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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen and Baryshnikov Arts Center present choreographer Donna Uchizono's new work, *longing two*, June 1-5**

### **Bessie Award-winning choreographer returns to the stage in two-part piece to be performed at The Kitchen and BAC**

New York, NY, May 14, 2010—**The Kitchen** and **Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)** are collaborating to present the world premiere of *longing two*, a new dance work by Bessie Award-winning choreographer and dancer **Donna Uchizono**. The piece—an exploration of proximity, perception, destination and arrival—will run **Tuesday through Saturday, June 1-5, at 7:00 P.M.** Each performance will begin at BAC's Howard Gilman Performance Space (450 West 37th Street) and continue at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Transportation from BAC to The Kitchen will be provided as a part of the performance.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased through BAC via phone (212) 868-4444, or online at [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com).

The piece marks a return to performing for Uchizono. Her creative collaborators **Hristoula Harakas**, **Anna Carapetyan** and **Savina Theodorou** will join her onstage. *longing two* will feature an original commissioned score by Bessie Award-winning composer **James Lo** and lighting design by **Joe Levasseur**, also a Bessie Award-winner. Costume design is by **Wendy Winters**, and set design by **Ronnie Gensler** and **Orlando Soria**. Together, they are creating a piece that investigates changing identities in the context of location and cultural perspective, negotiating choice and necessity, formality and authenticity, richness and poorness, through two vastly different stage presentations.

**Donna Uchizono** is the Artistic Director of Donna Uchizono Company, a New York-based dance company established in 1990, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this season. Her repertory is characterized by striking visual imagery, layered fragility, bold gestures and emotional sublimity, fostering a symbiotic relationship between form and content.

Since her choreographic debut in 1988, Uchizono rapidly emerged from the downtown scene as a choreographer known for her spicy movement, wit and rich invention. In addition to being a Guggenheim Fellow and a Bessie Award-winner, Uchizono has been recognized by many awards, most recently with a 2005 Alpert Award in Dance.

Uchizono's numerous collaborative projects include *quietly goes a giant jane*, with artist David Hammons, composers Tom Cora, "Butch" Morris, Fred Frith and James Lo and lighting designer Stan Pressner; a new work for Mikhail Baryshnikov, commissioned by the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation; and *Low*, with composer Guy Yarden. *Low* received a Bessie Award for both Uchizono and Yarden.

Uchizono's interest in original and live music for performance is evidenced by her collaborations with composers and her former role as co-director and curator of *Bread to the Bone*, a live music/dance series at The Knitting Factory. She was the choreographer for Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel's *The Long Christmas Ride Home* for the Trinity Repertory Company and the Long Wharf Theater. COBAI, a coalition of independent choreographers and dancers in Argentina, commissioned her to create a piece for them and her company in collaboration with the musicians of the Tobas Indians, the indigenous people of Argentina.

Since 1980, she has regularly taught workshops and classes in the U.S., Europe and South America. She has participated in festivals and teaching institutions in Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Portugal, Belgium, Slovenia, Argentina and Romania. Uchizono has been a guest choreographer at various universities and colleges, including Temple University, Barnard College, Bryn Mawr, Sarah Lawrence College, Wesleyan University, California Institute of the Arts, UCLA and the University of Minnesota. She currently teaches and is the Artistic Director of the New Media Art and Performance MFA program at Long Island University, Fort Greene. Uchizono is a member of the Artist Advisory Board at Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, where she was a founding member and Chair from 1990-1995, setting up a forum for artists to discuss issues.

Uchizono's work has been supported by the Rockefeller MAP Fund, the National Dance Project, the National Endowment for the Arts, three New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, the New York State Council on the Arts, Creative Capital Foundation, Altria Group, Inc., the Jerome Foundation, the Dance Magazine Seed Grant, the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Arts International, Metropolitan Life Foundation/ADF Commission, the National Performance Network, the Suitcase Fund, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Greenwall Foundation, Meet the Composer, and the Bossak Heilbron Charitable Foundation.

## FUNDING CREDITS

This program is made possible with the support of Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Creative Capital Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Trust and with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, 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.

The Kitchen  
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## **ABOUT THE BARYSHNIKOV ARTS CENTER**

The Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) opened its doors in New York City's Hell's Kitchen in November 2005. BAC serves as a creative laboratory, meeting place, and performance space for a vibrant community of artists from around the world. BAC is also dedicated to building audiences for the arts by presenting contemporary, innovative work at low or no cost to ticket buyers. In March 2010, BAC opened the Jerome Robbins Theater, which serves as an organic extension of its existing center, featuring multidisciplinary work, emerging talent, and international artists, and including artist-centered activity that fosters creative exploration. For more information, please visit [www.bacnyc.org](http://www.bacnyc.org).

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