

The Kitchen and the National Performance Network are proud to present the New York premiere of "The Undead," a performance/theater piece by writer Dennis Cooper and choreographer/director Ishmael Houston-Jones. "The Undead" offers a disturbing yet oddly beautiful portrait of lives lost within the theatrical void of contemporary culture. Bored, alienated, and gay, the Undead populating this world struggle to connect as well as survive.

The work is co-directed by Peter Brosius and features the original cast comprised of some of L.A.'s most riveting performers. "The Undead" received its world premiere in June, 1990 at the Los Angeles Festival of the Arts and went on to become one of the most talked about works in this giant festival. The piece combines performance art, theater, and dance to explore thematic concerns present in the work of both artists. Performers, all from Los Angeles, are Curtis York, Luis Alfaro, Chris Blande, Scot Goetz, Keith Levy, and Steven Craig.

Dennis Cooper is the author of the novels "Frisk" and "Closer" as well as the upcoming short story collection "Wrong," all published by Grove Wiedenfeld. Cooper has collaborated on other performance works, including last year's "Knife, Tape, Rope," presented at P.S. 122. in which he worked with Houston-Jones as well as composer Chris Cochrane. Ishmael Houston-Jones is well known in downtown New York for his solo choreography and his work with other dance and performance figures. He has performed in most of the major downtown spaces as well as throughout Europe.

This presentation of "The Undead" is one of a national series of such programs which together constitute the National Performance Network (NPN), designed to increase traffic and creative opportunities for non-traditional and experimental artists of all cultural backgrounds in dance, music, theater, performance art, and puppetry. The NPN is a project of New York's Dance Theater Workshop in cooperation with The Kitchen and similarly dedicated arts organizations in twenty-four cities across the country, all of which play an important and on-going role in nurturing innovative work. The Network has been made possible with major national funding from the Ford Foundation, (NPN Creation Fund and related activities), the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund (dance residencies and related community activities) and the Dance, Inter-Arts, Theater, and Challenge III (NPN Creation Fund and S.U.R.F.F.) Programs of the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency).

For further information about the National Performance Network, contact David R. White, Executive Director and Producer, DTW and NPN National Project Director, Dance Theater Workshop, 219 W. 19th St., New York, N.Y. 10011 (212/691-6500), or Ann Rosenthal, Touring Projects Director, DTW, or Rhoda Cerritelli, Touring Projects Coordinator, DTW at the same address (212/645-6200).