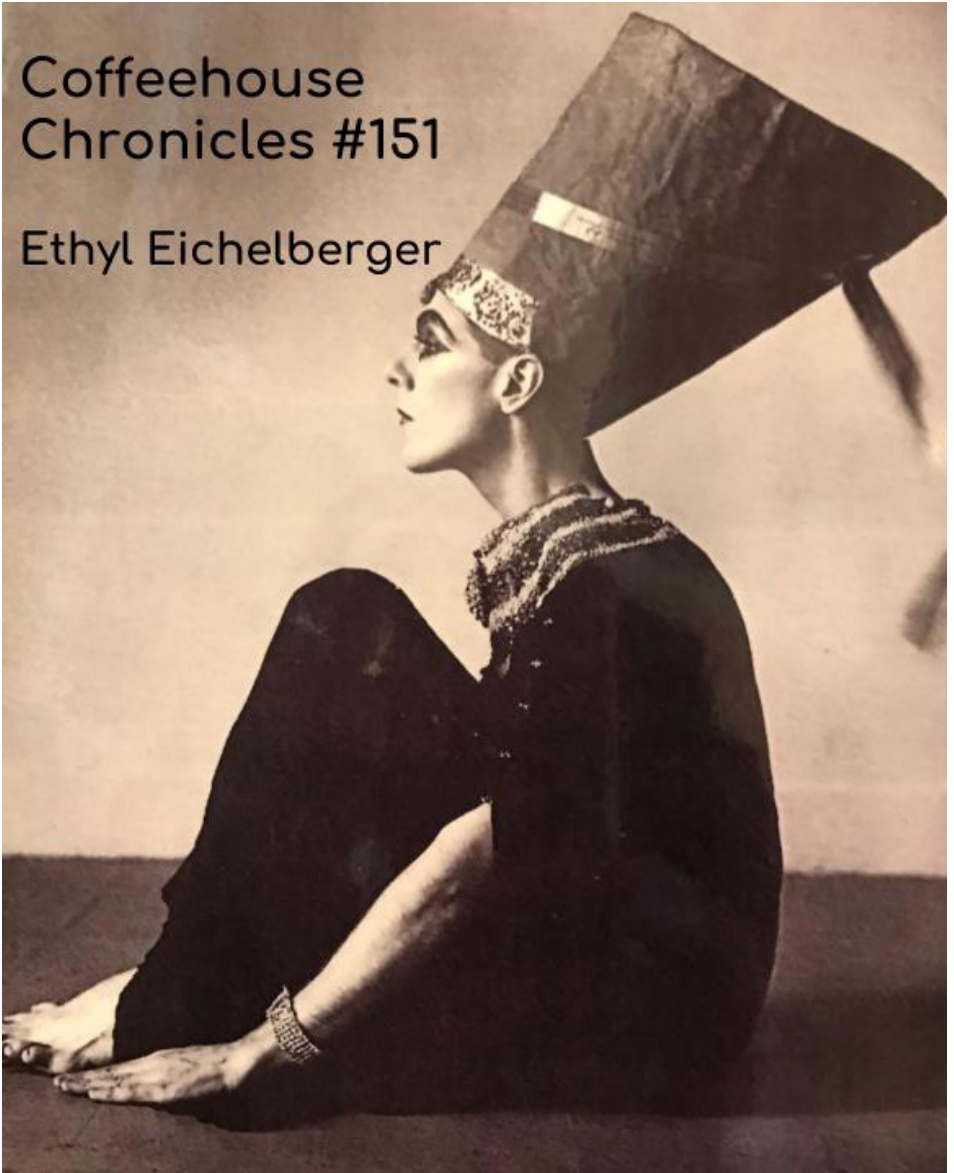


LA MAMA **57**
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB
presents

Coffeehouse
Chronicles #151

Ethyl Eichelberger



Michal Gamily - Series Director
Arthur Adair - Educational Outreach

Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
February 23, 2019

Coffeehouse Chronicles

Celebrates the life and work of Ethyl Eichelberger
with panelists, live performances and archival materials!

Moderated by Miss Joan Marie Moossy

Panelists:

Brian Belovitch, Joe E Jeffreys, John Kelly, Lori E Seid,
Black Eyed Susan and Mark Russell

Performances by:

Black Eyed Susan | Jennifer Miller with Heather Green |
Jeremy Halpern with Auntie Belle
and archival material from the La MaMa Archives.

