



512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011
tel 212 255 5793 www.thekitchen.org

Press Contact: Blake Zidell & Associates
tel: 718.643.9052
fax: 718.643.9502
blake@blakezidell.com

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents two evenings of performance by artist and musician Sanford Biggers, April 16 & 17

Featuring Imani Uzuri, Martin Luther, Mark Hines, Terry Adkins, dre.dance and special guests

New York, NY, April 9, 2009—On **Thursday and Friday, April 16 and 17, The Kitchen** presents a live performance by visual artist and musician **Sanford Biggers**. For these evenings, Biggers will put forth a unique mash-up of improvised music, live video mixing, text and a small ensemble of dancers casting geometric light patterns. Biggers, on keyboards and laptop, will be accompanied by **Mark Hines** (video), **Imani Uzuri** (vocals), **Martin Luther** (guitar and vocals), and **Terry Adkins** (horns) with dance and choreography by Andrew Palermo and Taye Diggs' **dre.dance**. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the performances will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$10.

Sanford Biggers' work examines today's complex collisions between culture and commodity. For these performances, Biggers draws from African and Buddhist spiritual traditions, Dadaist theory, YouTube music culture and John Biggers' afro-futurist paintings. He uses the socio-spiritual meanings of coded symbols and geometries to explore the cultural concerns of a post-Obama political climate. With rotating vignettes of live improvisational music, video mixing, text and dance, Biggers and this incredible ensemble transform the mundane into the remarkable.

An accomplished musician, Biggers often incorporates performance into his sculptures and installations, resulting in multilayered works that act as anecdotal vignettes, full of wit and clear formal intent. He has received numerous awards: the Creative Time Travel Grant, Creative Capital Project Grant, NY Percent for the Arts Commission, Art Matters Grant, NYFA Award in performance art/multidisciplinary work, the Lament Fellowship in the Arts, the Pennies From Heaven/ NY Community Trust Award, Tanne Foundation Award, Rema Hort Mann Foundation Award Grant, James Nelson Raymond Fellowship, and a Camille Hanks-Cosby Fellowship.

Biggers has participated in several prestigious artist residencies and fellowships around the world, including Akademie Schloss Solitude (Germany), Ujazdowski Castle (Poland) Headlands Center for the Arts (Sausalito, CA), ARCUS Project Foundation (Japan), and the Art in General/ Trafo Gallery Eastern European Exchange (Hungary). He has been a fellow of the Socrates Sculpture Park Residency, the LMCC World Views AIR Program, the Eyebeam Atelier Teaching Residency, the Studio Museum AIR Program, the P.S. 1 International Studio Program and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture residency.

His works have appeared at venues worldwide including the Tate Britain and Tate Modern (London), the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco) and institutions throughout Eastern Europe and Asia. He was included in Prospect 1/ New Orleans Biennial, Illuminations at the Tate Modern, Performa

07, the Whitney Biennial, and Freestyle at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Solo exhibitions include: Grand Arts (Kansas City), Mary Goldman Gallery (LA), Kenny Schachter's ROVE Gallery (London), Triple Candie, D'Amelio Terras Gallery, Contemporary Art Museum (Houston), Matrix/UC Berkeley Museum, Zamek Ujazdowski (Poland) and more. In 2009, Sanford will debut several new commission works for the NY Percent for the Arts, Creative Capital, The Kitchen, and Harvard University's Office of Fine Arts. Biggers is full time faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University's Sculpture and Expanded Media program and a visiting scholar at Harvard's VES and OFA Departments for 2009.

Imani Uzuri was recently featured as *TRACE* Magazine's 'Beautiful', eclectic, bohemian IMANI UZURI is one who defies category and has often been compared to boundary pushing artists like Grace Jones and Nina Simone. She has performed at numerous international venues and festivals as a solo artist and as a collaborator across various genres including concerts, experimental theater, performance art and sound installations. Venues/Festivals include Lincoln Center, Central Park Summerstage, Performa 07, Barbican Center and ICA (London), Prospect. 1 New Orleans, Le Lieu Unique(France), The Blue Note, Joe's Pub, NJPAC (New Jersey Performing Arts Center), World Festival of Sacred Music (Japan), the United Nations, Black Lily Film and Music Festival, the Apollo Theater, the Whitney Museum, The Kitchen, CrimeJazz (Netherlands), National Black Arts Festival (Atlanta) and Festival d'Essaouira (Morocco). Her interest in sacred music, world culture and experimentation are reflected in her various projects.

