

The Kitchen

Center for video, music, dance, performance, film, and literature

Fall 2016 Season

Upcoming Fall 2016

Sondra Perry: *Resident Evil* November 2–December 10.

In 1971, Sun Ra said “Black people need a mythocracy, not a democracy because they’ll never make it in history.... Truth is not permissible for me to use because I’m not righteous and holy, I’m evil, that’s because I’m black and I’m not subscribed to any types of righteousness.” Perry’s new video examines this active disinterest in the respectability that blackness has been perpetually asked to earn by white culture. Using the lens of the *Alien* movie franchise—one which has been providing allegories of colonialism and mutability for decades—Perry’s work asks: how do agents of power behave when their subjects become absolutely unpredictable, fluidly inhabiting societal norms in order to destroy them? Curated by Lumi Tan.

Steven Reker: *Mixtape Exchange* December 10, 7–9PM. FREE.

The Mixtape Exchange is a gathering for all music lovers, nerds, makers, and freaks. Craft a special mix of the music you are currently listening to and put it on a cassette, CD, download link, or thumb drive and bring it to The Kitchen. The exchange is set up so that you will not know who you are going to be trading with! Steven Reker hosts and DJs as you mingle with fellow music enthusiasts, have a drink, and take home some new tunes.

Synth Nights: Blondes, James Campbell, and I.U.D. December 15, 8PM. \$10.

This *Synth Nights* triple bill brings Blondes, James Campbell, and I.U.D. together to celebrate the release of their record *Wade Guyton Kunsthalle Zürich*, an album featuring their performances at the Swiss institution in 2013. The record will be available for sale during the performance. The 4 LP vinyl record also serves as a catalog for the Kunsthalle Zürich exhibition, and includes a double gatefold that unfolds into a model of the Guyton installation.

Upcoming Winter 2017

Philippe Quesne: *La Mélancolie des dragons* January 10–14, 8PM. \$25.

A band of longhaired metalheads decide that the snowy forest where their hatchback has stalled might be the perfect location to build a new heavy metal-themed amusement park. A helpful stranger is invited into their world of classic rock, medieval recorders, and large inflatable sculptures. An international audience favorite, this three-dimensional poem is full of visual wonder, joy and melancholy, and sincere delight in human existence. Presented by The Kitchen as part of The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival.

Raúl De Nieves and Colin Self: *The Fool* February 9–11, 8PM. \$15.

The Kitchen presents Raúl De Nieves and Colin Self’s *The Fool*, a chamber opera scored in four acts for chorus and string ensemble. *The Fool* is an allegorical journey drawing an ante-narrative around time, beauty, communion, and mortality. *The Fool* is the spirit in search of experience. *The Fool* is both the beginning and the end, neither and otherwise, betwixt and between. *The Fool* is a story. Starring Colin Self as the Old Woman, Raúl De Nieves as The Fool and the Dog, Alexandra Drewchin as the Child, and Mehron Abdollmohammadi as the Mother. Organized by Matthew Lyons.

The Kitchen presents

Xaviera Simmons: *CODED*

December 8–9, 8pm

These performances were preceded by an exhibition, also called *CODED*, which was on view at The Kitchen, June 22–July 29, 2016.

Xaviera Simmons: *CODED* is made possible with commissioning support from Jerome Foundation; many individual contributions; annual program grants from Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Howard Gilman Foundation; and in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo.



Your tenderness is the path towards the sea
it is the south and tomorrow
(text from *CODED*)

—Xaviera Simmons

CODED (2016)
WORLD PREMIERE

Director, Choreographer, Writer:

Xaviera Simmons

Dancers/Choreographers:

Sheila Anozier
Belinda Becker
Jacinta Paniagua Vlach

Narrator:

Jamyl Dobson

Chance Operator:

Tigest Selam

Vocal Coach/Assistant Musical Director:

Alicia Hall Moran

Video Editor:

Amy Leonard

Sound Producer:

Josh Werner

Stage Manager:

Dani Prados

Organized for The Kitchen by Matthew Lyons with curatorial assistance
from Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Xaviera Simmons' (Director, Choreographer, Visual Artist, Writer) body of work spans photography, performance, video, sound, sculpture and installation. She defines her studio practice as rooted in an ongoing investigation of experience, memory, abstraction, present and future histories—specifically shifting notions surrounding landscape, character development and formal processes. Simmons is committed equally to the examination of different artistic modes and processes; for example, she may dedicate part of a year to photography, another part to performance, and other parts to installation, video, and sound works—keeping her practice in constant and consistent rotation, shift, and engagement.

