

The Kitchen

Center for Video, Music, Dance,
Performance, Film & Literature

Spring 2010

The Kitchen

SPRING 2010 PROGRAMS-AT-A-GLANCE

Leslie Hewitt:

On Beauty, Objects, and Dissonance
March 27–May 10, 2010

Opening reception: Saturday, March 27, 6–8pm

This solo exhibition presents **Leslie Hewitt's** most recent investigations in photography, sculpture, and video installation, which question the contemporary moment through the exigencies of time.

Jay Scheib: *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities*
Thursday–Saturday, April 1–3 and 8–10, 8pm

Following the critically acclaimed, Obie Award-winning first installment of **Jay Scheib's** performance trilogy *Simulated Cities/Simulated Systems*, The Kitchen presents the world premiere of part two, *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities*, a new theater work based on **Samuel R. Delany's** celebrated science fiction novel *Dhalgren*. Featuring performances by **Sarita Choudhury, Caleb Hammond, Mikéah Ernest Jennings, Jon Morris, William Nadylam, Kaneza Schaal, Tanya Selvaratnam, April Sweeney, and Natalie Thomas**; Post-show discussion with Jay Scheib, Carrie Mae Weems, and Samuel R. Delany on **Saturday, April 3**.

Shana Moulton and Nick Hallett: *Whispering Pines 10*
Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, 8pm

For this latest installment, video and performance artist **Shana Moulton** collaborates with composer-vocalist **Nick Hallett** to transform her celebrated video art serial, *Whispering Pines*, into an electronic chamber opera, woven out of pop melodies, extended vocal techniques, alternative sound controllers, and a flexible instrumentation performed by Hallett along with the soprano **Daisy Press** and harpist **Shelley Burgon**.

Pablo Helguera: *The Juvenal Players*
Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24, 8pm

Inspired by the sixteen surviving satires of the classic ancient Roman poet, Juvenal (circa 1 A.D.), **Pablo Helguera** presents the New York premiere of *The Juvenal Players*, a play that merges performance and theater, addressing the crossing of boundaries in art and life, public and private spaces. Directed by **Pablo Helguera** and **Mikhael Tara Garver**. Featuring performances by **Tina Allen, Candace Thompson, Brian Linden, Eric Slater, and Andrea Sooch**.

Luciana achugar: *PURO DESEO*
Thursday – Saturday, April 29 – May 1, 8pm
Sunday, May 2, 5pm

Drawing inspiration from paranormal phenomena, the occult, and representations of monstrosity in Gothic film and literature, choreographer **Luciana achugar** and long time collaborator **Michael Mahalchick** build *PURO DESEO* as an incantation.

Choreography and Performance by **Luciana achugar**.
Dramaturgy, Music and Performance by **Michael Mahalchick**. Lighting Design by **Madeline Best**.

Mary Halvorson / Kevin Shea
Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7, 8pm

Rooted in experimental rock, jazz, and chamber music, composer and guitarist **Mary Halvorson** premieres new music written for her latest ensemble, the **Mary Halvorson Quintet**, featuring **Trevor Dunn** (bass), **Halvorson** (guitar), **Tomas Fujiwara** (drums), **Jonathan Finlayson** (trumpet), and **Jon Irabagon** (saxophone).

Composer and drummer **Kevin Shea** presents newly composed pieces of "jazz ensemble-like, experimental weirditude" which combine composed music, improvisation, wild drumming, and absurd events. Shea performs with his newly formed quintet, **Kevin Shea's Lonely Gold Mine of Symbiotic Subterfuge**, featuring **Sam Kulik** (trombone), **Tim Dahl** (Korg Polysix), **Ron Stabinsky** (piano), **Tom Blancarte** (upright bass), and **Kevin Shea** (drums).

