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DANCE REVIEW

Two Spectacles in a Park

By JENNIFER DUNNING

There were intriguing coincidences in two major dance commissions of the Lincoln Center Out of Doors festival this summer.

Paula Josa-Jones, a Boston-based modern-dance choreographer, and Pauline Oliveros, the composer, turned to spectacle inspired by another culture in "Ghostdance," presented on Wednesday night in Damrosch Park. They had studied in Mexico for a year in preparation of the piece.

The week before, Maida Withers had presented "Utah: Spirit Place-Spirit Planet: Tukuhnikvatu," a work drawn from the ancient art of American Indians and the rugged wilderness of Utah, where the Washington-based choreographer and her dancers spent five weeks rehearsing and filming.

Ms. Withers's piece, performed by her Dance Construction Company and the dance company of George Washington University, where Ms.

Withers teaches, was far more ambitious and awesomely complex, filling the stage of the Damrosch Park bandshell with layer upon layer of huge video images and photographs projected on rocklike sculptures. Live bodies moved among them, both dancers and ceremonial figures.

In "Ghostdance," 15 gaudily dressed dancers and singers filed into the garden at the entrance to the band shell in a colorful parade and danced among the trees and benches like spirits at a human party.

Both pieces evoked a midworld between dreams and everyday reality.

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