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For Immediate Release:

Voilà

a performance by
Deborah Hay

Modern dance pioneer, Deborah Hay, will be performing "Voilà": a series of three solos choreographed by three dancers, including Ms. Hay. The dances are each based on the libretto written by Ms. Hay from an earlier solo performance titled "Voilà." The dance will celebrate its New York City premiere at The Kitchen April 12-16.

Ms. Hay wrote the libretto for "Voilà" after performing the dance as a solo in Austin, Texas in 1995. The dancers who will join Ms. Hay at the Kitchen, Grace Lee and Scott Heron, are both former students of Hay's, have designed their own movement based solely on the libretto. None of the dancers have seen each other's work, or Ms. Hay's. The idea is to see how the libretto communicates the ideas and information which will lead to movement.

Ann Daly, in a 1995 review of "Voilà" in *The Texas Observer*, described Hay's performance in "Voilà" as **"A radical, absurd pastiche: not just eccentric, even awkward movements, but also storytelling, vocalizations, and assorted emotional outbursts.... Here, as usual, Hay plumbs the tragic in the humorous, and vice versa, keeping us emotionally mobile and receptive."** *Village Voice* dance critic Deborah Jowitt, said of Hay, **"She suggests an impudent wit, but reveals many selves: playful, grave, tender, stricken... Only one strongly centered can be this eccentric. The entire community lives in her."**

Deborah Hay began her professional career dancing for the Merce Cunningham company in 1964. She abandoned her dance training in 1965, and began creating works exclusively for untrained dancers. Hay was a member of the now legendary Judson Dance Theater at the Judson Church, with other modern dance greats such as Steve Paxton, Trisha Brown, and Yvonne Rainer. In the seventies her work focused on "folk" dances, dances that were to be danced, rather than observed. Hay moved to Austin in 1976, and began teaching what evolved into four-month intensive workshops, which often led to public performances, and which served as fodder for solo performances.

In her essay "Remaining Positionless," published in *Contact Quarterly* in 1987, Ms. Hay says of her dancing, **"My dances need to be seen at close range... Long sequences of non-action, combined with 'embarrassing,' 'ugly,' 'spastic,' 'animal' movements, force me to develop avenues of easy access for the audience to see what I do.... I like to dance close to you. To be visually available, down to the barest changes."**

The black box theater at the Kitchen, which seats 130, provides an ideally intimate stage for Ms. Hay's most recent experiments and performance, "Voilà."

"Voilà" will be presented at The Kitchen on April 12-16, 1997. Tickets are \$12 and reservations can be made by calling (212) 255-5793. The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street, between 10th and 11th avenues.

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