

THE KITCHEN

VIDEO

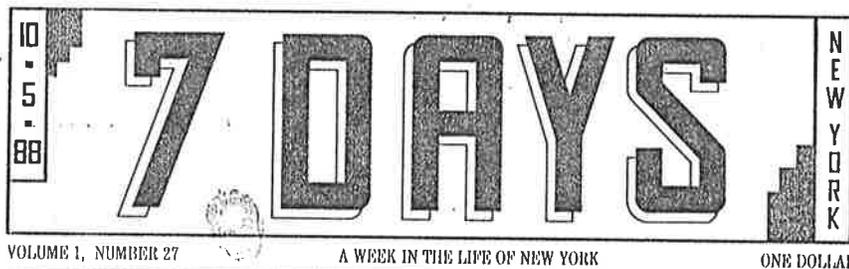
MUSIC

DANCE

PERFORMANCE FILM

512 West 19th St. (Btwn 10th & 11th Aves) New York, NY 10011

Reservations: 255-5793



NEW THIS WEEK

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URBAN BUSHWOMEN

The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St., 255-5793. Through October 2. When the Urban Bushwomen call a new work *Heat*, they mean it. Under the direction of choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, the seven intensely committed black dancers used the title metaphor to explore sexual awakening, desperation, loss, and the rage of the oppressed. The section called "Lipstiek" took on adolescent heat: pinned beneath a searing spotlight, Laurie Carlos intoned a bluesy version of *Dedicated to the One I Love*, while the dancers impersonated teenage girls, singing, clapping, and vamping restlessly in place, while applying lipsticks in such luscious shades as "Firecracker"

and "Purple Passion." Other sequences were of a chilling intensity, as when an anguished woman dressed in a buttoned-up overcoat suddenly metamorphosed into an embittered stripper in G-string and sunglasses. Angrily brandishing a gleaming dagger, she bites into an apple and smashes a raw egg on her bare breasts—she's Eve, the temptress who turns into a destroyer, the mother who thrills in the destruction of possible new life. But too much of this premiere *Heat* was tepid, wandering from static tableau to spoken text to musical interlude. The final section was a visceral merging of two powerful types of movement: ancient African dance and high-energy contact improvisation. Trimmed and edited, *Heat* might have sustained the impact of its finale.

Robert Sandla