

Contact: Terrie Sultan, Director of Public Affairs
Sara Palmer, Public Affairs Assistant
212/219-1222

THREE EVENINGS OF NEW AND EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEW MUSEUM

"Nitelife," three evenings of new and experimental performance from the fields of theater, dance, music, stand-up comedy, video, film and performance art, will be presented from Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 9 in the main gallery of The New Museum of Contemporary Art. Performances begin each evening at 9 p.m.

Transforming the Museum into a performance venue, "Nitelife" is one event in the ongoing series of ARTISTS PROJECTS, in which the Museum is seeking to expand its boundaries, both physically and conceptually, beyond the realm of traditional exhibitions, using its spaces and resources in challenging ways.

"Nitelife" begins on Thursday, April 7 with a line-up including dancer Ishmael Houston-Jones improvising to "scratch" music provided by poet Dennis Cooper, stand-up comic Reno offering her sharp insights on sexual politics, and Robbie McCauley performing autobiographical monologues with music by Ed Montgomery. The evening's MC will be dead-pan ventriloquist Doug Skinner, accompanied by his dummy Eddie Gray and Carol Benner on viola.

"Nitelife" continues on Friday, April 8, with Kimati Dinizulu and members of his Kotoko Society playing their blend of third-world percussion-based music. Writer and actor Bill Callihan will perform his southern-tinged monologues, once likened to Flannery O'Connor on acid; and dancer Mary Shultz, a lead performer in various

NEW AND EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE AT THE NEW MUSEUM
2-2-2

downtown ensembles, will perform a solo piece in part about Miami Beach. Providing musical interludes will be Guy Yarden, improvising on his electric violin. On the lighter side, Carmelita Tropicana, hailed as "the Carmen Miranda of the 80's," will perform comedy and singing with overtones of social critique.

The final evening of "Nitelife," on Saturday, April 9th, will feature monologues by Jeffrey Essmann, whose array of characters include Barbie and Ken, and a singing nun. Mary Hestand & Associates will perform an excerpt from "Automythologies," a multi-media theater piece involving actors lip-synching to off-stage voices. In addition, Maxine Lapiduss, who parodies such singers as Aretha Franklin, Rickie Lee Jones and Bernadette Peters, will add her own blend of music and stand-up comedy. Performing an event never before attempted will be David Leslie, "the impact addict," known for his spectacular stunts. The evening will be hosted by Nicky Paraiso contributing music and comedy.

Admission to each evening of "Nitelife" will be \$6.00.

This project has been made possible, in part, with contributions from Art Matters, Inc. and Jay Chiat. Additional assistance has been provided courtesy of Baldwin Piano and Organ Co.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday: noon to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.