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**TV'S HOTTEST NEW TALK SHOW DEBUTS  
*DENNIS CLEVELAND***

**\*\* NEW OPERA PREMIERES AT THE KITCHEN \*\*  
October 29 - November 2**

Composer **Mikel Rouse** will premiere his latest opera, *Dennis Cleveland* at The Kitchen as part of its 25th Anniversary Season. This new work, set within a television talk show, will run for one week only beginning October 29th. Featuring Set/Video Design by **John Jesurun** and Film Direction by Alex Steyermark, this bold new work is presented in conjunction with the Interpretations Series.

*Dennis Cleveland* is a multimedia opera set entirely on a contemporary television talk show. The piece evolves through the confessions of the program's guests as witnessed by the show's host, Dennis Cleveland. Staged as an actual talk show taping, Cleveland functions as both the narrator of the opera as well as the TV personality. His guests appear on stage in the form of the Chorus and the audience members he questions are soloists placed in the actual audience. Though the guests appear to be telling their own sensationalistic stories of lost love, obsession, crimes, and regrets, what soon becomes clear is that they are telling the story of Dennis Cleveland, as well. Ultimately, the opera examines faith and religion in a society dominated by pop culture icons, where the promise of salvation is through television.

**Rouse's** work was last seen two seasons ago in *Failing Kansas*, an opera based on Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, which also premiered at The Kitchen. *The Village Voice's* Kyle Gann called the piece, "the best work I've seen by someone of the new generation." Since 1989 Rouse has been exploring an emerging art form he calls "counterpoetry," which involves the use of multiple unpitched voices in counterpoint. In 1979 Rouse founded his contemporary chamber ensemble *Mikel Rouse Broken Consort* which has produced numerous recordings including *Soul Menu*, *A Walk in the Woods*, and *Jade Tiger*. His solo recordings include *Etudes*, *Against All Flags*, *Colorado Suite* and *Quorum*. He has received numerous grants from Meet the Composer, NYSCA, and ASCAP. The CD of *Dennis Cleveland* will be released in October on New World Records (#80506-2) and a special radio art piece based on the work will air on "New Sounds" with John Schafer on WNYC radio, October 15th.

*Dennis Cleveland* will be presented at **The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street** (between 10th & 11th Avenues) in the West Chelsea district of Manhattan. Performances are at **8:00 pm October 29 - November 2**. Tickets are \$15. Information and reservations for events at The Kitchen may be obtained by calling **212-255-5793**.