



512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011  
tel 212 255 5793 www.thekitchen.org

Press Contact: Blake Zidell & Associates  
tel: 718.643.9052  
fax: 718.643.9502  
blake@blakezidell.com

For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents new work by choreographer luciana achugar, *PURO DESEO*, Thursday—Sunday, April 29—May 2**

New York, NY, April 8, 2010—**Thursday through Saturday, April 29—May 2, The Kitchen** presents the premiere of *PURO DESEO*, a new dance work by choreographer **luciana achugar**. With this piece, achugar returns to the proscenium stage setting, embracing the darkness of the cavernous black box to create a visceral experience of sound, movement, and lighting. Performing the piece with achugar is long-time collaborator **Michael Mahalchick**, who also acted as dramaturg. Curated by **Matthew Lyons**, *PURO DESEO* will run Thursday through Saturday, **April 29—May 1 at 8:00 P.M.** and on **Sunday, May 2 at 5:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th St.). Tickets are \$12.

Inspired by paranormal phenomena, the occult, and monsters in Gothic film and literature, *PURO DESEO* draws parallels to the mysteries of the human body. Initially conceived as a solo work for achugar, the work eventually developed into a duet with both performers dancing and making music.

Other collaborators on *PURO DESEO* include lighting designer **Madeline Best** and costume designer **Walter Dundervill**.

**luciana achugar** is an Uruguayan choreographer based in Brooklyn. She moved to New York in 1995 after graduating from Cal Arts. In New York, she worked as a dancer with several influential choreographers including Luis Lara, Jeremy Nelson, Wil Swanson, Maria Hassabi, chameckilerner, and John Jasperse. From 1999 to 2003, she worked in a close collaborative relationship with choreographer Levi Gonzalez.

Since 2002 achugar has created six independent works: *SUPERella* (2002), *New Flesh Order* (2003), *A Super Natural Return to Love* (2004), *Exhausting Love at Danspace Project* (2006), *Franny & Zooey* (2007), and *The Sublime is Us* which premiered at Dance Theatre Workshop in October 2008. Her work has been presented in NY at Movement Research's MELT Festival; the Ensemble Studio Theatre; The Latino American Dance: Not Festival Project; CANADA Gallery; Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery; Dixon Place; La MaMa; Abrons Arts Center; Danspace Project and Dance Theatre Workshop; in Minneapolis, MN at the Walker Art Center; in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the Green Street Studios; and in Uruguay at the Teatro Solis, the Festival Iberoamericano de Danza and the Centro Cultural de España.

achugar received a BESSIE Award as Creator/choreographer for her first full evening-length piece, *Exhausting Love at Danspace Project*. In November 2008, she accepted Tere O'Connor's BAX10 artist and artists in progress "Passing it on Award". In April 2009, she received the LMCC's 2009 President's Liberty Award. And, most recently, she was awarded a 2010 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant. achugar was a 2008 New York Foundation for the Arts fellow in Choreography, a 2007 Choreography Fellow of the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, a 2007 Sugar Salon Artist, a 01/02-02/03 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence, and she is currently a 2009/10- 10/11 Brooklyn Arts Exchange Artist-in-Residence. Most recently, achugar received a Jerome Foundation Grant and a MAP Fund Production Grant for her current project, *PURO DESEO*.

## **Funding Credits**

The Kitchen's presentation of *PURO DESEO* is made possible with support from The Greenwall Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

*PURO DESEO* was created, in part, with support from the Multi-Arts Production Fund; the Jerome Foundation; the Abrons Arts Center Workspace Program; and through the Artist in Residence Program at BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange.



## **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](http://www.thekitchen.org)

#####