



# HOW CAN YOU STAY IN THE HOUSE ALL DAY AND NOT GO ANYWHERE?

A CO-PRODUCTION OF CROSS PERFORMANCE INC.  
AND MAPP INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS

How Can You Stay in the House All Day and Not Go Anywhere? features bodies honed by years of contemporary dance training and bodies honed by decades of physical labor; contemporary artists with an urban 21st-century sensibility and a former sharecropper in a rural southern community whose life spanned over a century. The project takes on questions of transcendence as experienced in human partnerships, in the idea of escape, in the performance of dance, in the end of human life, and in the attempt to translate personal experiences into works of art.

How Can You Stay... is a four-part project consisting of live performance, film and visual art. The first three parts are presented within the proscenium frame, the fourth as an installation through which audience members can come and go. Lemon employs these multiple and intertwined media to approach themes of human connection, loss, and the elusive but ever-compelling possibility of grace.

The stage components of How Can You Stay... begin with the overlap of projected film and live narration, casting a retrospective eye on Lemon's work and life since 2004, and an imaginative glance forward into the future. It is particularly inspired by Lemon's creative relationship with Walter Carter, a 102-year old former sharecropper, carpenter, and gardener from Bentonia, Mississippi, with whom Lemon worked periodically over eight years. The film-talk includes excerpts of an intimately staged film, created by Lemon in collaboration with Carter and his wife Edna, which remaps Andrei Tarkovsky's hypnotic sci-fi film *Solaris* (1972) in the "outer space" of the Mississippi Delta.

The second part of How Can You Stay... shifts to live performance, exploring dance on the edge of "disappearing." An ensemble of six performers, Djédjé Djédjé Gervais, Darrell Jones, Gesel Mason, Okwui Okpokwasili, Omagbitse Omagbemi, David Thomson - all but Omagbemi veterans of Lemon's previous stage work, *Come home Charley Patton* (2004) - cast themselves into turbulent physicality that borders on complete exhaustion, revealing what remains when we think we cannot go any further. The third part is a contemplative, minimal duet for Lemon and Okpokwasili, accessing an analogous state through very different means.

Lemon created the fourth and final chapter of How Can You Stay..., entitled *Meditation*, in collaboration with video designer Jim Findlay. This visual/film installation reiterates the live performance's themes using film projection, light, and shadow to create an immersive environment. *Meditation* will generally be shown at the same site as the performance.

Other collaborators on How Can You Stay... include longtime dramaturg Katherine Profeta, sound consultant Lucas Indelicato, and lighting designer Roderick Murray.

For more information contact:

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