



40TH ANNIVERSARY

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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents the premiere of *Live! The Realist MC*, New work by choreographer and dancer Kyle Abraham, December 8 – 10

New York, NY, November 1, 2011— On Thursday through Saturday, December 8 – 10, The Kitchen presents Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion's *Live! The Realist MC*, a new ensemble dance work. Commissioned by The Kitchen, *Live! The Realist MC* features dancers **Rena Butler, Elyse Morris, Chalvar Monteiro, Rachele Rafeiledes, Hsiao-Jou Tang and Maleek Malaki Washington**, as well as visual artwork by **Carrie Schneider** and music direction by Abraham. Performances are at **8:00 P.M. at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street)**. Tickets are \$15.

Live! The Realist MC, inspired by the classic story of Pinocchio, depicts an emcee's own journey to become a "real boy." The piece investigates gender roles in the black community and the societal perspectives on acceptance in the world of hip-hop celebrity. An evolution of Abraham's previous solo work, including his acclaimed piece *Inventing Pookie Jenkins* (2006), references our own humanity in this digital age, creating an abstracted, dark and at times humorous narrative that places the iconic childhood character in an industrial dystopia.

About the Artist

Kyle Abraham, professional dancer and choreographer, began his training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh. He continued his dance studies in New York, receiving a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Over the past few years, Abraham has received tremendous accolades for his dancing and choreography including a 2010 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show* along with a 2010 Princess Grace Award for Choreography, a BUILD grant and an individual artist fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant, a Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Fellowship and 2009 was honored as one of Dance Magazine's 25 To Watch.

Abraham was heralded by OUT Magazine as one of the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama." His choreography has been presented throughout the United States and abroad, most recently at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, Fall for Dance Festival at New York's City Center, Montreal, Germany, Dublin's Project Arts Center, The Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum located in Okinawa Japan and The Andy Warhol Museum in his hometown of Pittsburgh.

Abraham's most recent work, *The Corner*, commissioned by Ailey 2, is currently touring internationally with great reception.

As a performer, Abraham has worked with acclaimed modern dance companies including David Dorfman Dance, Burnt Sugar Dance Conduction Continuum, Nathan Trice/Rituals, Mimi Garrard Dance Theater, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Dance Alloy, The Kevin Wynn Collection and Attack Theatre. In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, Abraham.In.Motion, Abraham also teaches his unique approach to post-modern dance in various schools and studios throughout the United States. For more information please visit: <http://abrahaminmotion.org>.

Funding Credits

This project is supported by The MAP Fund, which is generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This work was created, in part, during a Creative Development Residency at the Bates Dance Festival and was created by Kyle Abraham to benefit Dancers Responding to AIDS, with generous support from Major Choreographic Sponsor Rockefeller Brothers Fund and from Choreographic Sponsors David DeMuro and Chris Longobucco.

This work was developed, in part, through a Danspace Project residency at the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance (ICPP) at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT and through a 651 ARTS, *Artist Development Initiative* residency at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY. *Live! The Realist MC* is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project, co-commissioned by Miami Dade College in partnership with On The Boards, Bates Dance Festival, Dance Place, 651 ARTS and NPN. For more information: www.npnweb.org.

Dance programs at The Kitchen are made possible with generous support from the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Robbins 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

The Kitchen
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