Simmons received her BFA from Bard College (2004) after spending two years on a walking pilgrimage retracing the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade with Buddhist Monks. She completed the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program in Studio Art (2005) while simultaneously completing a two-year actor-training conservatory with The Maggie Flanigan Studio. Simmons has exhibited nationally and internationally where major exhibitions and performances include: The Museum of Modern Art, MoMA PS1, The Studio Museum In Harlem, The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, The Public Art Fund, The Sculpture Center, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum; David Castillo Gallery and The Savannah College Of Art and Design and The PAMM, Miami among others.

Her works are in major museum and private collections including Deutsche Bank, UBS, The Guggenheim Museum, The Agnes Gund Art Collection, The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Studio Museum in Harlem, MOCA Miami, The Nasher Museum Of Art at Duke University and The Perez Art Museum, Miami.

Simmons is the recipient of significant and numerous awards including a 2015 Foundation for Contemporary Art Grants To Artists Award for Visual Art and a 2015 Louis Comfort Tiffany Memorial Foundation Award.

Simmons has had multiple major solo and group exhibitions in 2016 including exhibitions and performances at The Museum Of Modern Art, a curatorial project at the headquarters of Deutsche Bank, New

York, a building-wide performance and installation at The Kitchen NYC, The ICA Boston among many others.

In 2017 Simmons will perform major solo and group exhibitions, including a time in research at The Schlesinger Library | Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard in preparation for a cinematic/sculptural exhibition at The Radcliffe Galleries and the Cambridge Commons and newly commissioned work for Flux Exchange, Atlanta Georgia.

Simmons has been on the faculty of graduate departments of Yale University, School of The Art Institute Chicago and Columbia University and she sits on the board of directors at Printed Matter and Spaceworks, two amazing non-profits based in New York City that continually need financial support to insure that New York remains on the cutting edge of visual, performing and creative arts.

Sheila Anozier (Dancer/Choreographer) has lived in NYC for most of her life, but her core and childhood is housed in Haiti where art is prevalent to all aspects of life. Sheila began a formal training in dance at Long Island University, but it was with the support and inspiration of dance mentor Pat Hall she found her freedom in it. Notable performances have taken Sheila to venues and festivals across the United States and abroad, including Ha Noi Opera House & White Palace Convention Center in Vietnam with singer and political activist Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, and Mary); Ageha in Tokyo, Japan with singer/dancer Wunmi Olaiya; Nuits Atypiques de Langon in France, Montreal International Jazz Festival in Canada; Vollos Festival in Greece; The Hague Holland Dance Festival in the Netherlands; and the Altstdtherbst Festival in Germany.

New York performances include: Lincoln Center "Out of Doors," The Joyce Theatre, Town Hall, Dance Theatre Workshop, The Kitchen, Joe's Pub, and SOB's, Prospect Park Bandshell, Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts and BRIC.

Sheila serves as choreographer for Brave New World Repertory Theatre: (*Street Scene* in 2013, *As You Like It* in 2010, *The Crucible* in 2008 and 2010, *The Tempest* in 2009 and *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry* in 2007), and *The Drum and the Seed*—a full length theatrical dance production. She performs with Bonga and the Vodou Drums of Haiti,

Bethany and Rufus Routs Quartet, and Pat Hall Dancers. Sheila is also a teaching artist who is currently on faculty at Mark Morris Dance Center.

