



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

Phone: (415) 641-7657 x 8

Fax: (415) 641-7684

Email: edris@brava.org

Back by Popular Demand!

Brava! For Women in the Arts and Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience
present

Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe's hit solo play!

Adventures of a Black Girl: Traveling While Black

WHO: award-winning performer, **Edris Cooper –Anifowoshe,**

WHAT: **Traveling While Black**, an original solo performance

WHERE: Brava Theater Center, 2781-24th Street at York, San Francisco, CA 94110

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, October 3 – 26, 2014. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM with matinees on Sundays at 3 PM.

TICKETS: Tickets are \$15. For information and tickets please call (415) 641-7657 and/or log on to <http://www.brava.org>. (Direct ticket link: <http://bit.ly/YbSMwB>)

Edris CooperAnifowoshe returns - by popular demand - with her hit solo performance, **Adventures of a Black Girl: Traveling While Black** for a full run in the Brava Studio!!!

Traveling While Black is a funny and poignant exploration of the impact of African migration, in all of its many manifestations, on the Black Diaspora and on the continents that have become our adopted and adapted homes. Inspired by Langston Hughes' *I Wonder As I Wander*, **TWB** is a celebration of Black travel, both fanciful and forced. Part travelogue and part history lesson, **TWB** seeks to exploit the tensions between tourism and colonialism; interrogate boundaries and reveal cultural connects and disconnects. It examines the histories that have created our presence outside of Africa and uncovers current attitudes toward African peoples revealed through transcontinental crossings.

Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe (Actor/Writer) is an award-winning director, actor and writer. A onetime performer with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Edris has performed at many regional and independent theaters and for more than a decade was a lead artist for Rhodessa Jones' *The Medea Project; Theatre for Incarcerated Women*. For her acting, Edris has received the SF Bay Guardian's Goldie award, a Dramalogue award and is a two time recipient of the Individual Artist Commission from the SF Arts Commission. Edris' original solo performances have been seen at Northwestern University, the University of Illinois and the University of Florida in Gainesville; and in San Francisco at AfroSolo Festival, Intersection For the Arts, Climate Theater, Brava Theater Center, Eastside Cultural Center in Oakland and her own former space, Sugar Shack Performance Gallery and Cultural Center in the Lower Haight, SF. Internationally, Edris has performed in Ruswil, Switzerland; Ibadan, Nigeria and Berlin, Germany and presented scholarship on performance in Mexico, the UK and the Netherlands. Her performance of Adventures Of A Black Girl In Search of Academic Clarity and Inclusion was presented as part of the solo/black/women festival at Northwestern University and published in 2013 by Northwestern University in an anthology entitled *solo/black/woman*. Edris has directed at San Francisco's Lorraine Hansberry Theater, Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, WaterTower Theatre/Dallas, Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, Southern Rep in New Orleans, Curious Theater in Denver, Trinity Rep in Providence, RI and Alabama Shakespeare, and many others. For her direction Edris has been recognized with a Dean Goodman Award for Excellence and several Rabin (Dallas) nominations. Edris is currently working on an autobiographical play about being the last remaining Black artists in the city of San Francisco.

Jose Maria Francos was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1951. He studied visual arts at Manuel Belgrano National School of the Arts and Dance with numerous teachers in Ballet, Modern and folklore. Francos developed a short but vibrant career in dance and theater performing and created his own work until a military coup forced him to relocate to the United States in 1978, escaping a wave of state terror against workers, intellectuals and artists; in what was to be remembered as the "dirty war" and that took the life of more than thirty thousand people. Once in New York City he taught movement for actors at The Dramatic Workshop and discovered a particular interest for theatrical design. Francos moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and went on to study lighting and set design at Laney College in Oakland. He started working as a designer right away and at the same time founded the Bay Area Dance Series, which he directed for almost ten years. Francos has designed for Opera, Ballet and Theater. Oakland Opera, Oakland Ballet, The Wall Flower Order, June Watanabe In Dance, Ellen Bromberg Ensemble, Joanna Haigood's Zaccho Dance Theater, Robert Moses KIN, Dohee Lee Performance Projects and Navarrete+Kajiyama Dance Theater. He has also worked as a Company Manager for Zaccho Dance Theater and June Watanabe in Company and served as a consultant to many other groups. In 2001 he became the Production Manager and then Director of Production and technical Services for Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco position he cherishes and will continue to hold as long as he is usable for that wonderful organization. This fantastic opportunity to work with Mrs. Oyefunke Anifowoshe is a culmination of a long friendship and a much-to-long long postponed dream. Francos hope this will be a beginning of a long collaboration as well as a new direction on Francos multifaceted career.

Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience was founded by Edris Cooper and Lester Jones, in 1994, with a company of actors that included June Lomena, Michael Carreiro, Peter Macon, Rico Anderson and Tanya Mayo, to produce new plays by, for and about Black people. From 1994 until 2002, the company has produced and presented work by Keith Josef Adkins, Pearl Cleage, Robert Alexander and Robert O'Hara. After a 10-year hiatus, BACCE returned last year with the critically successful Bay Area premiere of A. Zell Williams' In A Daughter's Eyes and the equally successful Sweet Maladies by Zakiyyah Alexander at Brava Theater Center where it is now a resident company. The company recently presented a staged reading of Facing Our Truths – a New Black Fest commission of six short plays on the shooting of Trayvon Martin that is part of a national project. The company also produces the series Adventures Of A Black Girl, a trilogy of solo performances by Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe.

Brava! For Women in the Arts celebrates its 26th year as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, youth, LGBT, people of color and other unheard voices through the ownership and operation of Brava Theater Center. BRAVA producing history includes award-winning premieres by Diana Son, Eve Ensler, Debbie Swisher, Reno, Cherylene Lee, Suzan-Lori Parks, Culture Clash, Joan Holden, Anne Galjour, Elizabeth Summers, Kate Rigg, Dan Guerrero, and Mabou Mines, as well as works by internationally known playwrights like Jesusa Rodriguez and Liliana Felipe of Mexico, Jorge Drexler of Uruguay, and Ojos de Brujo and Ismael Serrano of Spain. BRAVA's current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures and professional dance productions - making BRAVA one of the most eclectic and multi-faceted arts venues in the Bay Area. BRAVA's resident youth program, Mission Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA@BRAVA) includes the long standing SF Running Crew which pairs youth with professional mentors and hands on opportunities for technical theatre training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth, and SF Youth Theatre 415 Teen Ensemble. Also in residence is the youth focused Loco Bloco dance and drum ensemble. Brava is committed to providing affordable space for artistic development and presentation and quality professional arts training for underserved youth in the San Francisco community.