

Taos News, September 20, 2002

Extract from article:

"Storytelling is a hit"

"....Storytelling expanded into a full-blown theatrical performance with props, music and dance when Johanna Hongell-Darsee and her musician husband, Scott Darsee, performed the great Finnish mythology cycle. Hongell-Darsee, who was born in Helsinki, Finland, studied theater and mime in Paris, France and Indian dance in India.

Simply dressed in white pants and shirt, wearing a leather anklet with rows of bells, Hongell-Darsee processed up the aisle, playing a silver flute.

On stage, she danced with animal grace, using her whole body to illustrate the story. To transform herself into Louhi, the gap-toothed hag of the North, she drew a shawl and a wooden mask out of her basket and danced to original guitar music that shimmered with the spoken words. Scott Darsee, a retired osteopath, displayed great skill as musician, composer and sound man.

Storytelling is wonderful, enlivening, he said. There is real magic in spoken word. Some cultures believe that when you write them down., you take the breath of life out of them.

Hongell-Darsee ran her own dance and theater company, Theater Bava, in Malmo, Sweden, and has toured throughout Sweden, Europe, and the United States and India.
...."

Phaedra Greenwood