

For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *Wicked Clown Love*,
A new performance work by artist Neal Medlyn
Thursday – Saturday, February 2 – 4**

New York, NY, December 20, 2011 – From Thursday to Saturday, February 2 – 4, The Kitchen presents *Wicked Clown Love*, a new work from performance artist Neal Medlyn. The sixth in Medlyn’s ongoing pop star series, *Wicked Clown Love* is built around the music and culture of hip-hop duo Insane Clown Posse, their devoted fan base the Juggalos, and other forms of male bonding and ritual. Starring Medlyn, **Carmine Covelli, **Farris Craddock** and others, the piece features design by **Madeline Best** (lighting), **Kathleen Hanna** (set) and **Larry Krone** (costume). Performances will take place at **8:00 PM** at The Kitchen (**512 West 19th Street**). Tickets are **\$15**.**

Wicked Clown Love is Neal Medlyn’s dark specter version of the Insane Clown Posse (ICP) world, incorporating influences ranging from the writings of Mythopoetic Men’s Movement figure Robert Bly, especially his popular book *Iron John: A Book About Men* and his analysis of Grimm’s fairy tales, to visual design elements that reference dollar store displays, haunted houses, and the TV show *COPS*. In addition to their infamous clown face painting and the Juggalos, ICP is known for a type of Midwestern, underground, hardcore rap laced with horror film references called *horrorcore*. Medlyn’s show will feature rap and spoken word, terror and horror, male bonding activities like flashlight wrestling, Faygo showers, clown love and more.

Until now, Medlyn’s pop star series has included shows about mainstream recording artists like Lionel Richie, Phil Collins, Prince and Britney Spears. *Wicked Clown Love* explores his interest in regional cultural phenomena, particularly the Gathering of the Juggalos, ICP’s yearly festival, at which legions of fans assemble for a raucous weekend of male bonding, music, and carnivalesque spectacle. Medlyn went to the Gathering in 2011 with longtime collaborator Farris Craddock to research this show and, to his surprise, enjoyed himself. He found a kinship between the “damaged nerds” he met there and the odd young men he grew up surrounded by in East Texas. Additionally, he found connections in the intense revivalist feeling present at the festival to the ones he experienced as child in a family of traveling preachers.

In this show, Medlyn uses what he saw and heard at the Gathering – the misogynistic lyrics, constant nudity, unsanctioned fireworks, etc – and learned from extensive research into ICP and its followers. He utilizes his childhood love of hip-hop and sampling to transform selections from ICP’s seven albums. His renditions are complete remakes of the songs, and include samples from the music of conflicted male songwriters like Dan Fogelberg.

Neal Medlyn is a performance artist who has been creating a series of pop star/music-based performance pieces over the last several years in New York and on tour in the U.S. and Europe. There have been five previous works in the series: Neal Medlyn's *Lionel Richie Opera* (Ars

Nova), *Coming in the Air Tonight* (Galapagos Art Space), *Unpronounceable Symbol* (PS122), *...Her's a Queen* (Dance Theater Workshop) and *Brave New Girl* (Chocolate Factory). His work has been presented by the above institutions and organizations as well as the New Museum for Contemporary Art (*The Neal Medlyn Experience Live*, a faithful reenactment of a Beyoncé concert DVD), the Andy Warhol Museum, Joe's Pub, the TBA Festival, the Fusebox Festival, Duckie (UK), as well as in Canada, Australia and Berlin.

He collaborates with a wide range of other artists. In the past he has worked with Karen Finley, Adam Horowitz of the Beastie Boys (*Neal & Bridget Are F**king*, and *Adam is Watching* at Le Poisson Rouge) and more. Along with Kenny Mellman and Bridget Everett, Medlyn is a co-creator and co-host of *Our Hit Parade*, the very popular monthly show at Joe's Pub, which has been named among the top cabaret shows in New York for three years. He is also active in the dance community as a dancer and a Bessie Award-winning sound designer, working with artists Miguel Gutierrez, Adrienne Truscott and David Neumann, among others. For more information, go to www.nealmedlyn.com.

Madeline Best designs dances, installations, lighting and video and is the production manager at the Chocolate Factory. Best graduated from Bennington College, grew up in Durham, NC, and currently lives in Brooklyn. She has designed lights for Beth Gill, RoseAnne Spradlin, Heather Kravas, luciana achugar's Bessie Award-winning *PURO DESEO*, Neal Medlyn, Milka Djordjevic/Chris Peck and Len Jenkin. Performance experience includes work on The Chocolate Factory Theater's 2010 Resident Project, *Selective Memory* with Brian Rogers, as well as work with choreographer Juliana May/MayDance. Other production and technical management experience includes Doug Elkins and Friends Fraulein Maria, The American Dance Festival, David Ferri, Eiko & Koma, Nick Brooke/The Cabinet, Parsons Dance, Big Art Group and more.

Carmine Covelli is a Brooklyn-based performer, musician, and filmmaker. He is the drummer for Kathleen Hanna's band The Julie Ruin, which is currently recording an album that will be released sometime in 2012. He has appeared in several of Medlyn's productions including *Brave New Girl* (The Chocolate Factory), *...Her's A Queen* (DTW), *Unpronounceable Symbol* (PS122), *Coming In The Air Tonight!* (Galapagos) and *R.I.P. Steven "Baby" Medlyn* (InterArts Annex). He is also co-directing a feature length documentary with Adam Horowitz about New Yorker art critic Peter Schjeldahl.

Farris Craddock has been in and seen more of Neal Medlyn's performances than anyone else on Earth. He appeared in early works in Austin; Portland, Oregon; Medlyn's *...Her's a Queen* at DTW; and *Brave New Girl* at the Chocolate Factory; and in a special performance in Berlin where fireworks were set off inside an apartment. He was also a founding member of My Sisters' Prom, a noise band popular in rural East Texas. This past summer, Craddock attended the 12th annual Gathering of the Juggalos this summer with Medlyn. He has been abroad teaching English in Busan, South Korea for the last year.

Kathleen Hanna is a New York City-based artist best known for her groundbreaking performances as a member of the seminal '90s punk band Bikini Kill, and her more recent multi-media group, Le Tigre. She is currently making art, giving lectures and writing a new album with her band The Julie Ruin, a renewed solo project originating from Hanna's 1997 solo album entitled *Julie Ruin*. For more information, go to www.kathleenhanna.com or www.thejulieruin.com.

Larry Krone's costume designs have been a part of his larger body of visual and performance work since 1996. His costumes have been displayed at galleries and museums including the Whitney Museum-Philip Morris branch, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Contemporary Museum Baltimore and White Columns, NY. In 2010, Krone started House of Larréon, creating custom gowns and stage costumes for dynamic downtown performers including Bridget Everett, Kenny Mellman, Neal Medlyn, Adrienne Truscott, Jenn Harris, Amy G. and Childrens of Love, his own cabaret act with partner Jim Andralis. For more information, go to www.larrykrone.com.

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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 ext. 11

Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen

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