

THE KITCHEN

VIDEO

MUSIC

DANCE

PERFORMANCE FILM

512 West 19th St. (Btwn 10th & 11th Aves) New York, NY 10011

Reservations: 255-5793

BROTHER to BROTHER:

ESSEX HEMPHILL AND LARRY DUCKETTE

April 6 - 8, 1989

Thurs - Sat/8:30 pm/\$8.00

Contact: Patrick Moore or Scott Macaulay
255-5793

"Brother to Brother: Words from the Heart" is a new piece by performance artist and poet Essex Hemphill and composer/musician Larry Duckette. Exploring the present issues and experiences of contemporary Black gay men, "Brother to Brother" brings to New York the piercing and explosively personal work of two acclaimed Washington D.C. artists. Their sometimes controversial work is known for confronting charged contemporary issues -- drug testing, sexual terrorism, media domination -- within an intellectual compelling and emotionally gripping poetry/music structure. The centerpiece of the performance is "Brother to Brother," an arrangement of Joseph Fairchild Beam's essay which appeared in the groundbreaking anthology of Black gay literature In the Life.

Essex Hemphill is a poet, performance artist, and publisher of Be Bop Books. His works in print include "Earth Life," "Conditions," and the upcoming "Soft Targets." With musician Wayson Jones, Hemphill has performed at d.c. space, Yale University, Sushi, LACE, Blues Alley, and Franklin Furnace.

Also from Washington, Larry Duckette helped form D.C.'s choral poetry group Cinque. An actor as well as a musician, he has performed at Blues Alley, d.c. space, Howard University, the Washington Project for the Arts, the Painted Bride Arts Center, and many other venues.

The Kitchen's production of Essex Hemphill and Larry Duckette is one of a national series of such programs which together constitute the National Performance Network (NPN), designed to foster touring by and exchange among non-traditional, experimental and minority artists in dance, theater, performance art and puppetry. The NPN is a project of New York's Dance Theater Workshop in cooperation with The Kitchen and similarly dedicated arts organizations in sixteen other cities across the country, all of which play an important and ongoing role in the nurturing of innovative work. The Network has been made possible with major national funding from the Ford Foundation and the Dance and Inter-Arts Programs of the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency based in Washington, DC).

(End)

words from the heart

P R E S S R E L E A S E