

T H E K I T C H E N



*The Kitchen Center for Video · Music · Dance
Performance · Film and Literature*

512 West 19th Street
(between 10th and 11th Avenues)

New York City 10011
Telephone [212] 255-5793



*The Kitchen Center
for Video - Music - Dance
Performance - Film and
Literature*

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It is with great pride that I welcome you to experience the strong and passionate work of Blondell Cummings. Blondell was the first artist I worked with when I moved to New York . . . what an auspicious beginning!

And now for a Kitchen update: Despite the recent unexpected cuts from the NEA (\$53,200 that is used for artists' fees and production expenses March to March each year), The Kitchen continues to prevail. Anna Deavere Smith, a renowned artist and new Board member, hosted a benefit performance of her new piece *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992* on April 2 at the Public Theatre. Paula Cooper, Chairman of our Board of Directors, hosted a reception in honor of Anna Deavere Smith at her gallery in SoHo.

This season has been filled with activity. We opened a new video annex called *Kitchenette* at Thread Waxing Space in SoHo. Thread Waxing Space is a vital new visual art and performance space focused on many of the same principles of openness and collaboration that have fueled The Kitchen for 23 years. We look forward to developing a creative partnership with these young visionaries. Please join us at *Kitchenette* on May 17 for the next opening — a video piece by Ken Kobland titled *Flaubert Dreams of Travel But The Illness Of His Mother Prevents It*.

We also spent time refurbishing our two theater spaces. The Harlem Victoria V Theater donated the cushioned seats that were installed in our first floor theater. Our production staff also built a technical booth on the second floor. As many of you already know, we now have a second floor studio theater dedicated to intimate performance and particularly to the development of new work by emerging artists.

Thank you for your support of Blondell Cummings and we hope to see you again here at The Kitchen.

Lauren Amazeen
Lauren Amazeen
Executive Director

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THE KITCHEN
presents

Blondelle: Changing Identities

May 12-15, 1994

*Dedicated to:
Elizabeth Campbell, Sam Dryden, Laura Marchese, and Gilbert Fouchard*

Performers:
Blondell Cummings, John Funk, Kim Grier, Robert Kamp,
Laura Marchese and David Maurice Sharp

Choreography Blondell Cummings
Rehearsal Director Laura Marchese
Lighting Designer Tony Giovannetti
Stage Manager Ellen Bone
Assistant/Intern Jessica Dressner

CHANGING IDENTITIES is made possible through the generous support of the following individuals and foundations: New York State Council on the Arts, Cee Brown, David Byrne, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Estes, Gilbert Fouchard, David Lanier, Adell Lutz, Muriel Manings, James Marles, Larry Steinberg, and The Kitchen.

For The Kitchen:

Program Curator JoAnn Fregalette Jansen
Production Coordinator Cat Domiano
Production Manager Alex Kahn
Technical Director John Frazier

THE KITCHEN WISHES TO THANK JENNIFER TIPTON
FOR HER GIFT OF THE FIRST FLOOR REPERTORY LIGHTING DESIGN.

Relationships: Intimate and Not So Intimate (1991)

Part II - Omadele & Guiseppe (excerpt)

Conceived and Choreographed by Blondell Cummings

Performed by Blondell Cummings and Robert Kamp

Original Music by Lawrence D. "Butch" Morris

Suite for Toy Piano by John Cage (Used by permission of C.F. Peters Corp.)

Bright Sayings by Hasan Bakr

6/8 untitled by Kevin Nathaniel

(*Bright Sayings* and *6/8 untitled* are on the album *Bright Sayings*)

Mbira Music for the year 2010 (produced by Hosho Productions/Marthellar Music)

Text by Mei Mei Bressenberger, Tom Thayer and Blondell Cummings

Costume Design by Katrin Schnabl

Original Lighting Design by Michael Mazzola

Set Design by Power Boothe

This dance theater piece is a portrait of an interracial couple who redefine their identities and come to accept their similarities and differences. While balancing the traditional and emerging values, this relationship reflects the social, political and personal issues of our multicultural society.

