

The Kitchen Center for Video · Music · Dance Performance · Film and Literature 512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011 Tel: 212.255.5793 kitchen@panix.com www.panix.com/~kitchen Fax: 212.645.4258

For immediate release

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November 11, 1999

## **Tracie Morris**

Sonic Synthesis
December 16-18 [Thu-Sat] 8 PM \$12

Concept/Performance/Poetry by Tracie Morris
Directed by Arthur Jafa
Musical Designer: Melvin Gibbs
Musicians: Graham Haynes (musical Director, composer, cornetist, and electronica), Marvin Sewell (multi-string instrumentalist) and special guests

Poet/performance artist **Tracie Morris** creates multi-layered emotional soundscapes as her words mix with the rhythms of blues, jazz, rock, and experimental music. In *Sonic Synthesis* she takes a journey through Black cultural markers in music and poetics to explore the visionary and dynamic fusion between the two. The evening includes original compositions and improvisational works by **Melvin Gibbs**, **Graham Haynes**, and special guests, who map out an enthralling ambient world for Morris to carve a new path in performance poetry.

## **About the Artist:**

Tracie Morris is a multi-media performance poet who has worked in theater, dance, music and film. She has toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. Primarily known as a "musical poet", Morris has performed with an extensive range of artists including Donald Byrd, Graham Haynes, Leon Parker, Vernon Reid, The Oliver Lake Quintet and the David Murray Big Band.

Her poetry has been extensively anthologized in literary magazines, newspapers and books including 360 Degrees: A Revolution of Black Poets, Listen Up!, Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Café and The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry. Her words have also been featured in five commissioned pieces for several organizations including Aaron Davis Hall, the International Festival for the Arts and Yale Repertory Theater.

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Morris has participated in over a dozen recording projects to date. She is the recipient of numerous awards for poetry including the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, The National Haiku Slam Championship in 1993 and an Asian cultural Council Fellowship. She is also the author of two poetry collections, *Intermission* and *Chap-T-her Won*. In addition to being a working artist, Morris is guest faculty of Performance Poetry at Sarah Lawrence College.

The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19<sup>th</sup> St. (Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues). For tickets, please call 212-255-5793. For press comps or more information, contact Isabelle Deconinck at 212-255-5793, ext. 14.