Uzuri's recording collaborations include Herbie Hancock, John Legend, 4-Hero, Talib Kweli, Sly and Robbie and King Britt, as well as appearing on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, performing with Peter Gabriel and the Afro-Celt Sound System. She has won critical acclaim for her debut album, *Her Holy Water: A Black Girl's Rock Opera*, which she is currently developing into a musical theater piece of the same title. This new work incorporates music, coming-of-age memories/mythologies from her youth in rural North Carolina, a sweeping multi-media montage and anecdotes from her nomadic world travels. It has successfully been workshopped in various stages at The Kitchen, Philadelphia's The Painted Bride and recently at two sold out performances at the Apollo Theater. "[Uzuri]... never fails to mesmerize audiences with her narcotic blend of ethereal sounds..." Time Out New York. For more information, www.imaniuzuri.com or www.myspace.com/herhollywater.

Martin Luther is an American musician and actor. He has collaborated extensively with musicians like The Roots and Cody ChesnuTT and appears as one of the six lead characters in the 2007 Beatles musical film *Across the Universe* in the role of JoJo. Martin Luther released his first solo album *The Calling* in 1999 and followed it with an independent release of his second album *Rebel Soul Music* in 2004 on his own label Rebel Soul Records; his forthcoming release *PANACEA* will be available later this year.

Mark Hines serves as the CEO, Creative Director and overall Curator of the Marksmen Guerrilla Production Network. He is also one of the primary composers and producers sought after for beats and scoring. The Marksmen is a free-agent producers network with members specializing in Hip-Hop track production, R&B & Soul music production and songwriting, Music for TV & Radio Ads, TV & Film scoring, and Sound Design. Frustrated by all-too-common obstacles to track placement with record labels, Mark Hines, formerly co-head of Russell Simmons new media endeavor 360HipHop, launched The Marksmen in 2002 as a suite of products and services to solve the problem for himself and a handful of other talented producers and musicians. Hines determined that if he could standardize not only the creative tools but also the sales, promotion, and distribution mechanisms used in the track placement process, he could more readily repeat, the few and far-between successes he had experienced in his then 7 years of professional production. Further, by leveraging new computing technologies, as was his focus of study at Princeton University, he could repeatedly beat the competition by delivering more focused music content in quick succession while a production opportunity was still open for

submissions. Together with media engineers Selwyn Hinds (former Editor in Chief of The Source Magazine and co-author of the critically acclaimed “To A Young Jazz Musician” with Wynton Marsalis), Guy Route (Artist Manager & Deal Man, Sara Devine, Columbia Records), Hines deployed Marksmen products and services to unify and cultivate the content of its members.

Terry Adkins is an installation artist, musician, activist, and cultural practitioner who, for 20 years, has pursued an ongoing quest to reinsert historically transformative figures to their rightful place in the landscape of regional and world history. Although his *recitals* combine sculpturally based installations with music, video, literature and ritual actions that intend to uphold and preserve the legacies of his chosen subjects, Adkins’ work is always abstract and lyrical. An inspiration to younger artists for his uncompromising stance, he is also a dedicated teacher as Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania.

dre.dance was founded in 2004 by Andrew Palermo and Taye Diggs, and has quickly garnered praise from *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *The New York Sun* and other publications, calling the young company 'powerful', 'athletic', 'gifted', 'passionate', 'propulsive', 'unexpected', 'weird', 'abstract', and 'wonderful'. dre.dance recently completed residencies at Joyce Soho and Wichita State University where the company's new piece, *beyond.words*, was developed. This evening-length work centers on the autistic spectrum and depicts the journey of an autistic boy into adulthood. Additionally, dre.dance is embarking on its third year as artist-in-residence at Tribeca Performing Arts Center where *beyond.words* will enjoy its New York premiere in April 2009.

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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