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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents a new performance by Koosil-ja

New York, NY, November 7, 2006, 2006- The Kitchen presents *Dance Without Bodies*, a new, commissioned, dance and multi-media performance by Bessie award-winning choreographer Koosil-ja that questions the fundamental role of “presence” in performance and forges new relationships among dancers, technologies, and the audience. The performances will take place at **The Kitchen (512 W. 19th Street)** on **December 6-9 (Wed-Sat), 2006 at 8pm**. Tickets are **\$12**.

In this new work, two dancers move between the space of the stage and that of video projections, performing simultaneous yet spatially disconnected solos for an audience seated in two separate areas, situated back-to-back in the theater. Created through her “live processing” performance method, which she developed with dancer **Melissa F. Guerrero** and **Geoff Matters** (music, video, and software design), the performance is different each night, as the movement in the work is neither strictly set choreography nor pure improvisation. Rather, the dancers generate their solos nightly, in real-time, in response to the action depicted on three different videos, which are randomly combined each evening on clustered sets of monitors. The piece also includes lighting design by **Jane Shaw**, video design by **Benton-C Bainbridge**, and graphic design by **Pascale Willi**.

BIOGRAPHIES:

Koosil-ja Hwang was born in Osaka, Japan of Korean parentage. After moving to New York in 1981 to study dance with Merce Cunningham, she became a member of the Wendy Perron Dance Company from 1987 to 1989. Koosil-ja has received five National Endowment for the Arts Choreographer Fellowships and two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships. She has provided residency activities at Harvestworks in NYC, The Yard in Martha's Vineyard, the American Dance Festival in Durham, NC, and in Mexico through the National Endowment for the Arts' International Program and the Mexican government. Her work has been presented in New York by such venues as the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center; The Kitchen; La MaMa E.T.C.; Aaron Davis Hall; Performance Space 122; The Performing Garage; Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church; Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors; Central Park SummerStage; Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria; and LMCC's Swing Space. Nationally, she has been presented by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; The Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA; Dance Umbrella, Austin, TX; Diverseworks, Houston, TX; Jumpstart, San Antonio, TX; Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN; American Dance Festival, Durham, NC; the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. International touring has included performances at the European Dance Development Center and Schowburg in Arnhem, The Netherlands; The Rieti International Festival in Rieti, Italy; among others. Koosil-ja has also worked with the Wooster Group for several years, touring with North Atlantic and *To You the Birdie!* (Phedre). In September 2004, Koosil-ja received a New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award in Choreography for *mech[a]*, *OUTPUT*, and *deadmandancing EXCESS*. The Japan Society in New York City will present *Mech[a]OUTPUT*, a digital opera, in June 2007. Koosil-ja also creates and performs music. In 1984, she co-founded the band Boshō as a percussionist and vocalist and toured over thirty cities in Europe and Japan. She also performed as a percussionist with Takehisha Kosugi, Fast Forward, and as an electronic bass player and samplist with David Linton and Mimi Goese; she currently performs solo electronic music with her laptop at various venues nationally and internationally. Her composition, *Like Us*, was released on the Agriculture Record label from New York in 2002.

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Benton-C Bainbridge is a Bronx-based artist who has worked with video as a painterly and performable medium for nearly 25 years. Using custom digital, analog and optical systems, Benton-C makes movies as a dialog in an emerging global language. Currently, he is co-designing (with Stephan Moore) "Vidymis", a hybrid analog/digital audiovisual synthesis instrument, making "Dialed In", an audiovisual DVD album with Bobby Previte, and teaching the first VJ class for New York City's Department of Education.

Melissa Guerrero began classical dance training at a young age in Rockland County, NY. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, she has performed with Olase Freeman and Grace Jun in various hip hop-inspired collaborations, as well as with Kirstie Simson, Jenni Hong and Julie Ludwick, among others. Melissa deepens her experience of the body through yoga practice, weekly Contact Improvisation jams, and seated meditation at the Shambhala Center.

Geoff Matters uses his own software "GDAM" along with innovative homemade and repurposed physical controllers in live and interactive music performances, under his real name or the aliases GeoffGDAM and Lance Blisters. As a founder of the Share forum—an open jam for audio and video artists—he helps provide a weekly opportunity to explore developments in live, collaborative, and experimental art, as well as a venue for performances by local and touring artists. As Lance Blisters, he performs LIVE Jungle, Breakcore, Punk, and Noise using MIDI Guitar and Microphone, and custom software to create cutup political anthems - a new and unique blend of songwriting, live performance, and electronic music. Geoff has performed in America and Europe at such venues as Baktun, Openair, Remote Lounge, The Kitchen, Chashama, and the Knitting Factory, and in festivals including Electroluxe (US), Phonotaktik (US), Transfert (US, France), and Mixology (US). Geoff has composed and performed music and video for several dance pieces by koosil-ja/dance KUMIKOKIMOTO, including mech[a] (2003) deadmandancing EXCESS (2004), public sleep/Sleepover (2004, 2005) and Live Processing (2006). He received a commission from the American Music Center's Live Music for Dance Program for *Dance Without Bodies*. Other grants include the Experimental Television Center and Meet The Composer.

Dance without Bodies is made possible with support from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Swing Space program and The Fund for Creative Communities, The Greenwall Foundation, Experimental Television Center Presentation Fund and Finishing Fund, Meet The Composer Creative Connections, The Jerome Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The American Music Center Live Music for Dance program, and The Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund.

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ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. 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.

Box Office Information:
212.255. 5793 x 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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