



For Immediate Release

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Brava! For Women in the Arts
presents
Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe
Adventures of a Black Girl: Traveling While Black

WHO: Edris Cooper –Anifowoshe, directed by **Jose Maria Francos.**

WHAT: **Traveling While Black**, the second installment of Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe's trilogy *Adventures Of A Black Girl*.

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

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, March 15 – 17, 2013. Friday and Saturday at 8 PM with matinee on Sunday 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>.

Traveling While Black is the second solo production of the trilogy, *Adventures Of A Black Girl*.

Traveling While Black is an 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. It explores the histories that have created our presence outside of Africa and the current attitudes toward African peoples that are revealed through transcontinental crossings.

Based on my own travels through Europe, the Americas and Africa, **Traveling While Black** is part travelogue and part history lesson and seeks to exploit the tensions between tourism and colonialism as it interrogates boundaries and reveals cultural connects and disconnects. Inspired

by Langston Hughes' *I Wonder As I Wander*, **TWB** examines the post-slavery condition of Black travel, both fanciful and forced. The script is fueled by my own experiences as a Black American traveler/tourist, in Africa (Nigeria and other parts of West Africa, North Africa during times of US aggression in the area); Europe – Eastern and Western Germany, Switzerland, Spain, England and in North and Central America (Mexico, Canada).

Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe (Actor/Writer) is an award-winning director, actor and writer. She has directed at Trinity Rep, Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks, WaterTower Theatre/Dallas, Mark Taper Forum, Southern Rep in New Orleans and Alabama Shakespeare, among others. A one-time 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*. 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 and other small independent venues, including her own former Sugar Shack Performance Gallery and Cultural Center in the Lower Haight. Internationally, Edris has performed in Ibadan, Nigeria and Berlin, Germany and presented scholarship on performance in Mexico, the UK and the Netherlands. Her 2010 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, is being created as a video game and will be published in an anthology by Northwestern University Press later this year.

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 programs include 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, Famooly Productions Salsa Band workshops and 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.

Adventures Of A Black Girl: Traveling While Black is funded in part by Brava! For Women in the Arts and Zellerbach Family Foundation.