

The Kitchen

For Immediate Release

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THE KITCHEN AND PERFORMA PRESENT MARIA HASSABI'S 'PREMIERE' NOVEMBER 6-9

Ensemble Dance Explores the Public Experience and Expectations of the Artistic Premiere Through Five Simultaneous Solos

New York, NY –The Kitchen, in conjunction with Performa 13, will present ***PREMIERE***, a new dance work by **Maria Hassabi**. Equally suggestive of expectation and revelation, *PREMIERE* investigates and amplifies the conditions of an artwork's initial reception. *PREMIERE* brings together a team of five outstanding performers, including **Biba Bell, Andros Zins-Browne, Hristoula Harakas, Robert Steijn, and Hassabi**, with dramaturg **Scott Lyall** and original sound design by **Alex Waterman**.

PREMIERE will take place November 6–9 at 8:00 p.m. at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.thekitchen.org; by phone at 212.255.5793 x11; or in person at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street), Tuesdays – Saturdays, 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.

A premiere is the highly anticipated first meeting between the work—often developed and rehearsed in private—and the public, as both viewer and critic. In *PREMIERE*, Hassabi draws out this experience through impossibly slow movement, demanding that we fix our attention on the intricacies of every shape, shift, and negotiation of space. Across five solos occurring simultaneously onstage, each dancer is implicated by the other's presence and yet defined by the singularity of their varying bodies and dance traditions. *PREMIERE* leads us to consider social pressures and transformative appeal of a premiere, the over-emphasized moment that validates the existence of any creation as a “work of art.”

Over the past ten years, Hassabi has developed a practice involved with the relation of the body to the image—defined by the sculptural physicality and extended duration inherent in her choreography. The presentation of *PREMIERE* marks Hassabi's third performance to be presented at the Kitchen, following *Still Smoking* (2006) and *SHOW* (2011). Hassabi's *SoloShow* (2009) was featured in Performa 09.

About Maria Hassabi

Maria Hassabi is a New York-based director, choreographer and performer. Her works are presented in theaters, museums, art galleries, public spaces, and on film. Throughout her career she's had numerous ongoing collaborations with artists from various disciplines. Hassabi is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts 2009 Grants to Artists Award. In 2012, she received The President's Award for Performing Arts from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and in 2013 she represented The Cyprus Republic as part of 'oO,' the Cyprus and Lithuanian Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale.

Her evening length performances include an 8-hour long live installation *INTERMISSION* (2013), *Counter-Relief* (Kaai 2013), *SHOW* (2011), *Robert and Maria* (2010), *SoloShow* (2009), *Solo* (2009), *GLORIA* (2007), *Still*

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Smoking (2006), *Dead is Dead* (2004) and *LIGHTS* (2001). She has also created several short-form pieces, art installations including *CHANDELIERS* (2012), and recently her first short film, *The Ladies* (2012).

Hassabi's works have been presented at venues in Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States, and have received funding, from The MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital, the Jerome Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, the National Performance Network Creation Fund, LMCC's Extended Life Program, Foundation 2021, and from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund, supported by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by the LMCC.

Funding Credits

Co-presented by The Kitchen and Performa as part of Performa 13. *PREMIERE* is also a co-production of Kunstenfestivaldesarts (Brussels, Belgium), Kaaitheter (Brussels, Belgium), steirischer herbst (Graz, Austria), Dance4 (Nottingham, UK) and is produced with the support of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Extended Life Program. The work has received additional funding from the MAP Fund, the Jerome Foundation, LMCC Manhattan Community Arts Fund and Mertz Gilmore Foundation's Late-Stage Production Stipends.

The Kitchen's presentation of *PREMIERE* is made possible with support from Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and with public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



PERFORMA 13

About The Kitchen

The Kitchen is one of New York City's most forward-looking nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country, and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

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