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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents an evening with *CoonBidness*, the new Harlem-based literary magazine, Monday, January 31**

New York, NY, January 6, 2011—On **Monday, January 31**, **The Kitchen** presents an evening with *CoonBidness*, a Harlem-based literary magazine that blends art and politics. The evening follows the October 2010 publication of the journal's inaugural issue, *CRITICAL ASS*. *CoonBidness* founders and editors **Greg Tate** and **LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs** will host readings, videos, mash-ups and performances by contributors to *CRITICAL ASS*, including **Iona Rozael Brown**, **Paula Henderson**, **Karma Mayet Johnson**, **Paloma McGregor**, **Siddhartha Mitter**, **Urayoán Noel**, **Ataahua Papa**, **Edwin Torres**, **Quincy Troupe** and more. There will also be a special performance by the dance group, **Polynesian Dance Productions**.

The evening will take place at **7:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Admission is free, but capacity is limited. Seating is first-come, first-served.

Founded and edited by writers and musicians **Greg Tate** and **LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs**, *CoonBidness* was named after an album by the conceptual jazz composer Julius Hemphill. The magazine hangs out dirty laundry and celebrates a renegade African cosmopolite spirit in a well-woven series of surreal short stories, Facebook threads, poems and scintillating visuals. Contributors include mid-career and emerging artists, and writers like Wangechi Mutu, Douglas Kearney, Marilyn Minter, L'Oreál Snell, Urayoán Noel, Sanford Biggers, avery r. young, Krista Franklin, Siddhartha Mitter, Iona Rozael Brown, Quincy Troupe and Miles Marshall Lewis.

### **About the Participants**

**Iona Rozael Brown** inter-textually juxtaposes color and texture, a technique that parallels her artistry as a DJ, in her paintings. Both practices emerge from a process of self-sampling and remixing, devices employed by media to create its own endless permutations or representations and meanings. Throughout her work, Brown brings a subversive reading to her art, and manipulates hyper self-conscious imagery to articulate contemporary concerns regarding race, gender and class.

**Paula Thompson Henderson** once worked in a toy factory assembling plastic tugboats. Soon after getting fired for shabby attendance, she moved to New York where she joined some punk rock bands and married a stranger in a cowboy hat. Almost twenty years later, Henderson appears in *CoonBidness* unexpectedly reviewing a book by Melvin Van Peebles and wondering what on earth the future holds.

**Karma Mayet Johnson**, a writer, composer, performer and educator, is rooted in improvisation and synaesthesia. Recent stage work includes the Off-Broadway production of *FELA!*, directed by Bill T. Jones; a workshop of *Parable of the Sower* at New York City Opera; and the premiere of Keith+Mendi Obadike's *Four Electric Ghosts* at The Kitchen. She is composer and director of the innovative blues opera, *Indigo*. A frequent player in Burnt Sugar The Arkestra Chamber, a NYC-based experimental jazz group, Johnson just released her debut EP recording, *September Songs*. Her poems have appeared in various publications including *Renaissance Noir*, *exit the [apple.com](http://apple.com)*, *Nocturnes (re)view of the literary arts*, Cave Canem's *Gathering Ground* and Redbone Press' *Voices*

*Rising*. Karma's work has been supported by grants from The Field, the D.C. Humanities Council, Soul Mountain Writers Retreat, and most recently as a finalist for the 2010 Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund for her novel in progress, *Nothin in All This World*.

**Paloma McGregor** is a choreographer, journalist and co-founder of Angela's Pulse, a New York-based collaborative performance company. Her work has been presented throughout New York, including at The Kitchen, Harlem Stage, EXIT Art, the Brecht Forum, Tribeca Performing Arts Center and Bronx Academy of Art and Dance, as well as at Yale University, UCLA, The Dance Place in Washington, DC, Cleveland Public Theatre and the McKenna Museum in New Orleans.

**Siddhartha Mitter** is a writer and journalist in New York City with roots in India and France. His work focuses on intersections of politics, cultural production and daily life, particularly in diasporic communities. He has written on civil war in Côte d'Ivoire as experienced by its overseas diaspora for *Transition* magazine, and about the cultural politics of okra for *The Oxford American*. Siddhartha's journalism appears regularly in *The Boston Globe*, where he has covered music since 2004, and other outlets in print and radio, including WNYC New York Public Radio, where he was the culture reporter from 2006 to 2009.

