

The Kitchen

For Immediate Release

December 5, 2013

THE KITCHEN PRESENTS THE PREMIERE OF JAY SCHEIB'S *PLATONOV, OR THE DISINHERITED*, JANUARY 8–24

Work Consists of Live Theatrical Performance, *Platonov*, at The Kitchen, and Live Film, *The Disinherited*, Simulcasting at BAM, AMC in Times Square and Other Cinemas

Innovative “Live-Cinema Performance” Freely Adapts Unfinished Chekhov Play

New York, NY — The Kitchen welcomes back director-designer **Jay Scheib** for the premiere of an innovative new “live cinema performance,” *Platonov, or The Disinherited*, adapted from Chekhov’s unfinished first play, found in a safe-deposit box after his death. The work is produced by ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann and consists of two integral halves: *Platonov*, a live theatrical event performed by an ensemble that includes **Mikeah Ernest Jennings, Sarita Choudhury** and **Tony Torn** in The Kitchen’s black box theater; and *The Disinherited*, the live feature film of the performance that will be live-edited and broadcast in real time each night to movie theaters including **BAM Rose Cinemas, AMC Empire 25** in Times Square and others to be announced.

Following an emotionally bankrupt society of “anti-heroes,” *Platonov* is threaded with every theme that would later unfold in Chekhov’s masterworks—from his signature gunshots and unrequited loves to the most pressing trope of them all: the always-impending loss of the family home. Each part of the work offers its audiences distinct points of view: attendees at The Kitchen will experience not only a theatrical performance, but also the shooting of what amounts to a single-extended-take feature film that stands on its own for viewers at cinemas.

Jay Scheib & Co. will perform *Platonov* at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street), Wednesday through Friday, January 8–10, 15–17, and 22–24 at 8:00 p.m. nightly. Tickets to *Platonov* are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.thekitchen.org; by phone at 212.255.5793 x11; or in person at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street), Tuesday–Saturday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

The Disinherited will screen at 8:00 p.m. during Wednesday performances (January 8, 15, 22) at AMC Empire 25 in Times Square, presented in collaboration with Times Square Alliance; during Thursday performances (January 9, 16, 23) at BAM Rose Cinemas; and during Friday performances (January 10, 17, 24) at additional local and national venues including Massachusetts Institute of Technology and San Francisco Film Festival. Tickets to *The Disinherited* are available through each cinema’s website:

BAM Rose Cinemas tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.bam.org> or at the box office at BAM Rose Cinemas, Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. AMC’s Empire 25 tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.amctheatres.com/movie-theatres/amc-empire-25>, or in person at 234 West 42nd St.

Additional live cinema performance partners and box office contacts to be announced shortly.

Scheib describes *Platonov* as “a play about young men and women who could have just gone to bed and continued along in their semi-prosperous yet semi-boring lives, even happily—but instead stayed up and got more drunk and

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chose a destruction they knew somehow was coming anyway.” *Platonov* begins with a party at the estate of Anna Voynitsev on a hot summer night. The celebration spills out of the living room onto the veranda and then swings wildly out of control. The action then moves to the countryside home of Sasha and Platonov, where a revolving door of who’s-going-to-sleep-with-whom ensues with Platonov making the grave mistake of choosing his college flame Sonya and making a last ditch attempt at a new life. Then: attempted murder, gun fighting, lynching, attempted suicide, double crosses, heart-attacks and a tour of every form of suffering known to the stage drive the play to its hilarious conclusion.

Formally, *Platonov, or The Disinherited* builds upon stagecast initiatives such as *National Theatre Live* and the Metropolitan Opera’s *Live in HD*. Rather than shooting from the back of the theater at The Kitchen, Scheib—as he has done in past productions such as *World of Wires* at The Kitchen and the opera *Powder Her Face* at BAM—has performers operating cameras from on stage, visible to the audience. The footage is projected onto screens integrated into the set, and, in the case of *Platonov, or The Disinherited*, is also live-edited and broadcast to cinemas as a stand-alone feature film generated in real time.

