



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

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Immediate Release

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**Staged Dramatization of Sapphire's New Collection
of Poetry & Verse**

BLACK WINGS & BLIND ANGELS

Sept 24 & 25 [Fri & Sat] 8 PM, \$12

Written by Sapphire

Directed by Jaye Austin Williams

Movement by Christalyn Wright

Original music by Kwame Brandt Pierce

Curated by Carl Hancock Rux

"A voice full of slang and attitude that veils a person of unyielding strength and compassion."--*Elle* magazine

The Kitchen celebrates the publication of **Sapphire's** new collection of poetry and verse, *Black Wings & Blind Angels* (Knopf, October 1999) with a staged dramatization of the poet's work directed by Jaye Austin Williams in collaboration with dancer/choreographer Christalyn Wright (formerly of The Urban Bush Women) and newcomer Kwame Brandt Pierce (of the jazz/funk/hip-hop infused band, Three Bean Stew). Blending movement, music and verse, this evening-length "choreopoem" features text from *Black Wings & Blind Angels* as well as scenes from Sapphire's much heralded debut collection, *American Dreams*. The cast includes the author as well as actors, dancers, and live musicians.

Alive with emotional honesty and intellectual force, *Sapphire's Black Wings & Blind Angels* takes us to America's past and present, bearing testimony to the black experience in a country fragmented by war, racism, and urban domestic violence. The story is one of family and self-transformation, which tells about the challenging spiritual path back to one's roots. Exploring the urban condition in a sensual propulsive and prophetic manner, *Black Wings & Blind Angels* promises to be as controversial and heart wrenching as *Sapphire's American Dreams*.

A book signing will follow performances.

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