



*The Kitchen Center*  
*for Video · Music · Dance*  
*Performance · Film and Literature*

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March 31, 1999  
For immediate release  
Contact: Isabelle Deconinck  
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**Carl Hancock Rux & Co.**  
**Pagan Operetta**  
**May 6-8 [Thu-Sat] 8 pm \$12**  
**May 6 Post-performance discussion**

Directed by **Talvin Wilkes**  
Vocal Arrangements by **Toshi Reagon**

A lavish literary spectacle reinventing the form of operetta, where language evokes ritual and ritual conjures revelation.

Employing the rhythms of language, the percussion of breath technique, movement expression and gesture dance, poet/ writer **Carl Hancock Rux** performs poetry, prose, and short stories from *Pagan Operetta* (1998, Fly by Night Press). The work explores the relationship between personal growing and historical identity in three movements. Whether remembering matriarchal history, cavorting through the ghettos of Europe and Ghana, West Africa, or shouting politically charged text, Hancock Rux makes myth and magic out of urban realities.

**About the Artist...**

**Carl Hancock Rux** has published poetry, fiction, and plays in numerous journals and anthologies internationally. A recipient of the 1995 Nuyorican Poets Café's Fresh Poet Award and a 1996 Bessie Award, Rux was selected for "The New York Times Select Critics List of Thirty Artist Under The Age of Thirty Most Likely To Influence Culture" and by *The Village Voice Literary Supplement* as one of "Eight Writers on The Verge Of Shaking Up The Literary Landscape." Rux was commissioned to write and perform his poetry with several dance companies including The Alvin Alley American Dance Theater, Ron Brown's Evidence, Urban Bush Women, and "Rent" choreographer Marlies Yearby of Movin' Spirits Dance Theater. His plays have been staged nationally, and he has performed his poetry and performance works throughout the U.S., Europe, West Africa, and Indonesia at several venues, including the Joseph Papp Public Theater, The Brooklyn Academy of Music/BAM Majestic, Aaron Davis Hall, The Knitting Factory, Dixon Place, Lincoln Center, and The Whitney Museum. Rux was recently

commissioned by director George C. Wolfe to write a new play for the Joseph Papp Public Theater, and was also commissioned to write an opera for the Foundry Theater Company. Rux is also a Sony/550 Music recording artist debuting his self-titled CD, produced by Nona Hendryx, the Dust Bros. in 1999.

**The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19<sup>th</sup> St. (Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues). For Press Comps Please call 212-255-5793 ext. 14**