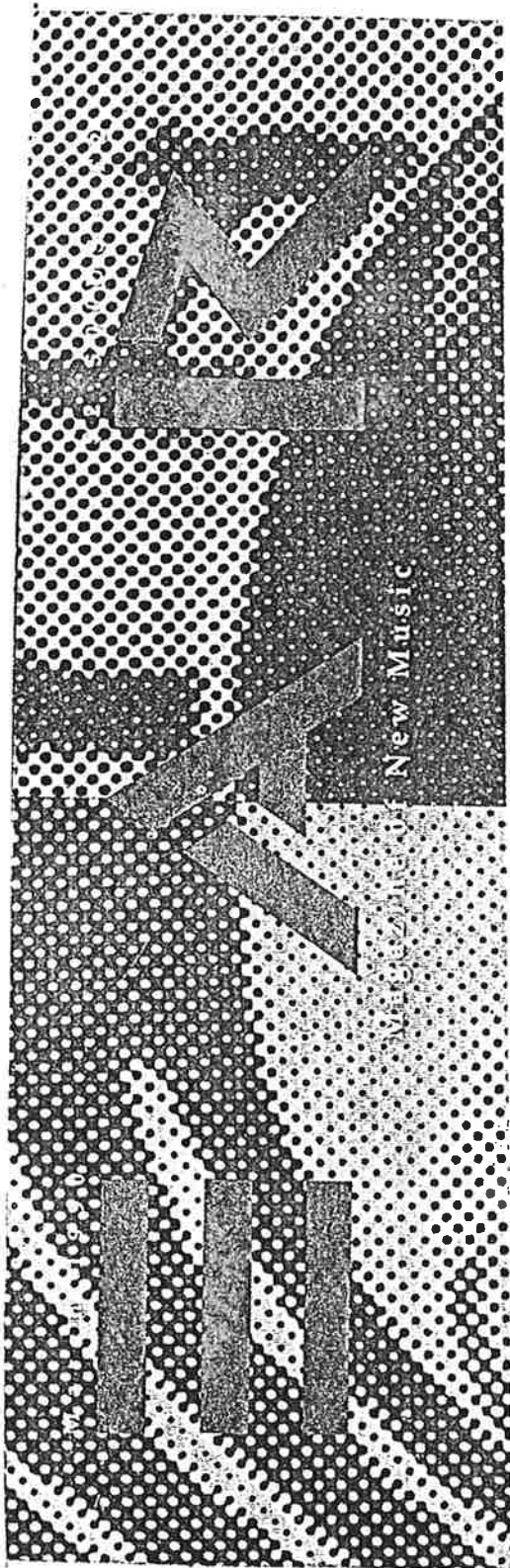


# THE KITCHEN VIDEO MUSIC DANCE PERFORMANCE FILM

512 West 19th St. (Btwn 10th & 11th Aves) New York, NY 10011

Reservations: 255-5793



## PREVIEW

### *THE GUN IS LOADED*

Written and performed by Lydia Lunch

Directed by Merrill Aldighieri  
and Joe Tripician

Music by J. G. Thirlwell

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LYDIA LUNCH IS NOT A GENTLE SOUL. IN *The Gun Is Loaded*, a well-crafted video of her solo performance piece, Lunch proceeds from her initial thesis—"It's all about getting fucked"—through a tortuous labyrinth of corollaries ("I started out trying to write the story of my life, but it was so full of shit . . ."). Political invective is mixed up with harrowing personal biography.

Burdened with a sincere (yet histrionic) misanthropy, grim with hackneyed nihilism, Lunch's monologue probes emotional and economic despairs of embattled denizens of New York. One could hope for a more optimistic framing of things; but Lunch aims for rage or catharsis, not uplift. *The Gun Is Loaded* is credible more for its soul-searching, its topography of angst, than for the dim coherence of its cultural formulations. Connoisseurs of the zone where sincerity borders the obnoxious may appreciate this work in its premier public screening at The Kitchen, April 16 at 8:30pm.

(37 minutes. Available from Co-Directions, Inc., 276 Riverside Dr., 4C, New York, NY 10025; VHS or Beta)

—David Raphael Israel