

For Immediate Release**The Kitchen presents Kalup Linzy's *Comedy, Tragedy, Sketches of Me* and Rashaad Newsome's *Shade Compositions*****Double bill of new works will be performed Thursday and Friday, February 12 and 13**

New York, NY, January 29, 2009—**The Kitchen** presents a double bill featuring **Kalup Linzy** and **Rashaad Newsome** on **Thursday and Friday, February 12 and 13**. Linzy's new solo work, *Comedy, Tragedy, Sketches of Me*, continues his satirical interrogation of cultural phenomena, pulling from his ever-expanding cast of riotous characters to debut a live solo musical and theatrical performance accompanied by video projections. Newsome's *Shade Compositions*, commissioned by The Kitchen, is a live performance with a chorus of over twenty black women and live video mixing. The piece is heavily influenced by orchestral music. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, performances will begin at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$10.

In *Comedy, Tragedy, Sketches of Me*, Linzy explores relationships between race, class, gender, sexuality and pop culture via satires of narrative format and the melodrama of daytime television soap operas. In this new piece, Linzy focuses on the very early stages of the development of his art, particularly on the role his home and family played. As a child, he made up soap operas in his room. In this piece, Linzy's set is a take on that childhood bedroom. There is a dresser lined with wigs, which he uses to personify each character in the monologues he performs. To further emphasize the influence of his beginnings, Linzy includes footage from his hometown of Stuckey, FL.

In his newly commissioned work, *Shade Compositions*, Rashaad Newsome divides the chorus into groups akin to instrumental sections. They perform his choreographed sound score, which is made up of repeated sequences of culturally specific or stereotypical gestures and vocalizations, like two snaps and a neck twist—movements which display a dismissive response. Simultaneously, he records, loops, edits and remixes in real-time the audio and video documentation of the performers using a hacked Nintendo® Wii™ game controller. The resulting layers of real and projected imagery investigate constructions of identity in mainstream media and popular culture. Designer Kai Kuhne has provided clothing for the piece. Indra Salon is providing hair styling.

About the Artists

Kalup Linzy is a New York-based video and performance artist best known for a series of video art pieces satirizing the tone and narrative approach of television soap opera. Linzy performs most of the characters himself, many in drag, and also performs on stage using many of the same characters. Linzy has exhibited his work at P.S.1 Contemporary Arts Center, Long Island City, NY; The Hayward Gallery, London; and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. In 2005, he received a grant from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation. More recently, Linzy was named a Guggenheim Fellow for 2007-2008.

Exhibitions in 2008 include a retrospective of video works at the Moore Space in Miami; *Laughing in a Foreign Language* at the Hayward Gallery, London; the Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Visual Art; Prospect 1, New Orleans; and inclusion in *30 Americans* at the Rubell Family Collection. Linzy is represented by Taxter & Spengemann in New York. In 2003, Linzy graduated from the MFA program at the University of South Florida and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture video art workshop.

Visual and performance artist **Rashaad Newsome**, born in New Orleans, received a BA in Art History from Tulane University. After moving to New York, he studied Film and Digital Post Production at Film Video Arts. Newsome's work investigates the notion of cultural symbols and how they form and evolve. Utilizing the equalizing tool of sampling, he crafts compositions that walk the line between identity politics and abstraction. His work has been seen internationally at venues including Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ; K.U.E.L., Berlin; Glassbox Gallery, Paris; Ingalls & Associates Gallery, Miami; DUMBO Arts Center, Brooklyn; The Project Gallery, New York City; Rush Arts Gallery, New York City; Veletzrni Palace, Prague; Centre pour Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and Fondation Cartier, Paris.

His awards include a Van Lier Residency, Harvestworks, New York City; a SVA/LMCC Visiting Artist Award, SVA, New York City; LMCC's Workspace Artist Residency Program, New York City; the Location 1 International Residency Program, New York City; a BCAT/Rotunda Gallery Joint Multimedia Residency, New York City; a Franklin Furnace Grant for Performance Art, Franklin Furnace Fund, New York City; a l'Entreprise Culturelle Artist in Residence, Paris; and being the Harvestworks Artist in Residence, New York City.

Funding Credits

This presentation 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. The Kitchen's presentation of Kalup Linzy's performance also is made possible with generous support from The Greenwall Foundation. Rashaad Newsome's *Shade Compositions* is made possible by a co-commission by The Kitchen and Harvestworks' 2009 Van Lier Residency.



ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

Box Office Information:
212.255.5793 ext. 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen
512 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
www.thekitchen.org

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