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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents *Shim Sham*, hosted by the legendary Harold Cromer, Monday, May 17**

### **Featuring the Theo Hill Trio**

New York, NY, April 13, 2010— On **Monday, May 17**, **The Kitchen** presents *Shim Sham*, an open tap jam session in which some of the finest of New York City's rhythm tap community, come together to share and showcase their moves. Legendary tap dancer **Harold Cromer**, returning by popular demand, will host the evening. In addition, *Shim Sham* will feature live musical accompaniment by the **Theo Hill Trio**. The jam is open to tap dancers of all levels. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, *Shim Sham* will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Admission is free.

*Shim Sham* has become a regular fixture in The Kitchen's seasonal programming. During the 1920s and 1930s, tap, jazz and swing performances, and parties ended with every dancer, musician and singer gathered onstage to dance a last routine together—the *Shim Sham*. This evening at The Kitchen will conclude in adherence with this tradition; specifically, it will close with Leonard Reed's famous *Shim Sham Shimmy*, an international anthem for hoofers. It was a treasured routine on the tap circuit—able to accommodate any number of people, from a single dancer to a large group. The dance has seen much iteration over time, but its core remains the same.

**Harold Cromer** was born in New York City and started his career as a tap dancer on roller skates at the Hudson Guild in Hell's Kitchen. He made his Broadway debut with Bert Lahr, Ethel Merman (later replaced by Gypsy Rose Lee), and Betty Grable in *Du Barry Was A Lady*. Mr. Cromer later performed around the world as a member of the well-known song and dance comedy team *Stump and Stumpy* with James Cross. They appeared in leading theaters and nightclubs with Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday and Count Basie. *Stump and Stumpy* also toured with Nat Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, the Ink Spots, Stan Kenton and Sophie Tucker, among others.

In the late 1950's, Harold became the Master of Ceremonies to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's *The Biggest Show of Stars*, introducing such talents as Buddy Holly, Paul Anka, Bobby Darin, Fats Domino, Chubby Checker, Frankie Avalon, Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye. Cromer returned to Broadway in 1978 in *The American Dance Machine*, a theatrical dance company, as a guest soloist, which toured throughout the United States., Japan, and Europe.

**Theo Hill** is a jazz pianist and composer who has emerged as one of the preeminent young jazz artists on the New York scene. Born in Albany into a musical family, he began studying classical piano at the age of five. At age 12, Hill gravitated toward jazz, studying piano with Lee Shaw, a protégé of Oscar Peterson, and later with Barry Harris. Hill became a four-year member of the Empire State Youth Jazz Orchestra and College of St. Rose Jazz Ensemble. By 16, he was performing regularly at jazz clubs in the tri-city area. He was accepted to the Jazz Conservatory at SUNY Purchase where he studied piano with Charles Blenzig and Hal Galper. Hill began sitting in at jam sessions in New York City with many great musicians. As a two-year member of the New York Youth Symphony's *Jazz Band Classic*, he

performed with Jimmy Heath, Slide Hampton, Lew Soloff, and Joe Locke, and received the Director's Award for Commitment and Achievement for its 2003-2004 season.

He has performed in such venues as Blue Note, Smalls, 55 Bar, The Jazz Gallery, The Jazz Standard, Zinc Bar, Lenox Lounge, The Kitano, Minton's Playhouse, St. Nick's Pub, Smoke, Cleopatra's Needle, Sweet Rhythm, Fat Cat and Nublu. Internationally, he has toured France, Austria, Germany, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan and India. As a sideman, he has performed with Frank Lacy, Victor Jones, Bill Saxton, Curtis Lundy, Gregory Porter, The John Hicks Legacy Band, Fabio Morgera, Leron Thomas, Groove Collective and many others. He has also performed or recorded with J.D. Allen, Essiet O. Essiet, Joe Ford, Wayne Escoffrey, Sean Conly, Rudy Royston, Gregg August, Justin Brown, Logan Richardson, Nir Felder, Joe Sanders, Marcus Gilmore and Stacy Dillard.

Hill leads his own group, the Theo Hill Trio—a small collective of musicians that allows him to explore and expand his compositions and musical ideas. Hill performs regularly and is currently working on his debut record and tours with groups around the world.

### **Funding Credits**

This program is made possible by a generous donation of tap floor instruments from The American Tap Dance Foundation, and with support from The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore 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:  
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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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