

THE KITCHEN VIDEO MUSIC DANCE PERFORMANCE FILM

512 West 19th St. (Btwn 10th & 11th Aves) New York, NY 10011

Reservations: 255-5793

Ishmael Houston-Jones

May 5 - 8, 1988

8:30pm/\$8.00

Contact: Cynthia Hedstrom or Patrick Moore
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The Kitchen presents the premiere of Ishmael Houston-Jones' PROLOGUE TO THE END OF EVERYTHING May 5 through 8. THE END is written, directed and choreographed by Houston-Jones with music composed by Chris Cochrane.

PROLOGUE TO THE END OF EVERYTHING continues Houston-Jones' investigation of the juncture of text, music and dance. The writing is central to the piece - "He wakes up: a wrestler defeated by his own sweaty sheet." While the story continues to follow the erotic adventures of a man mysteriously ensnared in and perhaps contributing to the devastation of a community, the dance and music become non-literal, non-narrative amplifications of and improvisations on the writing.

Ishmael will be joined by performers Trinket Monsod and Anthony Bowman and the musicians Zeena Parkins and Cochrane. Michael Stiller will design lights and the piece will incorporate slides by Robert Flynt.

Ishmael Houston-Jones' previous works have thrust personal and autobiographical material into raw, unresolved social and political contexts. Deborah Jowitt wrote about his piece f/i/s/s/i/o/n/i/n/g: "...Ishmael Houston-Jones dances bitterly, naked, his face covered, to a series of jingoistic country songs . . .slapping his own body until red marks appear. His anger seems curiously private, yet grips us all."

Ishmael Houston-Jones' work has been produced in New York City by the Danspace Project, PS 122, Dance Theater Workshop and previously at The Kitchen. His work has also been presented at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Pepsico Summerfare; in Canada and Nicaragua; and throughout Europe and the United States. In addition to his solo work and frequent collaborations with Fred Holland, with whom he shared a 1984 "Bessie" Award, he has appeared in the work of John Bernd, Ping Chong, Dancenoise, Stephanie Skura and in the John Sayles film "Brother From Another Planet."

Chris Cochrane has been performing for the past five years in and around New York and touring the U.S. with different folk-noise bands and improvisors. He currently plays with two bands "No Safety" and "The Same." In 1985 and '86 he worked with Ishmael Houston-Jones on THEM.

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