



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

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The Kitchen's 30th Anniversary Season, sponsored by



UPDATE: REVISED SCHEDULE FOR LOGIC OF THE BIRDS

September 18, 2001

Dear Friends of The Kitchen:

After last Tuesday's tragedy, *Logic of the Birds*' creative team (Iranian-born artists Shoja Azari, Sussan Deyhim, Ghasem Ebrahimian and Shirin Neshat) were distressed and conflicted about whether or not to perform the work at this time. Although shocked and deeply saddened, they feel strongly that performing this humanistic work is a very important part of the healing process. In the face of mounting ignorance and prejudice, we at The Kitchen believe that it is more important than ever to support artists whose work represents their own culture in their own voices.

Logic of the Birds' opening has been postponed from Tuesday, October 2nd to FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5th. The proceeds of the opening night will be donated to the Kitchen's local fire department (Engine Company No. 3), who lost five men. Two performances have been added on Monday and Tuesday, October 15th & 16th.

Logic of the Birds will be dedicated to the men and women whose lives were lost in the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Elise Bernhardt
Director of The Kitchen

RoseLee Goldberg
Executive Producer of *Logic of the Birds*

REVISED SCHEDULE:

Shoja Azari, Sussan Deyhim, Ghasem Ebrahimian, and Shirin Neshat:

Logic of the Birds (Phase One)

Opening: October 5 [Fri] 8pm

Run: October 6 [Sat] 8pm, October 10, 12 & 13 [Wed, Fri & Sat] 8pm

October 15 & 16 [Mon & Tues] 8pm \$20

Visual artist/filmmaker: **Shirin Neshat**
Performance artist/composer: **Sussan Deyhim**
Filmmaker: **Ghasem Ebrahimian**
Writer/filmmaker: **Shoja Azari**
Art director: **Shahram Karimi**
Co-produced by **The Kitchen** and **RLG Productions**
Executive producer: **RoseLee Goldberg**

Acclaimed visual artist **Shirin Neshat** and composer **Sussan Deyhim** collaborate with their long time artistic partners, filmmaker **Ghasem Ebrahimian** and writer **Shoja Azari**, in the multimedia project *Logic of the Birds*. Fusing film with live performance

and music, *Logic of the Birds* explores the tradition of 12th century Persian mysticism and its relationship to contemporary Iranian society. Loosely based on the writings of Attar and other poets, it follows one woman's journey of self-discovery—her attempt to break free from the religious and political realities of her country and her “flight” into an imaginary, spiritual world that is entirely her own. All text is set to music and sung (in Farsi) by Sussan Deyhim, embodying the main character.

With *Logic of the Birds*, the artistic team brings the breathtaking choreography of their film into three-dimensional space. Combining the sensuality of cinema and the drama of theater, this project features one panoramic screen focusing on the woman's fantastical journey and two side panels following the oppressive movements of an anonymous crowd. The stage operates as the meeting point between the two antagonists and as the journey unfolds, the film turns from black and white to color. The film includes a cast of one hundred, extended by thirty live performers. With Sussan Deyhim as a pivotal figure both on stage and screen, *Logic of the Birds* blurs the boundaries between film and theater, becoming a seamless journey into an infinite mirror.

TV DINNER No. 11: *Logic of the Birds* (Phase One)
October 11 [Thu] 6pm \$25 (includes dinner) Reservation required
Moderator: RoseLee Goldberg, Curator and Art Historian

TV Dinner offers a unique opportunity for the public to meet the four collaborators of *Logic of the Birds* (Phase One) over large-screen video showings and a vegetarian buffet. **Shirin Neshat, Sussan Deyhim, Shoja Azari and Ghasem Ebrahimian** speak about their first venture into live performance, the magic of their collaboration, mysticism and futurism, and the inherent conflicts in contemporary Islamic culture as viewed from abroad.

KITCHEN ART GALLERY:

Paintings and drawings for *Logic of the Birds* by **Shahram Karimi**.

Logic of the Birds (Phase One) was commissioned by The Kitchen, Walker Art Center, Artangel (London) and RLG Productions. This performance is made possible with support from the Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund, and with public funds from the New York State Council for the Arts, a state agency. Additional support was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts for a partnership between The Kitchen and MASS MoCA, as well as The Peter Norton Family Foundation, The Roy and Niuta Titus Foundation, The Soudavar Memorial Foundation and individual contributors. *Logic of the Birds* is also a sponsored project of the New York Foundation for the Arts.

About the artists:

Iranian-born **Shoja Azari** is a writer, film director and actor. In 1998, he played the lead role in Shirin Neshat's video installation, *Turbulent*. Since then, he has co-edited and co-written several films with Neshat as well as created three films of his own, *The Story of the Merchant and the Indian Parrot*, *Married Couple*, and *The Penal Colony*. Azari is a graduate of Hunter College.