Talk Show:

An Evening with *Ugly Duckling Presse*
Monday, May 3, 7pm

Ugly Duckling Presse presents *Talk Show*, an evening of interviews, poetry, and unscripted surprises in the format of a late-night talk show. **Andy Fitch** and **Jon Cotner**, authors of *Ten Walks/Two Talks*, co-host the evening with poets **Dodie Bellamy, Rachel Levitsky, Matthew Rohrer, Marina Temkina, Cecilia Vicuña**, and interview-artist **Alex Stein** as their guests.

Shim Sham

Hosted by **Harold Cromer**
featuring the **Theo Hill Trio**
Monday, May 17, 8pm

Featuring live music by the **Theo Hill Trio**, legendary tap dancer **Harold Cromer** returns by popular demand to host this free open jam session in which some of the finest of New York City's rhythm tap community come together to share and showcase their moves. The jam is open to tap dancers of all levels and concludes with the famous hoofers' international anthem, *Shim Sham Shimmy*.

The Kitchen presents

Jay Scheib's *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities* After **Samuel R. Delany's Dhalgren**

April 1-3 and 8-10, 2010

Featuring performances by **Sarita Choudhury, Caleb Hammond, Mikéah Ernest Jennings, Jon Morris, William Nadylam, Kaneza Schaal, Tanya Selvaratnam, April Sweeney, and Natalie Thomas**

Set Design by **Peter Ksander**
Costume Design by **Oana Botez-Ban**
Sound Design by **Catherine McCurry**
Lighting by **Miranda k Hardy**
Video and Photography by **Carrie Mae Weems and Jay Scheib**
Assistant Director: **Laine Rettmer**
Stage Management by **Kelly Shaffer**
Assistant Set Design: **Abigail Collins**
Assistant Video Design: **Josh Higgason**
Assistant Lighting Design: **Austin R. Smith**
Scenic Painter: **Andreea Mincic**
Assistant Costume Design: **Enver Chakartash**
Wardrobe Assistant: **Daonne Huff**
Production Intern: **Frederic Boehle**

Produced by **Tanya Selvaratnam**
Tour Producer: **ArKtype/Thomas O. Kriegsmann**
Adapted and Directed by **Jay Scheib**

Running Time is 100 minutes with no intermission.
Production includes sudden loud noises.

The Kitchen's presentation of *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities* is made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

Additional support provided by Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; The Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States; Agnes Gund; the Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund; and The Experimental Television Center's Presentation Funds, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts. Makeup Provided by M.A.C.



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This whole city shifts, turns, rearranges itself. All the time. And it rearranges us, loosing itself in double light, I observe a new mechanics in this play of night and light, I am the wild machinist, past destroyed, reconstructing the present ... (In the play, spoken by Tak)

Here I am and am no I. This circle in all, this change changing in winterless, a dawn circle with an image of, an autumn change with a change of mist. Mistake two pictures, one and another. No. Only in seasons of short light, only on dead afternoons. I will not be sick again. (In the play, spoken by June)

Dhalgren is a difficult work. In part because it is ultimately far more vast than its binding conveys. This is true of any book capable of colonizing the imagination. But I maintain, *Dhalgren* is something singular. It took me a long time to read. I struggled with it and slowly realized that even that experience — the struggle of reading — was somehow also part of the book. In the course of adapting the novel I have read it seven times cover to cover. *Dhalgren* was published in 1975 and has gone through multiple printings since then. I return again and again to the pages of this book-world and am continually surprised, appalled, brought to laugh, moved. If I could read the way dynamite explodes I could devour it whole—instead of being devoured. Instead I continually find passages that I have no memory of having ever read. *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities* is an ongoing reflection—thought through the space and the grammar of the theater.

William Gibson, in his foreword to *Dhalgren*, describes Bellona as a “recombinant city...a metaphoric Middle American streetscape, transfigured by some unspecified thing or process, where nothing remains quite as it was.” In the Roman pantheon, Bellona is the goddess of war, the destroyer of cities. *Dhalgren*, for me, is a book about a city that is caught forever in a terrible loop. In this city that keeps rearranging itself and its inhabitants, the disaster has already happened and we are doomed to live out its aftermath for an eternity—or at least until Kid finishes editing her poetry. *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities* unfolds like a time-lapse motion portrait of a city and its people caught up in a permanent revolution, socially, sexually, racially.

