

The Kitchen presents Big Dance Theater: *Comme Toujours Here I Stand* October 1-4, 7-10

New York, NY, September 2, 2009—**The Kitchen** presents **Big Dance Theater's** newest work, *Comme Toujours Here I Stand*, a re-invention of Agnès Varda's classic New Wave film, *Cléo From 5 to 7*. Treating the film's script as a found object, the ensemble uses costumes, set, and video to contrast the vivid agility of film with the endearingly burdensome nature of theater. The show features performances by **Tymberly Canale, Chris Giarmo, Molly Hickok, Ryutaro Mishima, and Kourtney Rutherford**. *Comme Toujours Here I Stand* will run **Thursday-Sunday, October 1-4** and **Wednesday-Saturday, October 7-10** at **The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street)**. All performances begin at **8:00 P.M.** Tickets are \$15.

Shot in Paris in 1961, *Cléo From 5 to 7* captures the early evening hours in the life of a marginally talented pop singer waiting for the results of a medical examination. In *Comme Toujours Here I Stand*, Big Dance Theater creates an intimate portrait of this young woman, who, while shadowed by death, still becomes caught up in the breezy pleasures of the day: shopping, visiting friends, strolling through the city. With its signature use of movement, media, and text, Big Dance Theater merges numerous elements including moving walls and live video into one expressive medium that brings the colorful interiors of a cinematic world to life.

About Big Dance Theater

Founded in 1991, Big Dance Theater is known for its inspired use of dance, music, text and visual design to expand and refract literary texts, weaving disparate sources and forms into seamless theatrical wholes. Under the Co-Artistic Direction of Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, Big Dance Theater has created 15 dance/theater works, generating each piece over months of collaboration with its associate artists, a long-standing, ever-evolving group of actors, dancers, composers and designers.

Big Dance Theater is an artistic leader in New York City's performance community, with a loyal – and growing – following. In 2000, the company was awarded an OBIE for its “passionate practice of the most implausible choreographic and literary concoctions,” and, in 2002, Co-directors Paul Lazar and Annie-B Parson were honored with a BESSIE for their “boldly arranged marriage of dance and theater.” Big Dance also received the first Creativity Award from Jacob's Pillow in 2007.

Big Dance Theater has been presented in both dance and theater venues in New York City, nationally, and abroad, including Dance Theater Workshop (where the company has performed for eight seasons), The Performing Garage, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Kitchen, The Guggenheim Works and Process Series, Fall for Dance Festival, Classic Stage Co., The American Dance Festival, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, UCLA Live!, On the Boards in Seattle, and The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Big Dance has performed internationally at the Bonn Biennale, The Polverigi Festival in Italy, Les Subsistances, VIA and EXIT Festivals in France, The GIFT Festival in Tbilisi, Georgia, as well as theaters in Belgium, Rotterdam and Germany.

Funding Credits

Comme Toujours Here I Stand was commissioned by FIAF (the French Institute Alliance Française), New York, with co-production, production, and residency support by Les Subsistances 2008/09, Lyon, France and additional support provided with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

The Kitchen's presentation of *Comme Toujours* is made possible with generous support from The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, and with public

funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



Altria



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
512 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
www.thekitchen.org

#####