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Wrinkled \$ By Clara Lofaro

Posted on February 21, 2011 by James Koroni

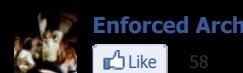


I've been inspired by Clara Lofaro for years. Rarely do we see an artist take the stage empty handed, command silence with stillness, and begin filling our hearts with their voice. She began her set with an acapella performance at Cafe Vivaldi, in SOHO where I was asked to perform a dance in collaboration with her music. We were thrilled to be working together. Our first performance was her song entitled 'Wrinkled \$.'

Wrinkled \$ speaks of a loss of innocence that is inevitable as each of us accepts reality beyond our youth. This happens sooner for some than others who may be more sheltered. Clara sings:

*There was a school yard
Where we used to play
In our sweatpants and short hair
We told secrets and we didn't care*

*About the world
About the wrinkles on our face
About the money we made
About the pressures
That weigh us down today*



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About the impressions we made
About the politicians
And the apostles
About the war child
And the egos
That smack us in the face
About the hearts we break

In the spirit of The Beatles, 'Imagine' where no religion or war inhibits our ability to find peace, 'Wrinkled \$' showcases the innocence of childhood as a utopia where no \$, politics, or egos reside. Innocence exists here without knowledge or life experience and has no grounds for opinion. A child simply sees beauty in everything. It seems that we cherish these moments in our lives, ones where we are free from daily travails. Then when does the agony begin? Part of growing into our adolescence and even into young adulthood means facing frightening truths. This may be where ignorance is born. Born as a fear, creeping up when that innocence is challenged with information that opposes our current understanding of the world, and if accepted, would require change, which is often difficult. It's clear why people maintain an iron grip on their traditions and opinions – we can't expect everyone to be open to having their beliefs challenged, regardless of the validity of those challenges.

On the contrary I can see benefits in our innocence and value it. A child is brought into life with an unconditional ability to love. Something to admire, they remind us of what is truly important. *How might I wonder do we sustain this ability to give unconditional love.* When a child asks a question about the world, we may find it in their best interest to be dishonest with them, to protect them. However, if we provide them with a platform of knowledge that helps them understand the world, they will be prepared for tough transitions. Life has a lot of evolutions to undertake and this is yet another one that we need to identify, where Innocence meets Ignorance. Our fear of evolution is simply something to acknowledge and seek understanding in its wake.

See Clara Lofaro @ Canal Room
Friday, February 25th, 2011 8pm
www.ClaraLofaro.com



Author, James Koroni studied dance at 'The Edge' in Los Angeles, 'Broadway Dance Center' in New York City and Santa Monica College in Los Angeles. A few of his credits include choreographing and dancing for Princess Superstar in Paris, France, dancing for Madonna at MACY's in Herald Square, performing in 'Rhapsody's Sirens after Dark' at the BLVD on Bowery, participated in the production of Bagabones at The Fringe Festival in New York City and teaching at Cynthia King Dance Studio in Brooklyn NYC. His Internships and Administrative credits include 'Broadway Dance Center' under the International Student Visa Program with Director Bonnie Erickson and is currently employed at Cynthia King Dance Studio in Brooklyn, NYC as Cynthia King's Executive Assistant. "So much of life carries the potential to shock and excite me and whether traditional or controversial, if it offers compassion I find a reason to appreciate its beauty." - James Koroni

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