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NEWS

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**THE NEWLY COMPLETED ELECTRONIC
MUSICAL THEATRE WORK PREMIERES**

The Ridge Theatre Production of John Moran's
MATHEW IN THE SCHOOL OF LIFE
at The Kitchen September 22 - October 29

The Obie Award winning team of composer John Moran and director Bob McGrath of Ridge Theater opens the 1995-96 season at The Kitchen with *Mathew In The School of Life*, their long awaited musical-theater collaboration. Following a two-month artists' residency by Ridge Theater, this new production follows last year's acclaimed presentation *Mathew In The School of Life, Part 1: The Lamb of God*. Previews begin September 22nd and the production opens October 5th.

Mathew, which features John Moran in the lead role, is the story of a robot angel living in a nightmarish world called Heaven. Created to absorb human suffering, this android boy is born, raised, and, in *Mathew's* terrifying conclusion, meets his destiny. This two hour production, a theatrical experience encompassing several disciplines, features a unique combination of live performance, film, slide projections and Moran's complex blend of music, dialogue and "found sound". In this new sci-fi musical theatre work, Moran and Ridge have created distinct sonic and visual environments for a large cast of characters who perform to a completely pre-recorded soundtrack; there is no *live* dialogue. As Michael Fiengold wrote in *The Village Voice*, *Mathew* is "a minimalist clean slate, preparing the way for the new, whatever that may be."

As John Rockwell wrote in *The New York Times*, John Moran is "one of the leading vanguards of avant garde music-theater." Ridge Theater's productions of John Moran's work, under Artistic Director Bob McGrath, have been praised by *The New York Times*, the *Village Voice*, *Artforum* and other publications for their intricate synthesized scores executed with meticulous interaction of performance, music, speech, film and video. A series of cyber-gothic pull out sets have been created for

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the production by Laurie Olinder and Fred Tietz. New films have been created for *Mathew* by Bessie award-winning filmmaker Bill Morrison, whose work was featured at MOMA last spring. Some film sequences also include animation by Marco North. Elizabeth Evers has designed the production's post-industrial costumes. Lighting design is by Obie Award-winner Howard Theis. Also, poet Allen Ginsberg has contributed voice-overs to the production.

Mathew In The School of Life represents the fourth collaboration between John Moran and Ridge Theater since their inception in 1982, including such critical successes as *Jack Benny!* (1989), *The Manson Family* (1990) and the *Everyday Newt Berman* trilogy (1993). *Mathew In The School of Life* was originally commissioned by Ridge Theater in the fall of 1993. This production also marks the second consecutive artists' residency by Ridge Theater at The Kitchen. The residency program provides artists with rehearsal space as well as technical, creative and administrative support.

The Kitchen Center for Video, Music, Dance, Performance, Film & Literature was founded in 1971 as a space for experimental video and music. The Kitchen today, under the direction of Lauren Amazeen, is one of the primary stages for the international avant garde, presenting work by emerging and recognized artists who have established their distinctive visions yet continue to challenge traditional definition. In November 1994, The Kitchen renewed its commitment to leading the exploration of the electronic medium when it became the New York site of Electronic Cafe International.

Previews begin September 22nd. *Mathew In The School of Life* opens October 5th and runs through October 29th. All performances are at 8pm. Tickets range from \$12 to \$20, with special opening night gala tickets available at \$40. The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th & 11th Avenues) in the West Chelsea district of Manhattan. Additional information and reservations for all events at The Kitchen may be obtained by calling The Kitchen's general number at (212) 255-5793. Advance tickets and subscriptions are available at The Kitchen Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm; at the Bryant Park Ticket Booth, located at the corner of 42nd Street and 6th Avenue; or through TicketMaster at (212) 307-7171. The Kitchen now accepts Visa, Mastercard and ATM cards (service charges apply).

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