 Ze'eva Cohen brought to the dancers of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble a unique and artistically lucrative experience. This experience resulted in the enrichment of our repertory with a new work entitled "Summer Dance I, Summer Dance II," a pair of duets contrasting emotional intent, to the music of Debussy and Mel Graves.

To work with Ze'eva was to experience yet another approach to the creative process of making a dance. She asked the dancers to explore movement through an exercise of trust and sharing. By having the dancers learn her particular style, dynamics, energy of movement, Ze'eva, in turn, learned the dancers' abilities, personalities, instinct for drama and sensuality. Together, choreographer and dancers exchanged and collaborated, evolving both movement phrases and relationships. Ze'eva's sensitive aptitude for combining theater and dance guided the dancers with deft images through the sweet and poignant, tense and provocative Debussy and Graves. The dancers learned both duets. The couples were then selected by quality and musicality that best suited the dramatic situation.

At the outset Ze'eva was commissioned to choreograph the one duet, but the crystallization of this project yielded a more challenging and imaginative work emotionally and artistically. I wish to thank Ze'eva and the dancers for making "Summer Dance I, Summer Dance II" the success that it is.

I remain, respectfully

Sylvia Waters, Artistic Director
The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble