When Privacy Is Only a Concept

'Super Vision' at the Hop Focuses on Identity Theft and Other Intrusions

BY WARREN JOHNSTON

A WELL-MEANING FATHER steals his 9-year-old son's identity to cover the massive debt needed to maintain the family's lifestyle.

A booster guarding a neighborhood basketball court in Vermont reveals more and more of his private life as a result of his job.

A young tech-savvy New Yorker makes digital copies of her Sri Lankan grandmother's past as she learns to live in a world where her identity is under threat.

The three stories will unfold tomorrow night and Saturday at the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College in the high-tech performance of Super Vision, a play that combines the work of seven actors with computer-enhanced visual and compelling music, Judding from the video, it's a stunning performance of life in the post-privacy age.

The New York-based show, which has toured the world, is a collaboration between the Oitic Award-winning theater company The Builders Association and the visual design group Light.

Directed by Marianne Wemus, Super Vision is a collaboration between the theater company The Building Association and the visual design group Light.

The show has been well-received internationally, but in countries such as the United States and many in Europe and Asia, where there is little move to establish a national identity card and much public debate about privacy issues, audiences seem to find Super Vision more disturbing than, say, in Canada where privacy is more secure, Wemus said.

In the introduction to the show, Wemus will set the stage for the Hopkins Center performances in the Hopkins Center performance by telling the audience about the data collected on them from the video game used to purchase the ticket, she said.

Then, the show begins with "a whole lot of video and six performers presenting three technically complex stories," Wemus said.

The actors appear on a set that is much like a giant computer screen as the three stories move through the techni-

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empathy.

As the show progresses, the father fails to see the downside and the breakup of his family as he fights to save his financial scheme; the granddaughter dismisses her grandmother's growing senility as she prompts her over a videophone to remember photographs being digitally scanned, and the business traveler resists the relentless questions from customs officials about his private life until he finally gives in and all the details are recorded.

Since its founding in 1994, Weems and The Builders Association have produced 10 large-scale theater pieces that build on each other.

In addition to working on a musical about former Philippines First Lady Imelda Marcos with singers David Byrne and Fatboy Slim, Weems is putting together the next Association production, Invisible Cities about at-risk teenagers in New York's varied communities, she said.

The Builders Association and dbox perform "Super Vision" tomorrow and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Moore Theater. A discussion with company members immediately follows each show. Reserved tickets are $26. Call (603) 646-2422.