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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents *Shim Sham*, hosted by Alexandria Bradley, Monday, October 4**

### **Featuring the Orrin Evans Trio**

New York, NY, September 20, 2010— On **Monday, October 4**, **The Kitchen** presents *Shim Sham*, an open tap jam session in which some of the finest of New York City's rhythm tap community, come together to share and showcase their moves. Tap dancer and vocalist **Alexandria Bradley** will host the evening. In addition, *Shim Sham* will feature live musical accompaniment by the **Orrin Evans Trio**. The jam is open to tap dancers of all levels. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, *Shim Sham* will take place at **7:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Admission is free.

An accomplished dancer and jazz musician, Bradley will host this season's installment of *Shim Sham*. From a tap dance family, she started her fifteen-year career at a young age and has shared the stage with generations of tap greats including Jimmy Slyde, Ted Levy and Savion Glover. Her fierce dedication to the tap community includes her work as a youth instructor and mentor with a specific emphasis on encouraging social justice through art. Based in Philadelphia, she is perhaps best known for her performances in Savion Glover's company *Tii Dii*, Roxane Butterfly's *World Beats*, her own music project *Triple Threat*, and her dance company *Sound n Movement, LLC*.

The evening will also feature the live music of the Orrin Evans Trio featuring Evans on piano, Leon Boykins on bass, and Jonathan Blake on drums—and promises to make for a dynamic gathering of rhythmic exchange. The jam will, as always, wrap up with the famous tap routine, the *Shim Sham Shimmy*, led by Bradley.

*Shim Sham* is a regular fixture in The Kitchen's seasonal programming. During the 1920s and 1930s, tap, jazz and swing performances, and parties ended with every dancer, musician and singer gathered onstage to dance a last routine together. Each *Shim Sham* tap jam at The Kitchen concludes in adherence with this tradition; specifically, it will close with Leonard Reed's famous *Shim Sham Shimmy*, an international anthem for hoofers. It was a treasured routine on the tap circuit—able to accommodate any number of people, from a single dancer to a large group. The dance has seen much iteration over time, but its core remains the same.

**Alexandria “Brinae Ali” Bradley** has an interdisciplinary approach in using the power of the arts to uplift and inspire the human spirit. Through heredity and mentorship of her father Alfred Bruce Bradley, Ted Levy, Mable Lee, Dianne Walker, and others, Bradley has been trained and studying performing arts through music, dance, and theater since the age of 3 years. At the age of 14, Bradley along with her sister and childhood friend Kandee Hogan appeared on *Showtime at the Apollo* as winners of Amateur Night. Four years later at the age of 18, she made another New York appearance debuting one of her signature pieces to Al Jarreau's *Take Five* at the Town Hall sharing the stage with Ted Levy, Jimmy Slyde, Mable Lee, Savion Glover, and Leonard Reed.

After all the early exposure of professional shows and opportunities to share the stage with pioneers and legendary artist, Bradley decided to move to New York and pursue her career. While attending

*Marymount Manhattan College* as a theater major in acting, she was blessed to work and train professionally in Savion Glover's tap company *Tii Dii*. Bradley also managed the time to sing and write music as well. She has performed at *Birdland* as a vocalist in an *Art Blakey Revue*, travelled to Cannes and Monaco, France as a tap dancer at *Cannes Film Festival* for the opening ceremony of *Moulin Rouge*, *Nijinsky Awards*, and *Salt Lake City Winter Olympics 2002*. Bradley also appeared on the *Jerry Lewis Telethon* in the Emmy Award winning Gregory Hines tribute choreographed by Jason Samuels Smith in 2003.

In 2004, Bradley began working on her solo performance showcasing her vocals, compositions, dance, and poetry. She has performed at Ashford and Simpson's *Sugar Bar*, *Bowery Poetry Club* and *Joe's Pub* with Reg E Gaines, at the *Fox Theater* in Atlanta, GA in George Faison's adaptation of *Bubblin' Brown Sugar* starring Diahnn Carroll, Witzigman Palazzo in Hamburg, Germany for 4 months as a solo vocalist and dancer. She also recorded vocals singing on Abiodun Oyewole of The Last Poets children's album "Butterfly am I" and "We are One".