Better those landscapes where terror is experienced as terror and rage as rage than this, where either is merely a pain in the gut or a throb above the eye, where a nerve spasm in the shin crumbles a city of bone, where a twitch in the eyelid detonates both the sun and the heart.

– from *Dhalgren*

BIOS

Jay Scheib's (Director/Adapter/Media Designer) current and upcoming productions include Evan Ziporyn's new opera *A House in Bali* at Cal Performances in Berkley and Brooklyn Academy of Music (Fall 2010, Next Wave Festival), *Puntilla und sein Knecht Matti* at Theater Augsburg in Germany, and *Fidelio* at Saarländische Staatstheater in Saarbrücken, Germany (Winter 2011). Recent productions include the Obie Award-winning *Untitled Mars (This Title May Change)* (PS 122/NY; National Theatre in Budapest, Hungary), *This Place is a Desert* (ICA/Boston, Under the Radar Festival/Public Theater), and *Addicted to Bad Ideas, Peter Lorre's 20th Century* (world tour). International works include the world premiere of Irene Popovic's opera *Mozart Luster Lustik* in Belgrade, Serbia and Lothar Trolle's *Ein Vormittag in der Freiheit* and *Fernesehen 2*, at the Volksbühne, Berlin, Germany. Scheib has been a regular guest professor of acting and directing at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria and the Norwegian Theater Academy. He is Associate Professor of Music and Theater Arts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Samuel R. Delany (Author of *Dhalgren*) has won four Nebula Awards, two Hugo Awards, and the William Whitehead Memorial Award for his lifetime contribution to lesbian and gay writing. Born and raised in New York City's Harlem in 1942, he is a professor of English and creative writing at Temple University, where he is Director of the Graduate Creative Writing Program. Delany's novels include *Nova* (1968), *Dhalgren* (1975), *Trouble on Triton* (1976), and *The Mad Man* (1995). He is author of the four-book series, *Return to Nevèrjón* (1979–87), and the short novel *Phallos* (2004). His most recent novel, *Dark Reflections* (2008), won the 2008 Stonewall Book Award and was a runner up for that year's Lambda Literary Award. His stories have been collected in *Aye, and Gomorrah, and Other Stories* (2002) and *Atlantis: Three Tales* (1995). His nonfiction volumes include *The Jewel-Hinged Jaw* (1977–rev. 2009), *About Writing: Seven Essays, Three Letters, and Five Interviews* (2006), and *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue* (1998). A further collection of his interviews has appeared in the University of Mississippi Press's *Conversations with Samuel R. Delany* (2009), edited by Carl Freedman. His new novel *Through the Valley of the Nest of Spiders* is forthcoming this November from Alyson Books.

Tanya Selvaratnam (Producer/Cast: Captain Kamp/Mrs. Richards) started her professional acting career as a back-up dancer for performance artist John Fleck. Since then, she has performed around the world in productions by The Wooster Group, The Builders Association, and husband Jay Scheib. Tanya has completed residencies at Yaddo and Blue Mountain Center and presented her solo work at Lincoln Center, Tonic, and Issue Project Room. She has appeared in film and video projects directed by Zoe Beloff, Candice Breitz, Andrea Geyer, Sharon Hayes, John Malpede, Jennifer Reeves, and Carrie Mae Weems. As a producer, her most recent films are Chiara Clemente's *Our City Dreams* and Catherine Gund's *What's On Your Plate?*. Tanya's next production is a documentary series from HERE, supported by the Rockefeller Cultural Innovation Fund, about New Yorkers in the performing arts.

