



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

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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents a shared evening of two new choreographed works by Trajal Harrell and Karen Bernard**

January 11, 2006 – The Kitchen presents a shared evening of new works by two distinctly different choreographers, **Karen Bernard** and **Trajal Harrell**. Curated by choreographer **Tere O'Connor**, the evening features **Bernard's** latest solo *Totally in Love*, which unfolds like a series of journal entries, and **Harrell's** *Before Intermission*, which melds postmodern dance, the fashion runway, and the tradition of “voguing” into highly-stylized, staged vignettes. The performances will take place at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street) on **Friday, February 24** and **Saturday, February 25** at **8pm**. **Admission is \$10.**

Of choosing the contrasting works, curator Tere O'Connor comments, “I selected these two artists from a group of choreographers currently working in New York City whose work is characterized by the singularity of their vision. Divorced from any trend, they employ choreographic process in divergent ways to create poetic connections between multiple layers of information. Inter-mingling the topical with the inferred, they shed light on this particularly elastic attribute of dance.”

In his new ensemble piece, *Before Intermission*, Trajal Harrell continues his investigation of a recognizable aesthetic of “cool”, while incorporating references to themes and events in James Baldwin's novel *Giovanni's Room*. His dancers include **Julie Alexander, Isabel Gunther, Trajal Harrell, Anne Pinomaki-Ballantyne, Arturo Vidich,** and **Luke Wylie**. Lighting design is by **Thomas Dunn**, set design is by **Erik Flatmo**, and costume design is by **Masala Browman**.

Karen Bernard's latest solo combines traditional social dance forms with video and audio recordings of the artist and her children, as Bernard celebrates and mourns their growing up and leaving home. The work is directed by Bessie Award winner **Maureen Brennan**, and the commissioned music is by Montreal DJ and sample-based composer **Owen Chapman**. The videography is in collaboration with **Jody Sperling** (1995) and **Valerie Green** (2005) with additional sound and editing by **Norm Scott** and **Brooks Williams** of Harmonic Ranch.

### About the Artists

**Karen Bernard** is a longtime innovator and catalyst in the world of performance art. She began studying dance at age three with her father, Steven Bernard, a company member with Charles Weidman. Following studies at the London School of Contemporary Dance, she collaborated with conceptual artist, David Tremlette for an exhibition at The Tate Gallery, and choreographed and performed a satirical variation of *Les Sylphides* for Captain Beefheart's 1973 British tour beginning at the Royal Albert Hall. Since moving to New York City in 1974, her body of solo

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work has been produced in venues from Dixon Place to Symphony Space, as well as throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2005 she co-published a handmade book *Removed Exposure*, based on her live solo work of the same name, in collaboration with Montréal artist Gray Fraser/Production Gray, her daughter Alex Wixon, and Newfoundland photographer Sheilagh O'Leary. She has taught choreographic process through Movement Research and was a Movement Research Artist in Residence. Bernard is a Fieldwork facilitator and most recently a guest artist at Trinity College. Bernard is the founder and Director of New Dance Alliance, producers of the Performance Mix Festival, which receives government and private funding. She will perform *Removed Exposure* in March 2006 at *Her Position In Transition*, a women's arts festival at the Volkstheater in Vienna.

A graduate of Yale University, **Trajal Harrell** has been an artist-in-residence at The Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art/Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Movement Research, and Bennington College. In the spring of 2003, he was a guest artist developing work in the studios of Mains d'Oeuvres (St. Ouen, France), an interdisciplinary art center just outside of Paris, as well as invited to develop work in the studios at Le centre national de la danse (Paris). His work has been seen at many venues including The Kitchen, Danspace Project, P.S. 122, Dance Mission (San Francisco, CA), The Bronx Museum of the Arts, The City University of New York's Martin Segal Theater and Proshansky Auditorium, and The Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, among others. He has received grant support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Zacks Family Foundation, The James E. Robison Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, Harkness/Purchase College, The Alfred Meyer Foundation, The Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, People PC Inc, and JP Morgan Chase Foundation. In 2004, Harrell was seen with his company performing at Art Basel-Miami Beach in an installation by visual artist assume vivid astro focus. Most recently, Trajal was one of four emerging international choreographers chosen for The Choreographic Window Project at Tanz im August 2005-Internationales Tanzfest Berlin.

Trajal Harrell's piece, *Before Intermission*, was developed, in part, through support from The Choreographic Window Project at Tanz im August 2005-Internationales Tanzfest Berlin. Development and research support has also been received from The Center for the Humanities/CUNY Graduate Center.

The presentation of *Totally In Love* is made possible, in part, through the The Field's Artward Bound residency program and The Experimental Television Center. The Experimental Television Center's Presentation Funds program is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Dance Programs at The Kitchen are supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



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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 x 11**

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**Tue-Sat, 2-6pm**

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