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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents a new dance/theater piece by Michael Portnoy

May 12, 2006 – The Kitchen presents a new dance-theater piece by Michael Portnoy. Told through a series of tightly choreographed and often humorous scenes, each based on a particular joke, *The K Sound* explores broad cultural assumptions, stereotypes, and prejudices embedded in a joke's content and structure. Set to a lush, convulsive electro-acoustic score, *The K Sound* features a diverse cast of performers, including dancers, actors, non-performers, and singers, as well as a wide range of performance styles, ranging from micro-choreography to behavioral movement. Performances will take place at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street), on **June 8-10 (Thursday – Saturday)** at **8pm**. **Admission is \$12.**

Portnoy's form of stand-up infuses the structure of the jokes – gathered from around the world - with operatic beauty, sadness, and tragedy, and utilizes a primal humor that straddles the line between horror, humor, and suspense. The music score unites the jokes with the dance, song, text, lighting, and set: its idiosyncratic timing emphasizes the feeling of unpredictability in the choreography.

The performance features performers **David Adamo, Willa Carroll, Walter Gambín, John King, Sarah Michelson, Chethwith Murosian, Johnnie Moore, Natasha Papadopoulou, Michael Portnoy, Elisa Santiago, Pete Simpson, Jeremy Wade** and others, a set designed by visual artist **Robert Melee**, and music composed and accompanied live by **Pete Drungle**.

About the Artist

Michael Portnoy is a New York based multidisciplinary artist, performer, musician, and Director of Behavior. He has presented work extensively in NY in such venues as: P.S.1/MOMA, The Kitchen, P.S. 122, Movement Research at The Judson Church, EFA Gallery, Deitch Gallery, White Box, Canada Gallery, ACE Gallery, The Knitting Factory, Little Theater, The Grammy Awards at Radio City Music Hall, As Four fashion shows and the washroom at Schiller's; and internationally at Foksal Gallery Foundation (Warsaw), Kaaitheater (Brussels), migros museum (Zurich), Le Comfort Moderne (Poitiers, France) and The National Review of Live Art

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(Glasgow). Michael directs Session - a salon on Manhattan's Lower East Side devoted to the exploration of social exchange as an art form. He has worked with choreographers ChameckiLerner, Maria Hassabi, Koosil-Ja Hwang, and Scott Heron, with artist Claude Wampler and musician Pete Drungle. Michael held a residency at Yaddo this past fall. "I Know Who I Am!", the first film by a new collaborative, SAKANAMA, of which

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Dance programs at The Kitchen are made possible with sponsorship support from Altria Group, Inc. and with generous grants from The Harkness Foundation for Dance and the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.

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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:

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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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