Carrie Mae Weems (Photography/Video) is considered one of the most influential contemporary American artists. Her earliest documentary photographic series are Family Pictures and Stories (1978-1984), Ain't Jokin' (1987-1988), Colored People (1989-1990), and the Kitchen Table series (1990). A commission to investigate a body of historical photo-images of blacks from the Getty Museum in 1995 led to an extension of this interest in the diaspora in the series From Here I Saw What Happened and I Cried. In 1997, she began a trilogy of large-scale fabric installations that resulted in Ritual & Revolution (1998), commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Jefferson Suite (1999), commissioned by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and The Hampton Project (2000), commissioned by the Williams College Museum of Art. Coming Up for Air (2004), her first video endeavor, screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Among her many awards are The Rome Prize Fellowship, Skowhegan Medal in Photography, and Anonymous Was a Woman Award.

ArKtype (Tour Producer) was established in 2006 under the direction of producer Thomas O. Kriegsmann to support emerging and established artists worldwide in the strategic development, production, and touring of innovative new work. The company is currently represented in the US and beyond with Jay Scheib (Cambridge, MA); Yael Farber/The Farber Foundry (South Africa); T.P.O. (Italy); Peter Brook/CITC (Paris); Phantom Limb (New York); CiRCA (Brisbane); Superamas (France / Austria); Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen (Brooklyn); Stalker / Marriageku (Sydney); World/Inferno Friendship Society's *ADDICTED TO BAD IDEAS* (Brooklyn); Rude Mechs (Austin, TX); KMA (London); and *Aurélia's Oratorio* directed by Victoria Thiérrée-Chaplin (France), as well as producing the Baryshnikov Arts Center / Ringling International Arts Festival in Sarasota, FL.

Oana Botez-Ban (Costume Designer), a native of Romania, has designed for major theater and dance companies including The National Theater of Bucharest. Since 1999, her New York costume collaborations in theater and dance include Robert Woodruff, Richard Foreman, Maya Beiser, Evan Ziporyn, Richard Schechner, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, Blanka Zizka, Brian Kulick, Zelda Fichlander, Karin Coonrod, Gus Solomon Jr., among others. Princess Grace Recipient, NEA/TCG Career Development Program 2009-2011.

Sarita Choudhury (Cast: Kid) began acting in film with Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala* and *Kama Sutra*...then joined Cheek by Jowl in the UK and toured with them for a year in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She continued with theater work at the New Group and The Play Company while continuing filmwork in *Gloria*, *Perfect Murder*, *War Within*, *Lady in the Water* and others and appearing in TV shows including *Kings*, *Law and Order*, *The Philanthropist*, *Damages*, and *Mercy*. "After working with Jay Scheib in *This Place is a Desert*, I am so happy to be back in his world of fun, postmodern crazy art."

Caleb Hammond (Cast: Tak/Mr. Richards) is a theater and visual artist. Performance roles include: *Untitled Mars*, Jay Scheib, dir. (PS122 and the National Theater of Hungary), *This Place is a Desert*, Scheib, dir. (Under The Radar Festival/The Public Theater), Daniel Veronese's *Women Dreamt Horses*, Scheib, dir. (PS122). Recent original works as a writer/director include: *1000 Wolves* (Ontological Theater in St Mark's), *SICK* (Ontological and the Underground Zero Festival).

Miranda k Hardy (Lighting Designer) is a visual artist and light designer based in Brooklyn, NY. *Bellona* is the second event she has collaborated on with Jay Scheib. She is a member of the performance by design collective TENT, has company affiliations with Banana Bag & Bodice and Latitude 14 as well as being a co-founder of tinyelephant, a studio dedicated to the performing object.

Mikéah Ernest Jennings (Cast: Nightmare/Paul Fenster/George Harrison) is 28% real, 10% recycled plastics, 42% imagined circumstances colliding with ubiquitous terrestrial matter and discarded tires. The remainder is packing peanuts and hair gel: *The Shipment* (Wexner Center, The Kitchen), dir: Young Jean Lee; S.O.S. (The Kitchen, REDCAT), *The House of No More* (DTW, Wexner Center), *Flicker* (REDCAT), dir: Big Art Group/Caden Manson. Next up, Mikéah continues to tour internationally as a member of the Young Jean Lee Theater Company and Big Art Group/Caden Manson.

