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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *BIG EATER*,
New work by Bessie Award-winning choreographer David Neumann,
March 4—7 and 10—13**

New York, NY, February 8, 2010—This spring, **The Kitchen** presents the premiere of *BIG EATER*, a multi-disciplinary dance-based work by choreographer **David Neumann**, who is known for his deeply intelligent and wildly funny productions. Commissioned by the Kitchen, *BIG EATER* looks at the excessive consumption of our minds—the insatiable appetites of human beings for media and information. For this work, Neumann starts with a primal movement vocabulary and builds a complex series of arguments on the body, challenging his creative preferences and pushing the boundaries of dance and theater. *BIG EATER* features the performers **Natalie Agee, Andrew Dinwiddie, Kennis Hawkins, Neal Medlyn, Weena Pauly** and **Will Rawls**. *BIG EATER* will run **Thursday through Saturday, March 4—6 at 8:00 P.M.**, on **Sunday, March 7 at 5:00 P.M.** and **Wednesday through Saturday, March 10—13 at 8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th St.). Tickets are \$15.

Neumann's multi-faceted approach to building performances stems from a desire to reflect the agility of thought. The combined use of sound, image, movement, text and music are woven together as a discourse. *BIG EATER* is built as an argument of ideas, events and sensory experiences that explore the conflicts between mind and body, humanity and the natural world, and our propensity to consume more than we can handle. The piece also juxtaposes our arrogance with our more transcendent qualities, for instance, the mind's ability to recognize patterns across phenomena. Though not overtly autobiographical, Neumann has connected his use of 'found sources' to his own experiences finding form in an exchange of disparate elements that might make such a life: suburbia's proximity to nature, drunkenness, 1980's television, synthetic biology, 19th century ballet and the end of the world.

BIG EATER's video components are by **Richard Sylvarnes** with lighting design by **Dave Moodey**, projections by **Bryna Lieberman** and costumes by **Kaye Voyce**. The sound design is by **Katie Down** and David Neumann, with additional compositions by **Stew**.

David Neumann has been a featured dancer in the works of Susan Marshall, Jane Comfort, Sally Silvers, Irene Hultman, Cathy Weiss, Big Dance Theater and the late club legend Willi Ninja. He was a member of Doug Varone and Dancers, and an eight-year original member and collaborator with the Doug Elkins Dance Company, with whom he toured nationally and internationally. He continues to perform and choreograph for theater, opera and film working with such directors as: Hal Hartley, Laurie Anderson, Robert Woodruff, Lee Breuer, Peter Sellars, JoAnn Akalaitis, Chris Bayes, Mark Wing-Davey, Daniel Sullivan, Les Waters and Molly Smith. Recent and upcoming projects include: creature movement on *I Am Legend* with Will Smith, performing in *Beckett Shorts* with Mikhail Baryshnikov at New York Theater Workshop and choreographing *The Bacchae* at the Public Theater.

As artistic director of **advanced beginner group**, Neumann's work has been presented in New York at PS 122, Dance Theater Workshop, Central Park Summerstage (where he collaborated with John Giorno), Celebrate Brooklyn and Symphony Space (where he collaborated with Laurie Anderson) and the Whitney. His work has also been presented at Walker Art Center and MASS MoCA.

He is currently a professor of theater at Sarah Lawrence College and has been a guest lecturer at both Barnard College and the Graduate Acting Program at Yale University.

Funding Credits

BIG EATER is a project of Creative Capital and was made possible by the Doris Duke Fund for Dance of the National Dance Project, a program administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation.

BIG EATER was created in part at the Emory University Dance Program during a residency funded through the Emory Coca-Cola Artist-in-Residence program and the Emory Center for Creativity and Arts. Residency support also includes: The Baryshnikov Arts Center, White Oak and Hunter College.

The Kitchen's presentation of *BIG EATER* is made possible with generous support from The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



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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