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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen and The Studio Museum in Harlem present *Hoofers' House*, May 23**

**Hosted by Jason Samuels Smith;  
Featuring DJ Reborn and video artist Rashaad Newsome**

**Evening is part of citywide weekend of events celebrating National Tap Dance Day**

New York, NY, April 29, 2008—On **Friday, May 23**, **The Kitchen** and **The Studio Museum in Harlem** present *Hoofers' House*, an ongoing quarterly series in which some of the best of New York City's rhythm tap community come together to share and showcase their work. The evening will be hosted by performer, choreographer and director **Jason Samuels Smith** and will feature **DJ Reborn**. Film and video artist **Rashaad Newsome** will create unique visuals to accompany the performance. Tap dancers of all ages are invited to take the floor for a jam session. Curated by Rashida Bumbray, *Hoofers' House* will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Admission is free.

Among the most unique and cutting edge tap jam sessions in the city, *Hoofers' House* has been propelling a rejuvenation of the genre for the last several years with the addition of live and electronic music and projected visuals. This year, Rashaad Newsome has reprogrammed a Logitech duel action video game controller to manipulate moving images live during the performance.

Past hosts and performers include Chloe Arnold, Jason Bernard, Ayodele Casel, Marshall Davis, Omar Edwards, Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, Michaela Lerman, Tamango and Joseph Wiggan. Tap Legends including Harold Kromer, Fayard Nicholas, Tina Pratt and Jimmy Slyde have also attended.

From the 1920's through the 1940's, the back room of Harlem's Comedy Club on 131st Street, owned by Lonnie Hicks, was the home of the legendary "Hooper's Club," a site for the creation of, the listening to and stealing of steps. Among the rhythm tap dancers given the esteemed title of "hooper," celebrated performers including Legendary Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, King Raustus Brown, John Bubbles, Charles "Honi" Coles and many more graced the floor of this intimate room. In honor of this important place in Harlem's history, The Studio Museum in Harlem and The Kitchen are proud to co-host a new home for hoofers.

**Jason Samuels Smith** (performer, choreographer, director) is a leader in the art form of Tap. He won both an Emmy and American Choreography Award for "Outstanding Choreography" for the opening number of the 2003 *Jerry Lewis/MDA Telethon*—a tribute to the late Gregory Hines. Samuels Smith recently received the Gregory Hines Humanitarian Award. Past honors include a Certificate of Appreciation by the City of Los Angeles for creating the First Annual Los Angeles Tap Festival in 2003; the "Ivy of Education" from Brainerd Institute; the "President Kenny Award" from Stony Brook; an Alpert/McDowell Residency Award; and an Arts

International Grant among others. Samuels Smith recently appeared as a choreographer for Grammy Recording Artist Mya on CBS's *Secret Talents of the Stars*, and as a special guest on Fox's hit series *So You Think You Can Dance*. He also co-starred in Dean Hargrove's *Tap Heat*, an award-winning short film; Outkast's feature film *Idlewild*; and Debbie Allen's AMC television series *Cool Women*. Performance credits include *Sammy* (a tribute to Sammy Davis jr.), a leading role of the production of *Soul Possessed*; the Tony Award winning Broadway cast of *Bring in Da'Noise, Bring in Da'Funk*; and starring in the critically acclaimed production of *Imagine Tap!* Mr. Samuels Smith continues to tour the U.S. and beyond with *India Jazz Suites*, a dynamic collaboration with Kathak Master Pandit Chitresh Das, his own tap company A.C.G.I (Anybody Can Get It), JaJa Productions Band featuring jazz-influenced hip hop music, and Charlie's Angels: A Tribute to Charlie Parker, featuring some of the best women performers today.

**DJ Reborn** spins a mix of soul, hip-hop, reggae, house, afro-beat, nu-jazz, rock and more. A Chicago native, she now resides in New York and spins at clubs, parties, museums including The Studio Museum in Harlem and the Bronx Museum and live performances with The Roots, Common, Talib Kweli, India Arie, John Legend, Alice Smith and Goapele. Reborn is also a mentor/workshop facilitator for N.Y.C. teens. She has crafted a new workshop specifically for teen girls, which explores djing, creative writing and women's images in music and media culture. Since 2002, DJ Reborn has been the musical director and a live on stage DJ with Will Power on the off Broadway Hip Hop theatre hit show *Flow*. She partnered with Will Power again in 2007 as the musical director and sound designer for his original children's theatre production *Little Honey Bo*. Reborn was the 2004-2005 international tour DJ with Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam and she has made four appearances on BET's Rap City. She has been featured in *Trace*, *NRG*, *URB*, *Scratch*, *DJ Times* and recently appeared on the cover of *The Village Voice*.

Born in New Orleans, LA, **Rashaad Newsome** received a B.A. in Art History at Tulane University before studying Film at Film Video Arts in New York. He has been the recipient of several awards and grants including the 2008 Location 1 International Residency Program, New York, NY; the 2007 BCAT/Rotunda Gallery Joint Multimedia Residency, New York, NY; the 2006 Franklin Furnace grant for Performance Art, New York, NY; the 2005/2006 l'Entreprise Culturelle Artist in Residence, Paris, France and the 2005 Harvestworks Artist in Residence, Harvestworks, New York, NY. Newsome has also exhibited and performed nationally and internationally at such renewed institutions and galleries as K.U.E.L., Berlin, Germany; Glassbox Gallery, Paris, France; Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY; Veletrzní Palace, Prague, Czech Republic; Ingalls & Associates Gallery, Miami, FL; Fondation Cartier, Paris, France as well as The Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA.

**The Studio Museum in Harlem** is the nexus for black artists locally, nationally and internationally, and for work that has been inspired by black culture. It is a site for the dynamic exchange of ideas about art and society. Located on 125th Street, between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. and Lenox Avenue in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City, New York, The Studio Museum in Harlem was founded in 1968 as the first museum in the U.S. devoted to the art of African-Americans. The museum specializes in 19th and 20th century African-American art; 20th century Caribbean and African art; and traditional African art and artifacts. It has a collection of over 1,600 works including pieces by Romare Bearden, Robert Colescott, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Chris Ofili, Betye Saar, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker and Hale Woodruff. The museum also maintains an extensive archive of the work of James VanDerZee, photographer of the Harlem community from 1906 to 1983.

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## **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  
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