Blondell Cummings would like to thank writers Dennis Poplin and Sterling Houston, Keith Terry and Tom Thayer for their contribution to the development of this work.

Intimate, Not So Intimate was originally presented by Cycle Arts Foundation with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from The Harkness Foundations for Dance, Spoleto Festival, Walker Art Center and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Butch Morris' commission for *Omadele & Guiseppe* was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust Foundation.

Slide Credits: *The Finest Photo From the Old Drum*, Prologue by Oswald Mthali, Epilogue by Anthony Sampson; *Africa 1990 - A Continent Emerges*, Eric Baschet; *The Family of Man*, Edward Steachin; *The Family*, M. Mead.

* * * * * INTERMISSION * * * * *

Flash: My Redhead Aunt From Redbank is Missing (1994)

Written, Choreographed and Performed by Blondell Cummings

Lighting Design by Tony Giovannetti

Original Music:

Hokumbe by Tiye Giraud

Visions by Hasan Bakr

Produced by Maythella Music

Flash... is a solo from the Mid-Life Crisis Series. Starting with the focus on menopause, *Flash...* symbolizes and acknowledges the evolution and transitions in one's life, both physically and emotionally.

This project is supported through funding by Creative Time and P.S. 122, and was inspired by The Women of The Menopause Support Group.

For J. B. Act II (1992)

J'ai Deux Amours (excerpts)

Scene 1 Les Annees Folles

Scene 2 La Femme Fatale

Scene 3 Reichsauptstadt Berlin

Performed by Kim Grier, John Funk, Laura Marchese, David Maurice Sharp

Conceived and Directed by Blondell Cummings

with original score by Lester Bowie

performed live by the New York Organ Ensemble

original text by Didier Rousselet

Lighting Design by Tony Giovannetti

Costume Design by Mylene Falloux

For J.B. is a full evening-length work inspired by the spirit and life of Josephine Baker (1906-1975). Ms. Baker was an African American performance artist who became the toast of Paris in the late 1920's and early 1930's, admired for her innovative performance style and bold humanitarianism.

Commissioned and produced by District Curators, Inc. in association with the Cycle Arts Foundation. The creation of *For J.B.* is made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation Alternative Arts Organizations Commissioning Program, and the New York State Council for the Arts and The Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation with additional support from Philip C. Bither of the Flynn Theatre. The commissioning of Lester Bowie was made possible by a grant from Meet The Composer, the Rockefeller Foundation and the AT&T Jazz Program with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Philip L. Graham Fund and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest National Jazz Network, a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts and the National Jazz Service Organization.

Ms. Cummings would like to thank the original cast of *For J.B.*: Christian Canciani, Yvonne Essandoh, Elmar Streeter, Laura Marchese and especially Marcia Plummer, for their creative contributions to the development of the piece.

Harlem on My Mind (1994)

Improv (a work in progress)

Conceived, Choreographed and Performed by Blondell Cummings

Lighting Design by Tony Giovannetti

Harlem on My Mind is an audience interactive improvisational solo about growing up in Harlem. Ms. Cummings invites the audience to assist her creative process by suggesting words or ideas as material for its development. *Harlem on My Mind* will eventually be developed into a full evening-length work.

BLONDELL CUMMINGS (choreographer/performer) was an original member of Meredith Monk/The House and was seen in Philip Glass' *The Photographer - Far From The Truth*, directed by JoAnne Akalaitis. In 1978, Ms. Cummings founded Cycle Arts Foundation. The Foundation is a multi-disciplinary arts collaborative incorporating dance, theater, visual, media and literary arts. This is manifested through workshops, media, and performance.

Ms. Cummings tours extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. She has performed at Lincoln Center, La MaMa ETC, The Joyce Theatre, Dance Theater Workshop, Spoleto Festival, The Public Theater, P.S. 122, and at international festivals in France, Austria, Switzerland, London, Germany. Other solo and group work includes: *The Relationship Series*, *Basic Strategies I* through *V*, *The Art of War*, *Passing Images*, *He Searched From Wall to Wall*, *Food For Thought*, *A Friend I & II*, *The Ladies and Me*, *Cycle*, *Collette*, *3B49*.

