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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents Derrick Adams' *Go Stand Next To The Mountain* and Narcissister's *This Masquerade***

**Double bill will be performed Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15**

New York, NY—On **Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15**, **The Kitchen** presents a double bill in which **Derrick Adams** and **Narcissister** will premiere new works. Adams' *Go Stand Next To The Mountain* is a suite of live performances exploring the complex relationships between man and monuments. Known for wildly original shows dealing with race, gender and sexuality, Narcissister debuts her new piece, *This Masquerade*. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, performances will begin at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$10.

Visual and performance artist Derrick Adams' *Go Stand Next To The Mountain* evolves through masquerade, dance, sound, video projection and sculptural installation. The piece incorporates divergent pop culture references, ranging from 1970s educational television to the original version of the film *Clash of the Titans* to Jimi Hendrix's *Voodoo Child* lyrics. *Go Stand Next To The Mountain* features an original music score and a live DJ set as the soundtrack.

Narcissister creates absurd and playful vignettes of neo-burlesque, utilizing an array of masks, props, choreography and costumes. For *This Masquerade*, she debuts a new series of performances alongside her cast of masked cohorts to offer up a complex and riotous critique of popular culture's spurious ideas about black femininity. The piece also features original music by (insert info here).

### **About the Artists**

**Derrick Adams** is a Brooklyn-based artist, and is currently represented by Collette Blanchard Gallery NYC. Adams' work combines a variety of mediums to craft an animated world populated by pseudo-educational characters. A preoccupation with consumer objects and their presumed demographic posturing, particularly in an urban context, informs his practice of reconfiguring familiar items to expose their persuasive and often duplicitous nature. Derived from "impressionable experiences associated with iconography from American culture," particularly adults, education, the mall and television, learning functions as both subject and object in Adam's works. He fashions a small society within an animated world by scripting performative identities through costumes and environments that are frequently reversed (interior/exterior, front/back), manifesting the two-sided nature of seemingly neutral objects.

His past solo exhibitions include *i'm sorry, i'm lost*, Marvelli Gallery, NY (2005); *i'm smoke you're mirror*, Participant Inc, NY (2005); *me & my imaginary friends*, Triple Candie, NY (2004); and *the big getaway*, Jack Tilton Gallery, NY (2003). Adams has been in group exhibitions including Greater New York, PS1/Moma; Wall Streets Rising, Deutsche Bank, NY; Sampson Projects, Boston, MA; Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania; Roebing Hall, NY; Massimo Audiello, NY; Studio Museum in Harlem, NY; Centenary Gallery, Camberwell College of Arts, London, UK; L.C. Bates Museum, Hinckley, ME; & UFA

Gallery, NY. Adams received his MFA from Columbia University in 2003 and a BFA from Pratt Institute in 1996. His awards include The Space Program, Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation, NY (2003-2004); and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

In addition, Adams has taught at various institutions, and has lectured and served on various panels. He was the Founding Director of Rush Arts Gallery in New York, a core program of the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, a non-profit organization started by brothers Russell, Danny and Joseph "Rev. Run" Simmons dedicated to providing urban youth with significant exposure and access to the arts, as well as providing exhibition opportunities. In 2009, Adams left Rush Arts Gallery to start Bingeonline.com, an online destination appealing to the aggressive culture consumer. Developed as a means to highlight those emerging from art, design, music and fashion, BINGE focuses attention on politics, social scenes and consumer goods.

**Narcissister** is a New York-based artist and performer. Before she called herself Narcissister, she was a professional modern dancer. Her formative training took place at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Among her professional highlights was being selected to perform with the Alvin Ailey Company in *Memoria*, one of Ailey's seminal pieces, touring Europe as a dancer in a German rock-opera and performing in industrial work for Mercedes Benz.

In addition to her performance work, Narcissister has worked in many other creative media including contemporary quilting, collage, sculpture, printmaking and photography. She has participated in multiple studio residencies including The Whitney Museum Independent Study Program and the Art in General Eastern European Residency Program. In addition, her work has been included in group shows and media publications. Narcissister has also worked extensively as a commercial artist, designing window displays and working as a stylist and art director.

The Narcissister performance project integrates her prior experience as a professional dancer with her current visual and commercial art practices. Narcissister has been receiving much recognition as an outstanding artist and performer through the written word, invitations, and awards. Her art film "The Self-Gratifier" won an award for "Best Use of a Sex Toy" at The 2008 Good Vibrations Erotic Film Festival. In April 2009 she was awarded a Backstage Magazine "Bistro Award" for Outstanding Vaudeville/Burlesque Performance, a category created especially to honor Narcissister's performance work.

In addition being a featured performer at The Box NYC, Narcissister has presented work at The New Museum, Deitch Projects, Joe's Pub, Santos Party House, in the Weimar New York and Tingle Tangle shows, and has starred in and curated performance shows at Santos Party House and The Zipper Factory. Narcissister is also developing an international following. In Spring 2009 she was invited to present her first evening length solo show as part of the Music Biennale in Zagreb, Croatia. In the Fall 2009 she presented work at Chicks on Speed's Girl Monster Festival in Hamburg, Germany, at *Warehouse 09*, a live art festival in Copenhagen, Denmark, and at Torture Garden in London, England.

### **Funding Credits**

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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:  
212.255.5793 ext. 11  
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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