Peter Ksander (Scenic Designer) is a sculptor and stage designer. Previous work with Jay Scheib include designs for: *Untitled Mars* (this title may change) for which he won an Obie Award, *This Place is a Desert*, *Women Dreamt Horses*, and the lighting for *A House in Bali* and *Making of Americans*. Other recent designs include: *Oh What War*, *Geometry*, *Laude in Urbis*, *Monstrosity*, *The Last Cargo Cult*, *Measure for Measure*, *The County of Kings*, and *The Archery Contest*. He is a curator for the Ontological Hysteric Incubator and in 2005 was a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program.

Catherine McCurry (Sound Designer) is a theater artist and musician, trained as a classical violinist, composer and singer. She graduated from MIT in 2007 where she studied physics and music. In 2008 she was awarded a Fulbright grant to pursue Multimedia Performance Art in Berlin in residency at the Universität der Künste. She has previously worked as an actor, composer and media designer in New York City with Jay Scheib and the Talking Band.

Jon Morris (Cast: Jack/Bobby/Eddy) has created and performed with *Fuerza-bruta*, *Cirque du Soleil*, *The MET*, *Spymonkey*, *Diavolo Dance Theatre*, the *Evidence Room*, *Ken Roht's Orphean Circus*, *Fabulous Monsters*, *Theatre de la Jeune Lune*. His company, *The Windmill Factory*, creates original work from living performance installations to international dance theatre collaborations. Recent works were presented at Robert Wilson's *Watermill Center*, *La MaMa ETC*, and the *Burning Man Arts Festival*. www.thewindmillfactory.com

William Nadylam (Cast: Dragonlady/Lanya) is an actor, director, and writer based in Paris, France. William has played with directors throughout Europe including *Hervé Loichemol*, *Elizabeth Chailoux*, *Luc Bondy*, *Olivier Py*, *Alvaro Garcia de Zuniga*, *Declan Donellan*, *Lukas Hemleb*, and *Peter Brook*. His directing work includes *David Mamet's Edmond*, *Heiner Müller's Quartett*, and *David Hare's Stuff Happens*. William's film credits include *Mama Keita's L'Absence* (post-production) and *Claire Denis's White Material*.

Laine Rettmer (Assistant Director) graduated with honors from NYU's Experimental Theater Wing in 07 with a focus in theater direction. She is pleased to have assisted Jay Scheib on *Untitled Mars (This Title May Change)* in both America and Hungary and is currently assisting him on the production of Evan Ziporyn's new opera *A House in Bali*. She recently acted in *For Artists Only*, a play by Nelly Tindler at the Ontological, and the film *Loss Control*, directed by Alexis Savino. Upcoming, Laine will be directing a version of *Jamestown*, a book by Matthew Sharpe.

Kaneza Schaal (Cast: Gladis) manages The Wooster Group's Arts-in-Education program and appears in the new production, *VIEUX CARRE*. She performs with Elevator Repair Service in *The Sun Also Rises* and *The Sound and The Fury*. Schaal was the 2009 recipient of a George C. Wolfe, Princess Grace Award and is a graduate of Wesleyan University.

Kelly Shaffer (Stage Manager) received her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2003. She has been living and working in New York for the last nine and a half years as a freelance stage manager and cookie maven.

April Sweeney (Cast: Risa/Milly) has performed internationally in Argentina, Bolivia, Hungary, France, and Ireland. In the United States she has performed in regional theatre, national tours, Off-Broadway, and downtown New York theatre. She has also appeared in films screened at the New York Film Anthology Archive's New Directors' Series, and BAFICI. As an actress, she has collaborated with a number of directors, including *Cynthia Croot*, *Robert Hupp*, *Greg Johnson*, *Jay Scheib*, *Andrei Serban*, and *Robert Woodruff*.

Natalie Thomas's (Cast: June) theater credits include *Untitled Mars (This Title May Change)* at PS122, The Wooster Group's *House/Lights* at St. Ann's Warehouse and *Lucid* at the Cherry Lane Theatre. Her film and TV credits include *Month To Month*, *Payback*, *Heute Nacht*, *Sunday*, *The Guiding Light*, and *Law and Order*. Natalie is an actor and producer with An Films. She is a former company member of *Nederlands Dans Theater II* and *William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt*.