Blondell Cummings' work *Commitment - Two Portraits* premiered nationally on "Alive From Off-Center" on PBS in 1988 and was featured on the cover of The New York Times Television Magazine. She was a featured artist in Elle Magazine and was one of the performers highlighted in ADF's "African American Genius of Modern Dance." Michael Blackwood's film "Dancing on the Edge" profiled Ms. Cummings and her work. She is a recipient of numerous fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York Foundation for the Arts, the Jerome Foundation, and a land grant from the Harkness Center Foundation. Ms. Cummings has spent residencies in Japan on grants from the U.S.-Japan Friendship Commission and the Asian Cultural Council.

Currently Ms. Cummings is working on the collaborative project *Women in the Dunes* based on the film and novel of the same title by Kobe Abe. This work is scheduled for Ms. Cummings' New York Season 1995. Japanese dancer Junko Kikuchi will collaborate on the project. The work features music by composer Deidre Murray commissioned by Ms. Cummings through a Meet The Composer grant.

Ms. Cummings has taught extensively throughout the United States and has held numerous international positions. Through USIA, Ms. Cummings has taught and lectured in Japan, the Philippines and Mauritius. In the States, her teaching credits include: Cornell University, NYU, Wesleyan, Hofstra and City College faculty and Lincoln Center Institute for the Performing Arts. Ms. Cummings has conducted numerous dance/theater workshops and residencies at various colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and abroad.

LAURA MARCHESE (rehearsal director/performer) first worked with Blondell on the original development of Act 2 of *For J.B.* in Washington D.C. in March '92. Since then Laura has worked as Rehearsal Director on a subsequent version of the piece at the Flynn Theatre in Vermont and has also enjoyed working with Blondell as Assistant Choreographer on the *Like Family* project in residency at Duke University in North Carolina and at Hofstra University. Other credits include The Janet Gerson Dance Company, The Doris Humphrey Repertory Dance Company (soloist), and the companies of Pearl Lang and Lynn Parkerson. Laura's choreography has been seen in NY at the 92nd Street Y, Soundance, SUNY Purchase, The Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance, and in residencies in upstate NY and Long Island. Other recent choreography includes *Coed Prison Sluts: The Musical* which ran for 14 months in the West Village, and *Unaccompanied*, the first collaboration of Laura and fellow company member David M. Sharp. Laura teaches at the Dance Center at the 92nd Street Y, and lives in NYC with her husband Michael.

JOHN FUNK (performer) was born in Pennsylvania and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He attended California Institute of the Arts on scholarship and currently lives in New York City. He has danced four seasons with the Los Angeles Chamber Ballet and was nominated for a Lester Horton Dance Award for his performance in Laurence Blake's *Tunnel*. He has performed with J. Fregalette Jansen Dance at The Kitchen in New York City and with Blondell Cummings *For J.B.* at the Flynn Theatre in Vermont. Musical theater credits include *Kiss Me Kate* at Augusta Opera and *The Music Man* at the Fiesta Dinner Playhouse. He performed the role of Orion, a dog in Broadway Arts' production of *Somebody Come and Play* and recently played the role of Big Deal in Virginia Opera's *West Side Story*.

KIM GRIER (Josephine Baker) is a native New Yorker who received her BFA in Dance from the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. She has worked with the East/West Repertory Ensemble, Soundance, Consort Dance Co., Inner Pulsations Dance Theatre, Danny Sloan Dance Co., Wyllyams Dance Co., David Rousseve and Dancers, and Forces of Nature. Her television credits include *City Lights*, *Visions*, and *Evening Magazine*. Besides her featured solo work with RRDC and her role as director in the Rodgers' Co. Performing Workshop, Kim is on staff at the Harlem School of the Arts and a member of the resident company RAE Dance. She also choreographed an Off-Broadway production *The Dark Star from Harlem*, and made her debut at The Metropolitan Opera House as a principal dancer in George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, choreographed by Carmen de Lavallade, and is currently studying with Tee Ross and Milton Meyers.

