

York's choreographer-in-residence shines light on '84 production

By SHEILA HIRD

New York dancer and choreographer Kei Takei has come to York where she will be the Dance Department's choreographer-in-residence October 11 to 24. She'll work with students in creating a performance for production in 1984.

Takei has choreographed for many companies, including the Netherlands Dance Theatre and the Yemenite Infal Dance Theatre of Israel, as well as her own company, Moving Earth. Takei and Moving Earth are internationally known for their exceptional work *Light*.

Takei's interest in dance began at six years of age, when she started her lessons in a temple garden in her native Japan.

In 1967, she went to New York on a Fulbright Scholarship. She studied classical and modern dance at the Julliard school, but left after a year because the teaching methods were too technical and because she was having problems with her English. Together with several other dancers, mostly South Americans, she formed the Moving Earth company in 1967.

This gave Takei the freedom to choreograph without restrictions and the first part of her epic 19-part work, *Light*, was the result. Takei says the symbolic title refers to her "inner light." The strength-of this "inner light"

attracts dancers to Takei and gives her works their power, she says.

Fortunately, this light also draws audiences to her performances. Takei's works receive various interpretations, but she explains that this does not trouble her because she believes the audience should be free to choose amongst the multiple meanings of her works.

Takei is not attempting to portray a single theme, nor is she attempting to express any particular emotion. She dances because "dancing is a very natural thing to do." Through her dancing, Takei attains "not self expression, but self connection—a connection to the truth." This connection occurs when she discovers "a sense of time and the truth of existence in this world." Simply, Takei dances because it is in her nature.

York's dance students will find Takei to be an eager instructor. She believes that a teacher cannot criticize a student because each student's creativity is unique. Instead, the teacher needs to ask students whether they are being honest with themselves, whether they are putting all their thought and effort into their performance, she says.

Takei plans to teach *The Stone Field*, part 11 of *Light*. The piece was chosen for several reasons, explains Takei: it's not too difficult to understand as a movement, it's physically



A scene Kei Takei's "The Second Windfield," part of her epic 19-part work *Light*. The New York dancer is at York working with students until October 24.

involving, it requires teamwork, students learn how to use weight, and it gives them a sense of time.

Kei Takei leaves York October 24 to tour the

West Coast and then Europe before returning to supervise the production of *The Stone Field* in March. Those not fortunate enough to work under her can see her work performed.

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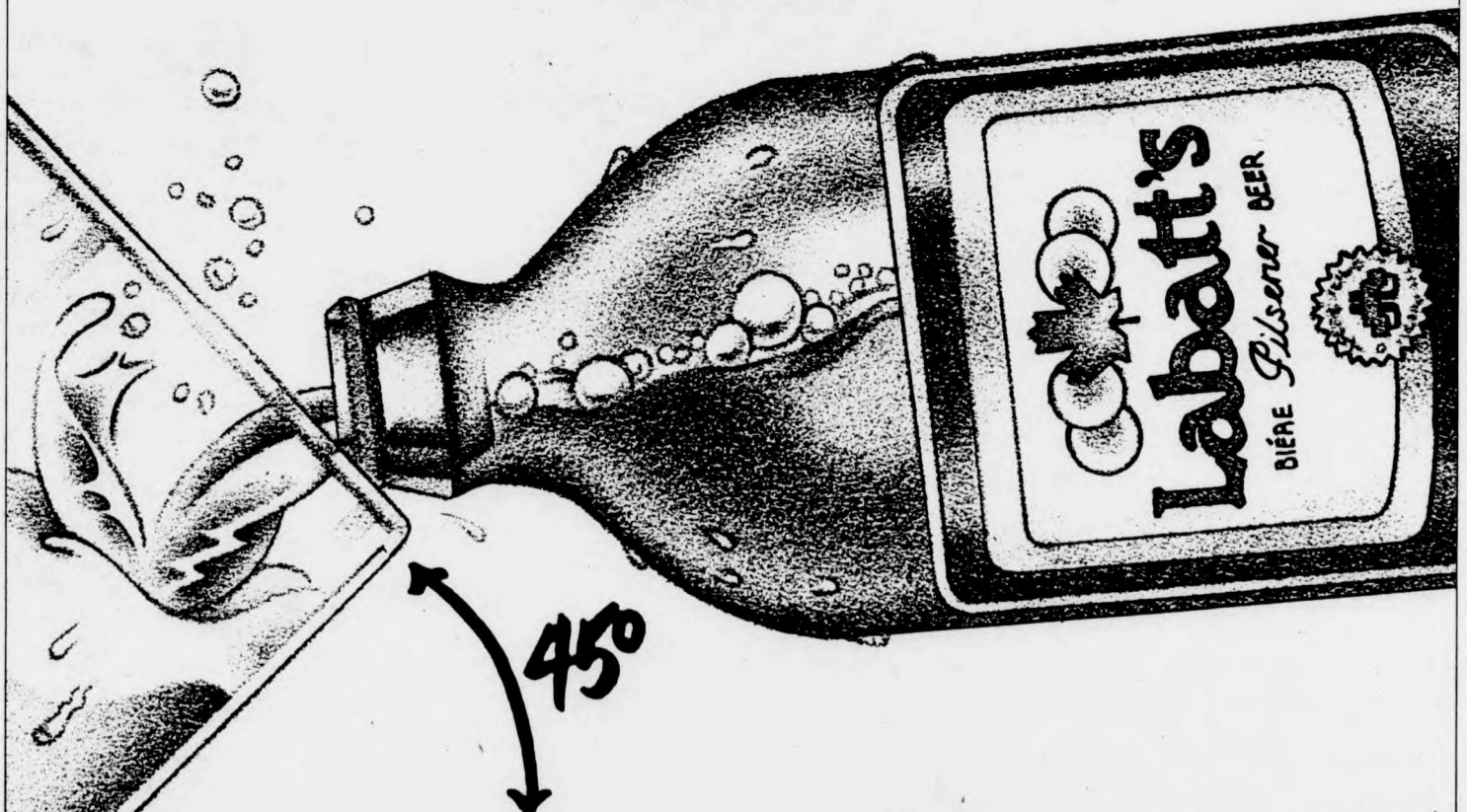
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