

The Kitchen Center for Video · Music · Dance
· Performance · Film and Literature
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For immediate release: September 1, 1993
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"QUEER & ALONE"

RON VAWTER AND MARIANNE WEEMS' PRODUCTION OF
JAMES STRAHS' 1987 NOVEL, FEATURING
GREG MEHRTEN AND LOLA PASHALINSKI, INAUGURATES
THE KITCHEN'S SECOND FLOOR THEATER SPACE

*Production Launches a Three Month Kitchen Residency by the Artists;
Events to Include Jill Godmillow's Filming of Roy Cohn/Jack Smith,
and Development of a New Theatrical Work Directed by Susan Sontag*

Thursday, October 21 - Sunday, October 24, 1993
Members of the press are invited to attend the performance of October 23
Thursday, October 28 - Sunday, October 31, 1993
Thursday, November 4 - Sunday, November 7, 1993
9:30pm each night
Tickets: \$15, Members \$10
Tickets available through TicketMaster, (212) 307-7171,
or at The Kitchen, Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm
For information call The Kitchen, (212) 255-5793

The Kitchen inaugurates its second floor studio theater, which will feature a series of intimately scaled works, with the premier of Ron Vawter and Marianne Weems' production of James Strahs' 1987 novel, *Queer & Alone*. The production, co-directed by Mr. Vawter and Ms. Weems, will feature Greg Mehrten live, Lola Pashalinski on videotape, and will also include appearances by Elion Sacker and Ann Rower. The lighting is designed by Jennifer Tipton. Kevin Cunningham is the technical director.

Queer & Alone is a 75 minute theatrical work, a "scatological romance" in the form of a memoir. From his hospital bed, eccentric anti-hero, Desmond Farrquahr, describes and relives his long sea cruise from Europe to Hong Kong. Employing torrents of deceptive, sometimes surrealistic language, the play forms an often humorous portrait of a disturbed personality and a bitterly comic and subversive view of western civilization. As a description of the novel itself suggests, "Desmond Farrquahr is a very queer fellow if judged by any conventional standards. But isn't the world itself a queer place these days?"

This production of *Queer & Alone* marks the beginning of a unique, three month Kitchen residency by the artists, a period of intensive work which will include several public and private events. First, the directors, cast and crew will spend approximately six weeks developing *Queer & Alone*, culminating in twelve public performances. Then, in late October, filming will begin of the highly acclaimed *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith*, featuring Ron Vawter, directed by Jill Godmillow, and presented by Jonathan Demme. A limited number of tickets will be available to the public to view these rare performances; exact dates and information on obtaining tickets will be announced in the next several weeks. Finally, upon the closing of *Queer & Alone*, Susan Sontag will enter The Kitchen to develop and direct a new theatrical work, featuring Mr. Mehrten and Mr. Vawter. Ms. Weems will assist Ms. Sontag with the direction of this production which will open next year at a venue to be announced.

Greg Mehrten (performer) has been active in New York theater since 1975, working as an actor, director, playwright and designer. He was Co-Artistic Director of Mabou Mines from 1981-90 for whom he wrote two plays, *Pretty Boy* (which he also directed), and *It's a Man's World* (commissioned by LATC). He has just completed a four month European tour directing the critically acclaimed *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith*. He also recently directed Eric Bentley's *Round Two* for Wings Theater, and appeared in *In The Jungle of Cities* at the Public Theater. He received a 1990 Obie Award for his performance as the

fool in *Lear*.

Lola Pashalinski (performer) is a two-time Obie Award winning off-Broadway actress who works in television, film and theater.

James Strahs (writer) is the author of many plays and novels, among them, *Queer and Alone*, which was published by PAJ Publications in 1987. For The Wooster Group he wrote *North Atlantic* (1983), portions of *Frank Dell's The Temptation of Saint Anthony* (1988), and sections of other works. He is also a film and theater actor.

Ron Vawter (co-director) is a founding member of The Wooster Group. He has created roles in many off-Broadway theater productions. He also works in feature films, network television, and independent film and video projects. His most recent film appearances include Jonathan Demme's upcoming *Philadelphia*, *Silence of the Lambs*, *sex, lies and videotape*, and *Internal Affairs*. Mr. Vawter has just returned from a four month European tour of the Obie Award winning play *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith*. A film version of the play is planned for this fall. Mr. Vawter also received a 1985 Obie for Sustained Excellence and a 1988 "Bessie" Award.

Marianne Weems (co-director) has worked with The Wooster Group since 1988, as a dramaturg and as an assistant director. She is also a member of The V-Girls, and a director of The Merry Pit Bull Theater.