

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 2013
Contact: Lia Gangitano lia@participantinc.org 646.492.4076



Edgar Oliver
Performing *The Hermit*
A monologue
Sunday, September 22 and 29, 7pm



With a very special opening performance
Kembra Pfahler presents the Kats of Karen Black
Sunday, September 29 only

In conjunction with the exhibition, *The Lunar Landing*, by Helen Oliver Adelson (on view through October 13, 2013), Edgar Oliver, a playwright, poet, and performer who has lived and worked in New York City for the past thirty-five years will perform *The Hermit*, a monologue, on two evenings, Sundays, September 22 and 29, 2013. With a very special opening performance to celebrate the work of Helen Oliver Adelson on Sunday, September 29 only: **Kembra Pfahler presents the Kats of Karen Black**.

Edgar Oliver's recent spoken memoir, *Helen and Edgar*, staged at Theater 80 on St. Mark's Place last fall, described a childhood geography inhabited by Helen, Edgar, and their mother Louise in 1960s Savannah. As Ben Brantley described it in *The New York Times*, "You might say they lived in their own private Transylvania, a place that has nothing to do with the real country and everything to do with a state of mind in which shadows always threaten to claim you." This is a place evoked in Helen's paintings and set pieces, many often made for Edgar's productions. He notes in *Helen and Edgar*, "Never were there three more lost children than Mother, Helen and me." Eventually, Helen and Edgar would run away to New York, where they went on to found Pompeii together. Edgar has noted of his sister's work, "You enter a world where distance is pulling you away in many directions into the unknown."

Edgar Oliver is a poet, playwright, and performer appearing in theater, film, and television. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, he has lived and worked in New York City since 1977. Oliver started performing in New York at the Pyramid Club in the mid-1980s alongside artists including Hapi Phace, Kembra Pfahler, Samoa, and playwright Kestutis Nakas. His original works include *The Lost Bedroom*, *When She Had Bloodlust*, *The Master of Monstrosities*, *The Ghost of Brooklyn*, *I Am a Coffin*, *My Greek Hades*, *Chop Off Your Ear*, and *The Drowning Pages*. As a playwright, many of Oliver's plays have been staged at La MaMa and other downtown NYC theatres, including *The Seven Year Vacation*, *The Poetry Killer*, *Hands in Wartime*, *Motel Blue 19* and *Mosquito Succulence*. As a stage actor, he has performed in countless plays including *Edward II* with Cliquelight Theater, Marc Palmieri's *Carl the Second*, Lipsynka's *Dial M for Model* and numerous productions at Axis including *Trinity 5:29*, *A Glance at New York* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe & NYC), *Julius Caesar*, *USS Frankenstein*, the *Hospital* series, *Seven in One Blow*, or the *Brave Little Kid* and the one-man show *East 10th Street: Self Portrait with Empty House* (written by Edgar & directed by Randy Sharp – Edinburgh Festival Fringe & NYC). Oliver is also a beloved storyteller at The Moth and has recently joined George Dawes Green's *Unchained*, a storytelling bus tour that is also featured in an upcoming documentary about raconteuring called *Sudden Owl*. His film roles include *That's Beautiful Frank*, *Henry May Long* (directed by Axis' Randy Sharp) and *Gentlemen Broncos* (directed by Jared Hess). His published works include three poetry collections, *A Portrait of New York by a Wanderer There*, *Summer*, and *The Brooklyn Public Library* (published by oilcan press); and a novel, *The Man Who Loved Plants* (published by Panther Books and available at Goodie.org). Oliver appeared on the Science Channel series *Oddities*, and he now hosts the spin-off show *Odd Folks Home*.

State of the Arts



NYSCA



THE ANDY WARHOL
FOUNDATION FOR
THE VISUAL ARTS



PARTICIPANT INC's exhibitions are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Archiving and documentation projects are supported by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Our programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

PARTICIPANT INC receives generous support from the Harriett Ames Charitable Trust; The Blessing Way Foundation; Bloomberg; The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston; The Lower East Side Ecology Center/ EcoBizNYC; Foundation 20 21; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; Gesso Foundation; The Greenwich Collection Ltd.; Harpo Foundation; The Ruth Ivor Foundation; Lambent Foundation; The Daniel M. Neidich and Brooke Garber Foundation; Puffin Foundation; The Benjamin M. Rosen Family Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; an anonymous donor of the Community Foundation of Abilene; FRIENDS of PARTICIPANT INC; numerous individuals; and Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/NYC Department of Sanitation/NYC Department of Education.

PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES. Subway: F to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit or JMZ to Essex/Delancey. participantinc.org

PARTICIPANT INC