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TRAJAL HARRELL / KAREN BERNARD

Karen Bernard looks like someone you might find sitting next to you at the vet's office, and she utilizes this normalness in raw, emotionally open performances. In a double bill at the Kitchen curated by the downtown choreographer Tere O'Connor, Bernard has a new solo work, "Totally in Love," in which she effectively uses video, audio, and movement—mimicry, realistic actions, social dance—as well as speech to evoke her feelings about the passing of time. "Before Intermission," by the young choreographer Trajal Harrell, is a dreamily cerebral exploration of themes from James Baldwin's novel of sexual identity "Giovanni's Room," in which period costumes, elaborate makeup, and the alienating faux-erotic poses of the fashion runway overlay the languorous movements of an androgynous, seemingly vulnerable figure. (512 W. 19th St. 212-255-5793. Feb. 24-25 at 8.)