SPECIAL THANKS

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To make a tax-deductible contribution to this and other productions by Jay Scheib, please contact Tanya Selvaratnam at tselvar@aol.com or +1.917.754.4179.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

 The Kitchen Spring Gala Benefit

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

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The Kitchen

SPRING 2010 PROGAMS-AT-A-GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Derrick Adams: *Go Stand Next To The Mountain*
Narcissister: *This Masquerade*
Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, 8pm

Visual and performance artist **Derrick Adams** presents the premiere of *Go Stand Next To The Mountain*, a suite of live performances exploring the complex relationships between man and monuments.

Creating absurd and playful neo-burlesque vignettes, **Narcissister** debuts a new series of performances alongside her cast of masked cohorts to offer up a complex and riotous critique of popular culture's spurious ideas about black femininity.

An Evening with *A Public Space*
Thursday, June 10, 7pm

As part of an ongoing conversation about literature and culture, **Brigid Hughes**, editor of *A Public Space*, presents an evening of readings and conversation with contributors to the latest issue. *A Public Space* is an independent magazine of art and argument, fact and fiction.

Opium Live
An Evening with *Opium Magazine*
Wednesday, June 16, 7pm

Reinventing the live reading format by combining the formality of an interview with the excitement of a game show, *Opium Magazine* presents *Opium Live* - a new literary series that features interviews between artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers along with musical and theatrical performances.

Undercurrents:
Experimental Ecosystems in Recent Art
May 27-June 19
Opening Reception: Thursday, May 27, 5-8pm

This exhibition considers the concept of ethical cohabitation - how to negotiate our differences within our shared environment. At The Kitchen, visitors are invited to experience or participate in projects and workshops by artists **Rachel Berwick**, **Pablo Helguera**, **Alfredo Jaar**, **Tatsuo Miyajima**, **Spurse**, **Apitchatpong Weerasethakul**, and others.

Donna Uchizono: *longing two*
Tuesday-Saturday, June 1-June 5, 7pm

Part 1 at Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)
Howard Gilman Performance Space, 450 W. 37th St
Part 2 continuing at The Kitchen (transportation provided)

Beginning at the Baryshnikov Arts Center's Howard Gilman Performance Space and continuing at The Kitchen, choreographer **Donna Uchizono's** new work is an exploration of proximity, perception, destination, and arrival as she explores identity in the context of location and cultural perspective. **Hristoula Harakas**, **Anna Carapetyan**, and **Savina Theodorou** join her onstage as her creative collaborators. With an original commissioned score by composer **James Lo**, lighting design by **Joe Levasseur**, costume design by **Wendy Winters**, and set design by **Ronnie Gensler** and **Orlando Soria**.

Robert Melee's *Talent Show*
Wednesday and Thursday, June 23-24, 8pm

Artist **Robert Melee** returns as the curator of another evening of dance, performance art, music, and video, which unfolds in a talent show format on a stage set of Melee's own design. Melee also adds to the showcase with the presentation of a new performance. Participating artists include **Blanko + Noiry**, **Gerald Casel**, **Erin Dunn**, **Jacoby Satterwhite**, **Bruce LaBruce**, **Austin McCormick**, **Mirror Mirror**, **Marilyn Minter**, **Tom Melee**, and **Robert Melee**.

The Absolutely Other
June 25 - August 7
Opening Reception: Friday, June 25, 6-8pm

This group exhibition features New York-based artists who make work with, for, and about strangers. The resulting projects realign and sometimes undermine extant social relations and artistic intentions, engaging and confounding issues of authorship, exchange, generosity, and chance. Artists include **Einat Amir**, **Daniel Bozhkov**, **Xavier Cha**, **Eteam**, **Hope Hilton**, **Nancy Hwang**, and **Dave McKenzie**.

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