Belinda Becker (Dancer/Choreographer) is a DJ, dancer, writer and actor. Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Belinda is well-known on the NYC DJ scene, spinning at such clubs including Nells, La Esquina, Spur Tree, Jimmy at the James Hotel, the Skylark Lounge and on Radio Lily. She was inducted into *Paper Magazine's* New York Nightlife Hall of Fame. She has been studying and performing Haitian Folklore, and Afro-Cuban dance for over 20 years under Pat Hall and Baba Richard Gonzalez. Dance companies include: The Pat Hall Dancers, Bonga and Voudou Drums of Haiti, La Troupe Makandal, and Urban Tap. Film and television credits include: *Law & Order*, *Left Unsaid*, *Love Room* and *Sticky Fingers of Time*. Belinda lives in Brooklyn with her beautiful daughter Willow.

Jacinta Paniagua Vlach (Dancer/Choreographer) Born and raised in San Francisco (aka Frisco) of Guatemalan and Greek ancestry, Jacinta began her dance training at SF School of the Arts while simultaneously training with Reginald Ray-Savage / Savage Jazz (a former student and dancer of Katherine Dunham in East St. Louis) in Oakland. Growing up in the Bay Area served as a hybrid blend of multi-cultural solidarity and creative originality. She gives thanks to her family, teachers, and community for providing Love as a form of resistance. Jacinta continued her journey of dance at the Ailey School in NYC, where she was invited to dance with Nathan Trice/RITUALS. She furthered her dance career with Philadanco, Robert Moses, and Alayo Dance Co., where she received the opportunity to tour, perform, and teach in Festival del Fuego in Santiago de Cuba.

Ms. Paniagua Vlach formed Liberation Dance Theater in 2007 as a means of preserving the rich and diverse culture she grew up in, while recreating the body politic as a means of both personal and collective liberation. LDT was subsequently commissioned to perform at Jacob's Pillow, Harlem Stage, Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, and earned her multiple residencies at Instituto Sacatar, Brazil and the New Directions Choreography Lab Award through Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. She continues to teach dance to young people in the community and dreams of having her own school one day. One Love!

Jamyl Dobson (Narrator) NY Theater credits: *Washer/Dryer* (Ma-Yi Theatre Co.), *The Anthem* (The Culture Project), *The Seven* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Romeo and Juliet* and *Ain't Supposed to Die A Natural Death* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Fondly Do We Hope...* (Lincoln Center Festival). International tours: Four years as guest artist with the Bill T. Jones/Annie Zane Dance Co., and Zorro. Regional: *Of Ebony Embers* (Core Ensemble Co.), *The Seven* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Hamlet* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (PA Shakespeare Festival), and *Avenue X* (Philadelphia Public Theatre Co.). Film/TV: Season 2 of *The Path* (Hulu), *A Good Man* (PBS/American Masters), *Cain* (short film) and the independent films *Hall Pass* and *Moments the Go*.

Tigist Selam (Chance Operator) is a Los Angeles-based actor, writer, filmmaker and humanitarian. Her body of work includes performance, video, poetry, sound, film and installation. Tigist is the founder of Selam Productions and GOURSHA and frequently holds speaking engagements at art and educational institutions internationally.

Alicia Hall Moran (Vocal Coach/Assistant Musical Director) is a classical vocalist and composer performing across Opera, Jazz, Broadway, and the Visual Arts. Commissions include Art Institute Chicago/Histories Remixed, Museum of Modern Art/Friends of Education, The Whitney Biennial (creating BLEED), 56th Venice Biennial (WORK SONGS), ArtPublic/Miami Art Basel (AiR), Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston (AiR Roland Hayes), National Sawdust (The Five Fans; Ice Project), Kitchen (the motown project), River To River (Black Wall Street), and Opera Southwest (Jazz Goes To The Opera).

As collaborator, she contributes music/performance to major works by visual artists, choreographers, and filmmakers including Carrie Mae Weems for Spoleto Festival and Yale Repertory Theater, Ragnar Kjartansson, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (Bessie Award for Musical Collaboration), Simone Leigh, Liz Magic Laser, Adam Pendleton, Whitfield Lovell, and Joan Jonas.

Moran performed "Bess" in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* on national tour (NAACP Theatre Award nominee, 'Best Lead Actress'), on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning re-write by Suzan-Lori Parks, and at American Repertory Theater, directed by Diane Paulus. Additional performances include Jazz@Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Village

Vanguard, San Francisco Jazz, Opera of The North, Guggenheim Museum, HarlemStage, Molde Cathedral (Norway), Blue Note Tokyo, etc.