ROBERT KAMP (Guiseppe) grew up in Nebraska where he started dancing at the age of 5. After receiving his BFA in Dance from Stephens College. Bob spent three years in Philadelphia Civic Ballet and various independent choreographers including Lucas Hoving. He then spent a year in Pittsburgh dancing with the Dance Alloy with whom he toured Eastern Europe. He has performed in many musicals and outdoor theaters. He would like to thank his wife Patti and his family for all of their constant love and support.

DAVID MAURICE SHARP (performer) was in Burlington VT last summer with Blondell Cummings working on *For J.B.* He has also danced for Lucinda Childs, Sean Curran, Mimi Garrard, Rachel Lampert, Heidi Latsky, Lonnie Moreton, and Anna Sokolow among others. David holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and is currently collaborating with fellow company member Laura Marchese.

ELLEN E. BONE (stage manager) has stage managed for Jonathon Hollander and Battery Dance Company here in New York, and had the unique experience of accompanying Chandrasekhar Nrityashree Dance Company on their United States premiere tour. She is also known in dance and theater for her lighting designs.

TONY GIOVANNETTI (lighting designer) designed the lighting for Blondell Cummings' piece *Cycle* many years ago and finds this completion to be interesting as well as satisfying. Most recently he has designed lights for Sara Pearson at DTW, Ann Carlson at The Joyce, and new work with Meredith Monk at Merkin Hall and P.S. 122. He has worked for many years with Dancing in the Streets doing their site-specific events, lastly Martha Bowers' epic dance work on the Red Hook Piers. He works at the Metropolitan Opera as Electric Consultant head, involved in new productions, scenery and special effects construction, and scenery automation.

MICHAEL MAZZOLA (lighting designer) is the 1992 recipient of the New York Dance and Performance Awards in the Visual Design Category in the field of Lighting Design. His lighting can be seen in the repertoires of the Bebe Miller Company, Blondell Cummings, Southern Ballet Theatre, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Bill Young and Dancers, Yoshiko Chuma and the School of Hard Knocks, Irene Hultman and the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble among others.

BLONDELL CUMMINGS WOULD LIKE TO THANK all of the many foundations and individuals listed above and also the following individuals and organizations for their contributions:

W.A. Brower, Bob Daughtry, Sylvie Chazelle, Le Neon French American Theatre Company, The French and Italian Embassies, Movement Research, David Parsons and Co., Lisa McLaughlin, Ann Greene, Maggie and David McGovern, Francoise Buzau, Anne and Susan Weinberg, Denise Lucconi, Laurence Louppe, Art and Services (Paris), Patrick Bensard and the Dance Cinematheque (Paris), the American Center in Paris, Henry Pillbury, Robert Crane, Patti Ross, Penny Dannenberg, Warren Rubin, Valerie Combard, the Cummings Family, Philipa Wells, Sam Miller, Dan Wagner Studio, Nicholas Pepin, Robert Priessler, John Regen, Marjorie Sommerall and the students and faculty of the George Mason University Dance Department, Dance Place, WPTW-FM, Joe Diehl, Reel Diehl Audio, Alice Ferrula, Cliff Mathis and Christine, Amy Miller, Mary Meyers, Amy Schwartzman, Valeria Vasilevski, Rose Tillison, Jo Long, Jumpstart Theatre, Colorado Dance Festival, Janet Osgood, Jed Wheeler, Marda Kern, Felicia Dryden, Nigel Redden, John Killacky, Erwin Ackerman, Ed Saltzman, Gary and Beth Halby, Richard York, Orrin Hein, Judith Jackson, Cee Brown, Sandy McLeod, Janet Clark, Victoria Bugbee, Bill Warrell and District Curators, The New York Foudation for the Arts, and The Kitchen.