In directing *Platonov, or The Disinherited*, Scheib is joined by **Laine Rettmer** (Associate Director). The work features stage design by **Caleb Wertebaker**, lighting design by **Amith Chandrashaker**, sound design by **Anouschka Trocker**, video design by **Josh Higgason**, live camera by Jay Scheib and Laine Rettmer, and costumes by **Alba Clemente**; with performances by Sarita Choudhury, Mikeah Ernest Jennings, **Rosalie Lowe**, **Jon Morris**, **Virginia Newcomb**, **Ayesha Ngaujah**, Laine Rettmer, Jay Scheib, and Tony Torn.

About Jay Scheib

Jay Scheib, a 2011–12 Guggenheim Fellow and a 2012 OBIE Winner for Best Direction, is a director, designer and author of plays, operas and live art events. Internationally known for works of daring physicality, genre-defying performances and deep integration of new (and used) technologies, Scheib’s productions include Thomas Adès’ opera *Powder her Face*, which played to great acclaim at Brooklyn Academy of Music in February 2013, followed by performances as part of the Festival d’Opéra de Québec in Canada.

Other recent works for the stage have included a new contemporary ballet collaboration with choreographer Yin Mei and the Hong Kong Dance Company titled *Seven Sages*, which premiered in March 2012; a new staging of Fassbinder’s controversial play *Garbage, the City and Death*, with the Norwegian Theater Academy in Oslo; and Scheib’s own original Fassbinder adaptation *World of Wires*, which premiered at The Kitchen and for which Scheib was awarded a 2012 OBIE Award for Best Direction.

Subsequent performances of *World of Wires* included presentations in Krakow Poland as part of the KRT Festival, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Lieu Unique in Nantes, and Festival d’Automne in Paris at the Maison des Arts Cretéil (MAC), France. Also having toured in France and Boston was the recent adaptation of Samuel R. Delany’s novel *Dhalgren*, titled *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities*, which played the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and the MAC Exit Festival in Paris, following its premiere at The Kitchen.

As a frequent director of operas and works for music theater Scheib staged Evan Ziporyn’s *A House in Bali*, as part of BAM’s Next Wave Festival 2010; Beethoven’s *Fidelio* at the Saarländisches Staatstheater; and an original collaboration with punk band World Inferno titled *Addicted to Bad Ideas*, which toured eight cities internationally.

Named Best New York Theater Director by *Time Out New York* in 2009, and one of the 25 theater artists who will shape the next 25 years of American theater, by *American Theater Magazine*, Scheib is a recipient of the MIT Edgerton Award, The Richard Sherwood Award, a National Endowment for the Arts/TCG fellowship and the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. He is Professor for Music and Theater Arts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he directs the Program in Theater Arts.

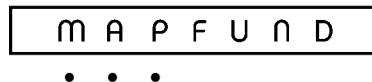
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About ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann

Mr. Kriegsmann is a producer, manager and curator who founded ArKtype in 2006 toward the long-term development, production and touring of new domestic and internationally based performance work on various scales. His work includes projects with venues worldwide and renowned artists including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Yael Farber, Annie-B Parsons & Paul Lazar, Lisa Peterson, Jay Scheib, Julie Taymor, and Tony Taccone. For three seasons he produced the Ringling International Arts Festival in Sarasota, FL and recently premiered Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov's MAN IN A CASE and the U.S. premiere of Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's NOT BY BREAD ALONE. Current collaborations include Jay Scheib (Cambridge); Baryshnikov Productions (New York); Denis O'Hare & Lisa Peterson (New York); Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater (Tel Aviv); Big Dance Theater (New York); Byron Au Yong & Aaron Jafferis (Seattle/New Haven); Phantom Limb (New York); Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen (New York); Sam Green / Yo La Tengo (Brooklyn / Hoboken); Compagnia T.P.O. (Italy); Aurélia & Victoria Thiérrée-Chaplin (France); Joshua Light Show (New York); Dayna Hanson (Seattle); KMA (London); Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra (Brooklyn); Rude Mechs (Austin, TX); and Theatre for a New Audience (New York). Upcoming premieres include Jay Scheib's PLATONOV from the story by Anton Chekhov (La Jolla Playhouse, September 2013), Dayna Hanson's THE CLAY DUKE (Summer 2013) Jessica Black & Erik Jensen's LESTER BANGS PROJECT (Spring 2014). Further information at www.arktype.org.

Funding Credits

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ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann produced the work in collaboration with Jay Scheib & Co., and with the support of The Kitchen and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

About The Kitchen

The Kitchen is one of New York City's most forward-looking nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. 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.

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