“Moran finds the truth of the character in her magnificent voice,” *Los Angeles Times*.

Amy Leonard (Video Editor) realizes that the landscape of filmmaking is endlessly vast; it is a space where(in) she can have a hand in forging human connection, shaping ideas of beauty and possibility through visuals, sound and emotion. Storytelling through film is all-encompassing. She has written, directed, edited and produced music videos, narratives, documentary and live performance art. Her latest project is an absurdist new web series, ‘The Art of Dumping’ which will be debuting soon in 2017. This life is something that Amy gives to directly from her own understanding that film is a way to connect to life, to “the bigger picture” and the oneness of the Universe itself.

Josh Werner (Sound Producer) is an American bassist, producer and songwriter. He is a frequent collaborator of American record producer Bill Laswell. As a producer and session musician, Josh has recorded with the RZA, Wu-Tang Clan, Kool G Rap, M.O.P., Lee “Scratch” Perry and Sly and Robbie, and Tunde Adebimpe among many, many others.

Thank You

The most special thanks goes to Belinda Becker, Sheila Anozier and Jacinta Paniagua Vlach for every creative moment we have had together to make this work come alive. This production could not have happened without your persistent guidance, love, support, stamina, determination and extreme creativity. I am beyond thankful for each of you.

Thank you to Tigest Salem and Jami Dobson for your wonderful and clear abilities to mold these characters until they were your own. Bravo.

Alicia Hall Moran: few words can describe the impact you have had on me during our rehearsals. You are truly an inspirational, creative giant.

Josh Werner: Beautiful work my friend. Thank you for making the time to make the solo sounds come alive. You are a blessing.

Gracious thanks for personal support, guidance, assistance and all things that keep me in the creative zone: Benjamin and Zaha Schafir (the best two) Ife (bff), Teresa, Niama and Nia Mora, Peggy, Harlan and Matthew Schafir, Yona Backer, Holly Block, Isolde Brielmaier, Sabrina Van Der Put, Tunde Adebimpe and Tizita Assefa.

It has been an amazing opportunity to work alongside Matthew Lyons to build an exhibition in the galleries and a performance in the theater. Thank you Matthew and much love to Zack Tinkelman for seeing us through this process. Xaviera thanks Tim Griffin and the entire team at The Kitchen for holding to their steadfast mission to find the funds to help artists push boundaries of what it means to produce new works everyday!

Thank you to Dani Prados, Andrew Ricci and Eben Hoffer for breathing fundamental clarity, light, sound and depth into the production.

Thank you to Victoria Rogers and Jessica Hodin and your teams at Kickstarter and Art Basel. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you to Cecilia Alemani for planting the seeds of this project in my brain 3 years ago and for Melanie Kress for helping to execute those initial seeds.

Thank you to David Castillo and the team at David Castillo Gallery for holding down my practice and insuring that my work continues to spread far and wide. Thank you David for your seemingly effortless work, support and friendship.

Special love goes to Ms. Pepe for every moment at every nightclub we have ever been to together. Total inspiration.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who pledged to the Kickstarter Campaign for *CODED*. We literally could not have produced this show without your kindness and support. We are humbled and feel fortunate to know that so many folks were inspired to make certain that artists are paid a decent wage for their efforts. The funds provided allowed us that much more time to craft this work to our best abilities and also to provide better wages to the entire cast and team. Thank you all.

Xaviera Simmons and The Kitchen gratefully acknowledges the following Kickstarter backers for *CODED*

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Exhibitions

January 11–February 18

**Cory Arcangel
and Olia Lialina**

February 24–March 4

Performances: February 25, March 4

Sara Magenheimer

Performances

January 10–14

Philippe Quesne

January 26–28

Paulina Olowska

February 9–11

**Raúl De Nieves
and Colin Self**

March 1–4

**Jen Rosenblit
and Geo Wyeth**

March 7–18

Half Straddle

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FALL 2017

The Kitchen

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