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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents the North American premiere of choreographer Christian Rizzo's *b.c., janvier 1545, fontainebleau*, Thursday—Saturday, September 30—October 2**

New York, NY, September 3, 2010—On **Thursday through Saturday, September 30—October 2**, **The Kitchen** presents the North American premiere of *b.c., janvier 1545, fontainebleau*, a dance work created by French choreographer **Christian Rizzo** and produced by his collective, **l'association fragile**. Rizzo takes an intimate turn with this piece, making a solo work for celebrated classical and contemporary dancer **Julie Guibert**. With long-time collaborators musician **Gerome Nox** and lighting designer **Caty Olive**, *b.c., janvier 1545, fontainebleau* will run Thursday through Saturday, September 30—October 2 at **8:00 P.M.** Tickets are \$15.

With Guibert as his muse, Rizzo drew further inspiration from the 16<sup>th</sup> century sculptor Benvenuto Cellini's monumental bronze work *The Nymph of Fontainebleau*. With Rizzo's stark choreographic style and almost cinematic staging, bodily patterns gradually unfold in the piece. Carved out of the shadows with slow measured pace and calligraphic intricacy, the choreography reveals the influence of his years spent working in fashion design, rock music, and fine arts.

**Christian Rizzo** is a multi-faceted artist, known for revisiting archetypes and rituals and condensing them into abstract signs, bridging extremes: vagueness and high-definition; baroque and abstract; intimacy and fantasy. Born in 1965 in Cannes, Rizzo's artistic career began in Toulouse, where he started a rock band and designed a clothing line. Soon after, he went on to study fine arts at the Villa d'Arson in Nice and then unexpectedly branched out into dance.

Through the 1990s, Rizzo performed with a number of contemporary choreographers including Mathilde Monnier, Hervé Robbe, Mark Tompkins, and Georges Appaix, for which he would often also create soundtracks and costumes. Rizzo also worked with choreographers with a different artistic approach, such as Vera Mantero, Catherine Contour, Emmanuelle Huynh, and Rachid Ouramdane.

In 1996, Rizzo founded his company **l'association fragile** and began presenting events, dancing objects, solos and group pieces, as well as various projects and commissioned work in fashion and the visual arts. The company was founded on the notion of collaboration, working much like an agency. Its operations are based on the Bauhaus—the gathering of visual artists, architects and choreographers. Yet it remains one artist's vision at the center of any collaboration. Since 2007, *l'association fragile* and Rizzo have been in residency at the Lille Opera. In addition, Rizzo teaches on a regular basis in art schools in France and abroad, as well as in establishments devoted to contemporary dance. For more information, go to <http://www.lassociationfragile.com>.

**Julie Guibert** is a famed European dancer who has been the muse for many choreographers, including heavy-hitters such as William Forsythe and Russell Maliphant. The classically trained Guibert has spent much of her career dancing with the Lyon Opera Ballet and working as a freelance principle dancer with choreographers such as Trisha Brown and Mats Ek. Guibert also dabbles in choreography, often sourcing the movement vocabulary of rock stars, as can be seen in French pop star Benjamin Biolay's music video for his song *Padam*.

## **Funding Credits**

*b.c, janvier 1545, fontainebleau* is a production of l'association fragile and a co-production of the Montpellier Dance Festival - Centre National de la Danse de Pantin, with the support of the Passerelle, scene nationale de Saint-Brieuc. This US tour of *b.c, janvier 1545, fontainebleau* is supported by Culturesfrance and la communauté urbaine de Lille.

The Kitchen's presentation of *b.c, janvier 1545, fontainebleau* was funded in part by FUSED: French U.S. Exchange in Dance, a program of the National Dance Project/New England Foundation for the Arts and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York, with lead funding from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the French American Cultural Exchange and the Florence Gould Foundation as well as a contribution from Grand Marnier Foundation. Dance programs at The Kitchen are 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:

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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen

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