



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

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For immediate release
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**John Kelly brings his meditation on 1945 French film
classic, *Children of Paradise*, to The Kitchen**

JOHN KELLY: The Paradise Project

Preview: September 12 & 13 [Thu & Fri] 8pm
Run: September 14 [Sat], 18-21 [Wed-Sat] 8pm
September 25 [Wed] 7pm, September 26-28 [Thu-Sat] 8pm \$20
Post-performance discussion: September 19
Lunch-break performance: September 24 [Tue] 12pm \$10

Conceived and directed by **John Kelly**
Music by **Michael Torke**
Lyrics by **Mark Campbell**
Costumes by **Dona Zakowska**
Lighting by **Stan Pressner**
Produced by **Alyce Disette**

“Transformation through spiritual osmosis...that’s what John Kelly
accomplishes....Magnificent.”—*The New York Times*

Bessie- and Obie-Award winning artist **John Kelly** kicks off The Kitchen’s Fall 2002 Season with the first installment of *The Paradise Project*. Blending movement, digital technology and old-fashioned theatrical illusions, *The Paradise Project* is a meditation on Marcel Carne’s 1945 French film classic *Children of Paradise* (*Les enfants du paradis*)—a story of love and loss made under the scrutiny of Nazi censorship. Postponed from this past Spring due to an injury, Kelly’s latest collaborative venture features original songs by composer **Michael Torke**, commissioned especially for the work, with lyrics by **Mark Campbell**, and an ensemble cast.

The Paradise Project delves into a disenchanted man’s obsession with the film and the ill-fated romance between its two protagonists, the mime Baptiste and the elusive Garance. The production includes reinterpretations of the film on-stage mime scenes, a scene in which Garance and Baptiste sing of their lives, and multiple video projections providing a visual backdrop to this timeless story.

The Paradise Project was made possible by the Doris Duke Fund for Dance of the National Dance Project, a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts. Additional funding provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Philip Morris Companies Inc.

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About the artist:

John Kelly is an author, choreographer, director, and performer. His solo and ensemble performance works have been performed at venues as diverse as the Pyramid Club, Carnegie Recital Hall, Lincoln Center, most of downtown's performance venues, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's *Next Wave* Festival. As a choreographer and director he has received 2 Bessie (New York Dance and Performance) Awards, 2 Obie Awards, the American Choreographer Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the first Oscar Rubenhausen Fellowship (through the Greenwall Foundation), 3 Fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and 5 consecutive Choreographer Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He is also the recipient of a 2001 CalArts/ Alpert Award in Dance. John Kelly has studied ballet with American Ballet Theatre, visual art at Parsons School of Design, Decroux corporeal mime at the Theatre d'Ange Fou in Paris, Trapeze and tite-wire with the Pickle Family Circus in San Francisco, and voice at the Accademia Musicale Ottorino Respighi in Assisi, Italy. He has performed three solo vocal recitals at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, and was a featured vocalist with the San Francisco Symphony's *Cultural Maverick* Series. Recent projects include *Shiny Hot Nights: More Songs of Joni Mitchell* at Fez; *Brother*, a song cycle in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize winner David Del Tredici; and *Moondrunk* at the New Victory Theatre in 1999 as part of Lincoln Center's Great Performers: New Visions series. Next fall, he will record his first solo CD, a collaboration with Gavin Friday to be recorded in Dublin and produced by Hal Willner. *John Kelly*, an autobiography published by 2wice Foundation and distributed by Aperture Books, is now available in bookstores nationwide.

The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th & 11th Aves, accessible from the 1, 2 trains at 18th Street or the L, A, C, E trains at 14th Street).

For tickets, call 212-255-5793, ext. 11 or visit www.thekitchen.org (ticketweb.com). For press tickets or more information, call Isabelle Deconinck at 212-255-5793, ext. 14.

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