



The Kitchen Center  
for Video, Music, Dance,  
Performance, Film & Literature

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**The Kitchen's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**, sponsored by



For immediate release  
Isabelle Deconinck  
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*"Miranda July is like a collecting gravity, a gathering of mesmerizing energy."*—Steve Seid, Pacific Film Archives

## **Miranda July: *The Swan Tool***

**N.Y. Premiere**

**December 5-8 [Wed-Sat] & 12-15 [Wed-Sat] 8pm \$18**

**Post-performance discussion: December 6 [Thu]**

**Excerpts with the artists: December 12 [Wed] 2pm \$5**

After her critically acclaimed *Love Diamond*, 27 year-old maven of live multimedia performance **Miranda July** returns to The Kitchen with the New York premiere of her latest work, *The Swan Tool*. Best described as a "live movie," this 45-minute fable displays breathtaking video and human interactivity, following the existential drama of one woman who cannot decide whether to live or die. July has recently been commissioned to create a sound installation for the 2002 Whitney Biennial, her acclaimed movie *Nest of Tens* will also be included in this show.

In *The Swan Tool*, July portrays a character attempting to lead a normal life after burying herself in her own backyard. With the stage set like a movie screen split horizontally, July stands between the screens seamlessly moving between the realities of above and below ground, excavating the tyranny of doubt. A haunting live score from long time collaborator **Zac Love** completes this humorous and poignant tale of a woman waiting for life on earth to begin.

*The Swan Tool* is co-commissioned by Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and The Rotterdam International Film Festival. Additional support provided by the Media Arts Department, Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University, The Regional Arts and Culture Council and the Oregon Arts Commission.

### **About Miranda July**

**Miranda July** is a 27 year-old multi-media performer and video artist based in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Her videos (*The Amateurist*, *Nest of Tens*, *Getting Stronger Every Day*) have screened internationally at sites such as the M.o.M.A., the Guggenheim Museum, and the International Film Festival

*Over...*

Rotterdam. *Nest of Tens* will be included in the 2002 Whitney Biennial, in addition to a sound installation commissioned for the show. Currently July is touring internationally with *The Swan Tool*, a multi-media performance commissioned by the Rotterdamse Schouwburg, the I.F.F.R., and the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. July's previous multi-media performance, *Love Diamond*, was commissioned by P.I.C.A., and has been performed at sites around the country, closing at The Kitchen in New York.

July has recorded several performance albums, available on the Kill Rock Stars and K record labels. During breaks from her own work, July has directed a video for the all-girl rock band *Sleater Kinney*, made her feature film acting debut in Alison Maclean's *Jesus' Son*, and provided consultation for Wayne Wang's new feature film, *The Center of the World*. In 1995 she founded Joanie 4 Jackie (formerly Big Miss Moviola), a movie distribution network for independent women moviemakers. This project has allowed women of all ages and backgrounds to exchange their movies and give each other support. For the past three years July has collaborated with DJ and sound artist Zac Love; Love has composed live and recorded soundtracks for both the movies and live performances. Today Miranda is hard at work on a feature-length movie that will be produced next year.

For more information on The Kitchen's performance of *The Swan Tool*, visit: [www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org);

For more information on Miranda July, visit: [www.mirandajuly.com](http://www.mirandajuly.com)

**The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street (between 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> avenues). For tickets, call The Kitchen Box Office at 212-255-5793, ext. 11. For press comps or more information, contact Isabelle Deconinck at 212-255-5793, ext. 14.**