Bradley moved to Philadelphia in 2005 to advance her solo career while teaching and organizing arts programs. She began managing artists and producing shows through *Tapology Tap Festival for Youth*, a family based non-profit organization in Flint, Michigan. In addition, she created her own Philadelphia based program called *Sound and Movement, LLC*, funded by the Art and Change Leeway Foundation Grant. She also started freelancing as a vocalist and dancer collaborating with Philadelphia artists and musicians: Orrin Evans, Farid Barron, Warren Oree and the Areggio Jazz Ensemble, Bootsie Barnes, Joe Chambers, Germaine Ingram, and others. She performed at venues such as *Camden-Rutgers University Gordon Theater Jazz Festival 2007-08*, *West Oak Lane Jazz Fest 2006-07*, *Sunset Jazz Series 2006-07*, *Painted Bride*, and *University of the Arts Bank Theater*.

In 2008, Bradley debuted an original composition, *Stono Rebellion*, a tribute to the Africans fought for freedom and rebelled against slavery in South Carolina in 1739. She was selected as an evolving choreographer in the *Harlem Stage's E-Moves 9* showcase of professional dancers and choreographers. She also toured North America in Roxanne Butterfly's *World Beats: Journey of the Migrating Sole* as a dancer and vocalist.

As a teacher she has collaborated with After School Activities Partnership program, East Park Revitalization Alliance, Young Audiences of New Jersey, local dance studios within Philadelphia and South New Jersey, and Mural Arts Program song writing workshop. She has been an adjunct professor teaching tap at Queens College and Long Island University and was honored to be a panelist along with Germaine Ingram and Dianne Walker at Columbia University as apart of the jazz studies lecture series moderated by Jacqui Malone.

Currently Bradley is one of the founders and artistic director of Fourth Wall Arts Salon and is working on her solo recording album due to debut in 2011.

**Orrin Evans** is a pianist, composer, bandleader, teacher, producer and arranger. Growing up in a musical city like Philadelphia afforded Orrin the opportunity to study with jazz greats like Trudy Pitts, Shirley Scott, Mickey Roker, Bobby Durham, Edgar Bateman, Sid Simmons, William Whitaker, Jack Carr and Charles Pettaway. Evans attended Girard Academic Music Program and the Mason Gross School of The Arts at Rutgers University. His Mason Gross instructors included Kenny Barron, Joanne Brackeen, Ralph Bowen and Ted Dunbar. They taught him the importance of fundamentals as well as the necessity of listening to and living the music.

Upon moving to New York in 1996, he joined Bobby Watson's band, Horizon, effectively introducing Evans to the New York jazz scene. His early recording and performance credits include Wallace Roney, Mos Def, Common, Pharoah Sanders, Antonio Hart, Carmen Lundy, Ralph Peterson, Ralph Bowen, The Mingus Big Band, Roy Hargrove, Nicolas Payton, Brandford Marsalis, Gary

Bartz, Eddie Henderson, Sean Jones, Tim Warfield, Ravi Coltrane, Robin Eubanks, Duane Eubanks and Dave Douglas.

Evans' first release was a self-produced album called *The Trio* featuring Matthew Parrish on bass and Byron Landham on drums. The album was re-released as *Déjà Vu* by Evans' own label, Imani Records. In 1996, Evans was introduced to Criss Cross Records, which would go on to release six of Evans' critically acclaimed recordings. During a hiatus from Criss Cross, Evans released recordings on Palmetto Records and Imani Records. In 2002, Evans combined forces with drummer Donald Edwards, vocalist JD Walter, saxophonist Ralph Bowen and his wife vocalist Dawn Warren to form the band Luvpark. The band recorded a critically acclaimed self-titled album, and is presently working on the release of their sophomore recording.

Evans spent several years as a jazz teacher the Germantown Friends School and the Settlement Music School. He continues to be a musical commentator, conducting workshops, clinics and master classes both in the United States and abroad, while continuing to record and tour with his own bands.

Currently, Evans' has been producing projects for other artists like Sean Jones and playing with his own band, which at different times, has included such notables as Ralph Peterson, Jr., Sam Newsome, Ralph Bowen, Nasheet Waits, Reid Anderson, Eric Revis, JD Allen and Duane Eubanks. His latest release, *Live in Jackson, Mississippi* (Imani Records), is available now.

### **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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