CYCLE ARTS FOUNDATION

The creative direction of Ms. Cummings and Cycle Arts Foundation is to use the collaborative artistic/creative processes to explore contemporary issues that are cross-cultural in scope. The foundation is a multi-disciplinary arts collaborative incorporating dance, theater, visual, media and literary arts. This is manifested through workshops, media, and performances. Cycle Arts Foundation is a project-oriented organization which focuses on the concerns of both the artist and the audience in a personal and intimate way. Special acknowledgement goes to Madeline Keller for her initial inspiration.

Over the past sixteen years Ms. Cummings and Cycle Arts have collaborated with artists, writers, composers, film and videomakers including Jamaica Kincaid, Jessica Hagedorn, Mei Mei Bressenberger, George Lewis, Lester Bowie, Michael Reisman, Lawrence "Butch" Morris, Diedre Murray, David Bordon, Carol Bavosso, Ann Greene, Keith Terry, Patricia Jones, Tangent Agent, Phillip Mallory Jones, Joseph Giordano, Power Boothe, John Wu and many more.

To celebrate Cycle Arts Foundation's sixteenth anniversary, Ms. Cummings is developing a new piece on Mid-Life Crisis "Flashes," beginning with menopause. This brings Cycle Arts Foundation full circle since the Foundation's first project was about the menstrual cycle. An on-going community collaborative entitled "Like Family" was begun six years ago on a Lila Wallace grant in conjunction with Duke University. Ms. Cummings envisions the work as a sprawling collaborative which changes and takes on the regional characteristics on the locale where Ms. Cummings holds "Like Family" projects. Through workshops, performance, panel discussions and family albums/portraits, the participants define what "family" means to them.

BOARD MEMBERS: Blondell Cummings, Hilda Davis, Samuel Dryden, Amy Schwartzman, Warren Rubin

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Blondell Cummings

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Victoria Bugbee PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: Gilbert Fouchard

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

Cycle Arts Foundation, Victoria Bugbee, 1336 First Avenue, New York, NY 10021
212-861-4305, Fax: 212-772-8713

Cycle Arts Foundation (CAF) is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts, a not-for-profit organization. Contributions to CAF are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The Kitchen Wish List

The Kitchen is currently looking for generous individuals to contribute to its efforts in presenting emerging contemporary artforms. The Kitchen is unable to purchase many items which would greatly enhance its facilities, and allow us to continue presenting high-quality productions. To this extent, we ask for your assistance in collecting the following materials:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| theatrical supplies | volt meter | washing machine |
| theatre seats | photocopier | dryer |
| handtruck | IBM or Macintosh computers | poster frames |
| van or other vehicle | computer software | carpeting/rugs |
| pianos/synthesizers | video/audio equipment | spiral staircase |
| light fixtures/bulbs | video/audio tapes | a marquee or banner |
| fluorescent tubes | DAT machines/tapes | new sidewalk |
| upright vacuum | CD players | trees for front sidewalk |
| paint | cassette decks | office furniture/supplies |
| power and hand tools | industrial cappuccino maker | kitchen supplies |
| nuts, bolts, nails, etc. | oven | jars of pennies |

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact Josie Caporuscio at (212) 255-5793. Of course, cash donations are also greatly appreciated. All contributions, both donated items and cash, are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Upcoming Kitchen Events:

"Flaubert Dreams of Travel But The Illness Of His Mother Prevents It"

film/video work by Ken Kobland and The Wooster Group

Tuesdays-Saturdays, May 17-June 11, 10am-6pm, at Kitchenette

(Kitchenette is located at Thread Waxing Space, 476 Broadway between Broome and Grand)

Opening Reception: May 17, 6-8pm

Motherhead Bug and Sulfur

Tuesday, May 17, 10pm

The Kitchen, 2nd floor

David Dorfman Dance

Thursday-Saturday, May 19-22, 8:30pm

The Kitchen, 1st floor

New Music Consort

Saturday, June 4, 8:00pm

The Kitchen, 1st floor

Dogs of Desire

Friday-Saturday, June 10-11, 8:00pm

The Kitchen, 1st floor