

*Needed: One Haitian Worm*

**W**hen it rains in New York, even voodoo doesn't help.

Thursday night's rain not only kept away much of the potential audience for a concert of Haitian voodoo dancing, it also derailed a third of the troupe. En route to Columbia University to perform at a conference of the International Council for Traditional Music, La Troupe Makandal, normally 15 strong, got lost in the rain. Only 10 performers arrived, but the show went on. Unfortunately, it was a snake dance, not a rain dance.

"In Haiti, you *can* do something to stop the rain," said Frisner Augustin, a master drummer and voodoo initiate. "In one hand you hold salt, and in the other, a Haitian worm. It's very, very hard to do this in New York."