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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents the New York premiere of Toni Dove's live mix cinema performance *Spectropia* Thursday—Saturday, December 9-11**

**Innovative software by R. Luke DuBois allows “scratching” of film featuring  
Aleksa Palladino, Helen Pickett, Paul Lazar and others**

**Original score by Elliott Sharp includes a theme song sung by Deborah Harry**

**New York, NY, October 27, 2010**—The Kitchen presents the New York premiere of **Toni Dove's *Spectropia***, a live mix cinema performance that is part video game, part feature film and part VJ mashing. Dove and her co-performer, **R. Luke DuBois**, play the movie as an instrument, orchestrating onscreen characters via a groundbreaking motion-sensing system they created. The audience sees through the eyes of various characters, hearing their interior thoughts. The film's cast features **Aleksa Palladino, Carolyn McCormick, Richard Bekins, Simon Jones, Helen Pickett** and **Paul Lazar**. An original score composed by **Elliott Sharp** includes a song with vocals by **Deborah Harry**. Performances of *Spectropia* will take place **Thursday–Saturday, December 9–11, 8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Tickets are \$15.

The New York-based artist Toni Dove produces unique, highly imaginative, embodied hybrids of film, installation art and experimental theater. Performers and participants interact with an unfolding narrative, using minimally invasive interface technologies to “perform” on-screen avatars.

*Spectropia* culminates these multimedia explorations. The audience faces a large central screen that is flanked by two smaller screens. To the side of the stage, Dove and DuBois stand at an “instrument” that uses video motion sensing and a light-and-laser harp to interact with the media of the piece. Through movement and speech, they navigate through the movie as if it were a three-dimensional architectural space, triggering digital video segments that are delivered dynamically from laptop computers to projectors.

The *Spectropia* film is a hybrid of sci-fi and film noir, with elements of time travel and telepathy. The story opens in the future, where Spectropia, a young woman in her twenties, lives in the salvage district of an urban center known as the Informal Sector. While using a machine to search the past for her father, Spectropia is accidentally transported to NYC in 1931, when her machine short circuits and she finds herself in the body of another woman, Verna de Mott, an amateur sleuth. A mystery and a romantic triangle unfold across centuries as these two women in one body drive one man crazy.

*Spectropia* boasts a diverse lineup of artists. The film's cast features the actress Aleksa Palladino (HBO's “Boardwalk Empire” Sidney Lumet's *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* and *Find Me Guilty*; Todd Solondz's *Storytelling*) as Spectropia and Helen Pickett (The Wooster Group, Forsythe Ballet of Frankfurt) as Sally. Elliott Sharp composed the original score. Deborah Harry sings the vocals on the song “This Time, That Place.” The artist **Perry Hoberman** contributed to the set design for the Spectropia studio with an interactive installation of used computer equipment. R. Luke DuBois, co-author of the Jitter software suite for real time manipulation of matrix data, is the project's software designer.

The New York premiere of *Spectropia* follows an American premiere at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, OH; and other engagements such as REDCAT (Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater, in Walt Disney Concert Hall) in Los Angeles; and EMPAC (The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center) in Troy, New York.

*Spectropia* is the second in Dove's series of interactive fictions on the unconscious of consumer economies. The first, *Artificial Changelings*, debuted as an interactive installation at the Rotterdam Film Festival in 1998, and was featured in the groundbreaking exhibition "Body Mécanique" at the Wexner Center for the Arts in 1999, at the Institute for Studies in the Arts at Arizona State University in March of 2000, and in the exhibition "Wired" at the Arts Center for the Capital Region in Troy New York, 2000.

### **More About Toni Dove**

Toni Dove lives and works in New York City. Her work has been presented in the U.S., Europe and Canada as well as in print and on radio and television. Her projects include *Arxheology of a Mother Tongue*, a virtual reality installation with Michael Mackenzie, Banff Centre for the Arts (see the book *Immersed in Technology* from M.I.T. Press) and the interactive movie installation, *Artificial Changelings*.

Dove served by appointment on the 2000/2003 Government Advisory Committee on Information Technology and Creativity, Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, National Research Council, USA. The book *Beyond Productivity: Information Technology, Innovation, and Creativity* was released from the National Research Council as a report by this committee.

Dove has received numerous grants and awards including support from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, the Langlois Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, The LEF Foundation, and the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts from M.I.T. Her website is <http://www.tonidove.com>.

### **Funding Credits**

This program is made possible with support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts 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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