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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents *Shim Sham*, hosted by Roxane Butterfly, Saturday, January 29

Featuring the Theo Hill Trio

New York, NY, December 20, 2010— On **Saturday, January 29**, **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. Underground tap dance icon **Roxane Butterfly** 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.

French-born Butterfly, who was given her name by the late legendary be-bop hooper Jimmy Slyde, will host this season's installment of Shim Sham. Currently based in New York and Barcelona, the Bessie Award-winner is known for her *Worldbeats* projects, which merge North African music and tap dance. Butterfly has shared the stage with generations of tap greats including Slyde, Gregory Hines, The Nicholas Brothers, Tamango, and Savion Glover.

The evening will also feature the live music of the Theo Hill Trio and promises to make for a dynamic gathering of rhythmic exchange. The jam will, as always, wrap up with the famous tap routine, the *Shim Sham Shimmy*, led by Butterfly.

Shim Sham is 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. Each *Shim Sham* tap jam at The Kitchen concludes 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.

Roxane Butterfly was baptized "Butterfly" by tap master Jimmy Slyde in 1992. Her light-footed *Papillon* radically transformed the landscape of tap dance in the contemporary performing arts world. Linking her performances with social justice issues such as domestic violence and immigration, her uncommon career has led her across North and South America, Canada, all around Europe, West and North Africa, Asia and the Middle-East, Russia and the Indian Ocean.

Butterfly made her debut as a director in 1996 when she first attempted to bridge European tap with America, inviting Savion Glover, Tamango and vaudevillian Rod Ferrone to participate in Suresnes-Cité Danse in Paris. That same year, she coached the brilliant tango dancer Pablo Veron in Sally Potter's film, *The Tango Lesson*. She served as stage-director for the 2004 American Dance Festival in Durham, NC during the Festival of The Feet, which gathered the companies of flamenca Carlotta Santana and kathakali master Chitresh Daas.

Music collaborations include work with the African jazz trio Kora Jazz, saxophonist Phil Wood, jazz-guitarists Stanley Jordan and legendary Les Paul, vocalist Elizabeth Kontomanou, bassists Ron Carter

and Barre Philipps, drummers Bob Moses, Aldo Romano, Dennis Charles, trombonist Benny Powell, Israeli frame-drummer Zohar Fresco, udist Yoel Ben Simhon, Malian pianist Cheikh Tidiiane Seck, flamenco guitarist Pedro Cortes, Indian tabla-player Prabhu Edouard, contemporary percussionists Evelyn Glennie and Amores. She has also worked with fellow tap dancers Gregory Hines, The Nicholas Brothers and her mentor Jimmy Slyde, among others. She has danced traditional jazz-standards with the New York Philharmonic, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Cab Calloway Orchestra & the Duke Orchestra in France. But she has also created new soundscapes with electronica-pioneer Graham Haynes, while experimenting with fusion/world music jam sessions known as Speaking Tongues at the renowned Walker Stage loft in New York.

Having studied screenwriting at the University of Aix-en-Provence, Butterfly wrote her first screenplay for the 2009 Barcelona African Film Festival's promotional video. Other film projects include a short documentary *Hoofalogies/The Spirit Of Jimmy Slyde*, based on unique archival footage of the 1990s hoofing scene in New York City, and *A Day To Go Play*, a short documentary dealing with female genital mutilation rituals in West Africa (2004). Most recently, Butterfly was seen dancing on the façade of the Metropolitan Opera House in David Michalek's large scale video installation *Slow-Dancing* (2009).

A dedicated educator, Butterfly has taught workshops, given seminars and acted as guest-speaker around the world, including the American Dance Festival (Durham, NC) Dance USA and Arts Presenters (APAP), University of Virginia, New York University, the New York Public Library, ImpulzTanz (Vienna), the French Embassy of Colombo (Sri-Lanka), The Institut of African Studies in Barcelona, and more. In 2009, she started a tap course at the Conservatoire of Rabat (Morocco) and participated in the launching of the London Tap Jam at Ronnie Scott's.

Butterfly is a part of Xumo Nounjio's artists collective *Central Art Process*, based in Barcelona. There, she continues to experiment within the new flamenco-jazz arena, finishing the writing of her first book, and launching her Jimmy Slyde Institute in September 2010. Butterfly is the founder and artistic director of *Roxane Butterfly's Worldbeats*, a touring company of world-music and dance artists, which operates with both a New York and Barcelona based cast. For more information, go to <http://worldbeats.free.fr/>.

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

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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:
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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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