**Alicia Hall Moran**, a mezzo-soprano, is a versatile performer, musical director and composer. Upcoming performances include spirituals with The Charles Lloyd Quartet for Jazz at Lincoln Center (January), vocals for Jason Moran's new work on jazz slang for Open Minds Festival in San Francisco (March), a recital on mystical poetry at NYC's Rubin Museum (March) and folk songs for conceptual artist Joan Jonas in Mexico City (April). This spring, *the motown project*, Hall Moran's evening-length drama fusing opera and Motown with guitar, harp, electric bass, taiko drums, and an operatic baritone, will have a second reprise at Motown at The Highline Ballroom.

**Urayoán Noel** is a poet, performer, translator, and critic. His works include books of poetry: *Hi-Density Politics* (BlazeVOX, 2010), *Boringkén* (Ediciones Callejón/La Tertulia, 2008) and *Kool Logic/La lógica kool* (Bilingual Press, 2005); the DVD *Kool Logic Sessions* (2005); and, as translator, the chapbook *Belleza y Felicidad* (Belladonna, 2005). A contributing editor of *Mandorla*, his creative and critical writings have also appeared in *Contemporary Literature*; *Fence*; *BOMB*; *New York Quarterly*; and *Diasporic Avant-Gardes* (Palgrave, 2009). Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Noel currently divides his time between the South Bronx and Albany, New York, where he is Assistant Professor of English at SUNY-Albany.

**Polynesian Dance Productions'** (PDP) mission is to share the beauty, joy and origins of authentic Polynesian dance with a diverse range of audiences in the U.S and abroad. Founded by Hawai'i natives May Cacal and Malia Scala in 2007, PDP centers on authentic dance techniques and island culture. PDP's first clients included Bette Midler, Christina Aguilera, Redhawk Native American Arts Council, Bloomberg L.P., Columbia University, American Museum of Natural History and ABC Daytime. PDP upholds a high standard of performance by training and performing periodically with their *kumus* in Hawai'i and Tahiti.

**Edwin Torres** is a New York-based bilingual poet, musician and artist. His performances combine poetry, vocal and physical improvisation, sound-elements and theater. Creating text and performance work since 1988, he has collaborated with artists from around the world. Torres is a Nuyo-zygote whose books include *In The Function Of External Circumstances* (Nightboat Books), *The PoPedology Of An Ambient Language* (Atelos Books), *The All-Union Day Of The Shock Worker* (Roof Books) and forthcoming from Roof Books, *YesThingNoThing*.

His debut album *Holy Kid* (Kill Rock Stars) was included in The Whitney Museum's exhibition *The Last American Century*. *RiseOceano*, his most recent release, is available on his website: [www.brainlingo.com](http://www.brainlingo.com). He is recipient of fellowships from New York Foundation for the Arts, The Foundation For Contemporary Performance Art and The Poetry Fund. Teaching credits include Naropa University's Summer Writing program, Bard College and St. Marks Poetry Project.

**Ataahua Papa** (Ata) is a singer, musician and traditional Maori performing artist. She is a founding member of MATOU, a New York-based musical collective of indigenous artists from New Zealand and North American First Nations. In addition, Papa is also a founder of Hautawhiti, a Maori music and performing arts group. She has made regular appearances with First Nation Women's acapella singing group, Ulali.

**Quincy Troupe** is the author of seventeen books, including eight volumes of poetry. The latest of these, *The Architecture of Language*, was recipient of the 2007 Paterson Award for Sustained Literary Achievement. He received the 2003 Milt Kessler Poetry Award for *Transcircularities: New and selected Poems* (Coffee House) and an American Book Award for *Miles: The Autobiography*, written with Miles Davis. In September 2010, he received an American Book Award Lifetime Achievement for sustained excellence in Literature.

Troupe is co-author of *The Pursuit of Happyness*, with Chris Gardner. His next volume of poetry, *Erranceties*, will be published by Coffee House Press in Fall 2011. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego and was the first official Poet Laureate of the State of California. He is currently editor of *Black Renaissance Noire*, published by the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University.

### **Funding Credits**

Literature programs at The Kitchen are made possible with generous support from the Axe-Houghton Foundation and with public funds from The National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

Additional support was provided by Poets and Writers Inc., with Public Funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.



### **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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