Composer, vocalist and performance artist **Sussan Deyhim** is known for her hypnotic vocals layered against complex electronic backgrounds of rhythmic patterns and percussive effects. Born in Teheran, Deyhim began her creative work as a ballet and folk dancer at Tehran's Pars National Ballet, and studied and performed with Maurice Bejart's Ballet of the Twentieth Century in Brussels for almost 4 years before moving to New York. With Richard Horowitz, she produced numerous albums and film scores, including *Desert Equations-Azax/Attrax* and *Majoun* on Sony Classical—a unique synthesis of traditional Middle Eastern music with cutting edge electronic music. Deyhim's multi dimensional collaborations include appearances as a soloist with Ornette Coleman, Bobby McFerrin's vocal ensemble, Bill Laswell Peter Gabriel,

Talvin singe Jah Wobble and Jean Paul Goode and Heiner Goebells, Adrian Sherwood and Keith Leblanc. Her last releases include a solo albums, *Madman of God: The Divine Love Songs of the Persian Sufi Masters*, and *Turbulent*, featuring music created for Shirin Neshat's 35mm double screen installation. Her recent appearance at Montreux Jazz festival 2001 took the European press by storm, as well as central park summer stage, royal festival hall and the barbican theatre in London. Her music was featured in the Bitstreams exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Deyhim's upcoming projects include a new remix album produced by Bill Laswell and a collaboration with Robert Lepage and Peter Gabriel's new project *Zulu Times* in the spring of 2002 in London, and a new electronic opera currently in progress.

Iranian born writer, director and cinematographer **Ghasem Ebrahimian** came to New York to study filmmaking and graduated from SUNY at Purchase in 1979. In 1980, he co-founded Ebradfilms, which produced over forty documentaries for RAI-Italian and French Television, including works on Simone de Beauvoir, Richard Burton, Marguerite Yourcenar and Luciel Lortel, the Queen of Off Broadway. His feature-length film, *The Suitors*, was an Official Selection at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival - Director's Fortnight. In 1992 he served as director of photography for the French Television's coverage of the World Cup in Dallas, Texas, as well as for the 1992 US elections. He has taught filmmaking at School of the Visual Arts in New York City, and since 1997, has collaborated with Shirin Neshat on filmed video installations. Currently, Ebrahimian is developing *The Blind Owl*, a feature film based on a novel by Iranian writer S. Hedayat.

Iranian born visual artist **Shirin Neshat** has gained wide acclaim for her explosive work in photography, film, and video installations dealing with feminism, representation of the veil, and the interaction between traditional and modern values. Neshat is the winner of numerous awards, including the Grand Prix of the Kwangju Biennial in Korea (2000), the Golden Lion Award, and the First International Prize at the 48th Venice Biennial (1999). Her photographs and videos have been included in recent exhibitions at the Kunsthalle Wien, The Serpentine Gallery, The Wexner Center for Arts, The Art Institute of Chicago, SITE Santa Fe, the Tate Gallery, the Centre d'Art Contemporain, and Franklin Furnace in New York. She has been included in numerous international exhibitions such as the Whitney Biennial, Biennial of Sydney, Lyon Biennial, and Carnegie International. She has participated in film festivals such as the San Francisco Film Festival, the Rotterdam Film Festival, and the Telluride Film Festival, and last year she served as a jury member for the Locarno Film Festival. Neshat has received critical acclaim in publications such as *The New York Times*, *Art Forum*, *Bomb Magazine*, *Flash Art*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Le Monde* and *Art News*. In May and June of 2001, Neshat was featured at the Barbara Gladstone Gallery in New York, presenting three new single-channel films, including *Passage*, a collaboration with composer Philip Glass. *Passage* was shown as part of Lincoln Center's 2001 Summer Festival.

RoseLee Goldberg, author, art historian, critic and curator, pioneered the study of Performance Art with her book *Performance Art from Futurism to the Present*, first published in 1979 and now (in its third edition, 2001) considered the seminal textbook on the subject. Born in Durban, South Africa, Goldberg studied Politics and Fine Arts at Rand University, and Art History at the Courtauld Institute in London. She was director of the Royal College of Art Gallery in London before moving to New York and becoming curator at The Kitchen, where she initiated a video viewing room, a gallery and a performance series, including reconstructions of early performance and analysis of performance history, which established The Kitchen as the foremost institution worldwide for the study and presentation of multi-media. In 1990 Goldberg organized *Six Evenings of Performance* as part of the acclaimed exhibition, *High and Low: Modern Art and Popular Culture* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Goldberg has taught at New York University since 1987, and is a frequent contributor to *Artforum* and other magazines. Her books include *Performance Since 1960* (1998) and *Laurie Anderson* (2000).

The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th and 11th Avenues). For The Kitchen Box Office, call 212-255-5793, ext. 11. For press tickets or more information, call Isabelle Deconinck at 212-244-5793, ext. 14.