1st Video: Bessie

Miss Mossy introduction

2nd Video: Joe E's Mash-up

Live Performance: Black Eyed Susan, St Joan

Panel: Black Eyed Susan, Brian Belovich, Joe E

3rd Video: Jocasta (Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center)

Live Performance: Jeremy Halpern accompanies Auntie Belle Emme

Panel: Mark Russell , Lori E Seid, John Kelly, Joe E

4th Video: Comedy of Errors

Live Performance: Jennifer Miller/Heather Green

Panel: Mark Russell , Lori E Seid, John Kelly, Joe E

5th Video: HBO's Encyclopedia -

Ending: Miss Moossy reads excerpts from Ethyl's parents letters

6th Video: Dad Vedanta at La MaMa

Coffeehouse Chronicles is a free educational performance series exploring the history and development of Off-Off Broadway from its inception within the Village “Coffeehouse Theatres” of the 1960s through today. Part artist portrait, part creative event, part history lesson, part community forum, it is our mission to provide a home, as did our founder Ellen Stewart, for personal and intimate engagement with art. Since 2005 La MaMa has presented more than 123 Coffeehouse Chronicles featuring personal oral accounts from artists of the day as well as conversations with present day artists who continue to work in the same bold, daring manner. Coffeehouse Chronicles are held one Saturday each month (September through June).

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the city council.

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Ethyl Eichelberger (1945-1990) was a key player on the manic East Village scene of the 1980s. Best remembered today for his high octane solo drag plays and performances, for nearly 20 years Ethyl wrote, produced, staged and starred in a series of 32 madcap and highly idiosyncratic poetic plays based in the lives of great women of history, literature and myth. The plays, including *Nefertiti* (1976), *Medea* (1980), *Lucrezia Borgia* (1982, Obie Award), *Klytemnestra* (1985) and *The Lincolns* (1988), concern strong women who survive, mix high and low elements, include accordion accompanied songs and were performed to critical acclaim by Eichelberger with childlike glee and razor sharp acting skills in clubs and performance spaces from the Pyramid, 8 B.C., Dixon Place and PS 122 to Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall as well as worldwide. In addition to keeping his own repertoire in constant production, he also acted with the Ridiculous Theatrical Company, regional theaters throughout the country and on Broadway, television and film.

Miss Joan Marie Moossy is a writer and an actress. Over the years, she has worked with many downtown luminaries like Ethyl Eichelberger, Gerard Little aka Mr Fashion, Black Eyed Susan, Penny Arcade, and Kevin Maloney, as well as producing her own work. She has been commissioned twice to write plays, once for the Tweed New Works Festival, and once for a private commission. She has also written magazine articles, had a radio show on WBAI, and a TV talk show on MNN. She makes short comedy movies and currently has a comedy detective series on YouTube called "Miss Moossy's Neighborhood Mysteries" that is set on the Lower East Side. She worked with Ethyl for the last 4 years of his life. Miss Moossy started as his stage manager, then he went on to write parts for her in all of his subsequent plays. His mentoring was a huge influence and shaped much about Miss Moossy's life. There is really no way to repay such a gift, but one of her missions since his death is to do everything she can to help keep Ethyl's name and his genius alive.

Brian Belovitch has a storied career as a New York actor, writer and singer. He's appeared on NYC stages for more than three decades. He was last seen as Alice, First Lady of Earth in Charles Ludlam's, *Conquest of the Universe or When Queens Collide* at La MaMa to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Ridiculous. A celebrated fixture on the New York 80's club scene as Tish Gervais, *The Girl With Something Extra* he dazzled the New York nightlife performing in the most exciting clubs of that decade, Limelight, Palladium, Danceteria, Area, Pyramid and the new Studio 54. As a playwright he was a 2000 GLAAD award nominee for his Off-Broadway autobiographical play: *Boys Don't Wear Lipstick*. In 2016, Brian created *Queer Stages* an LGBTQ playreading group who's mission is to preserve and present LGBTQ themed plays and playwrights

for current and future generations. On Sept. 25, 2018, Brian's highly anticipated memoir, *Trans Figured: My Journey from Boy to Girl to Woman to Man* by Skyhorse Publishing in bookstores now.

Dynamic soprano **Heather Green** is thrilled to be Eichelbergling once again! Green's most acclaimed role to date has been Richard Strauss's *Salome*. In 2017, she debuted as Salome with West Bay Opera in Palo Alto, CA. Other favorite performances include the Wagnerian roles of Senta in *Der fliegende Holländer* and *Sieglinde in Die Walküre*, as well as Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*, and Lady MacBeth in Verdi's *MacBeth*. Ms. Green also loves to collaborate with contemporary composers, having recently performed the New York debut of Luis Andrei Cobo's *It's About Time*, with the Composers Concordance in January 2019. In past seasons, she has performed the title role in the World Premiere of Patricia Burgess' *Yeshe, Queen of Tibet* in Boudanath, Nepal; the World Premieres of Yoav Gal's *Mosheh* (as Bitia) and *3weeks* (as Aspasianus); and Thomas Carlo Bo's *Shadows of the City* (as Lizzie). Hear Heather next with the Eclectic Music Extravaganza at Sowieso Neuköln in Berlin, Germany on March 1, 2019 at 8pm.

Jeremy X. Halpern is the creator of 1-800-Weirdos and host of "Weirdos. TV" (<http://www.weirdos.com>), and has masterminded such epic productions as *Battle of the Dead Celebs*, and *Speak of the Devil - A Satanic Cabaret*. He co-directed *Pretençión* at the Elektra Theatre, and served as the musical director for Chris Tanner's *The Etiquette of Death* (which closed La MaMa's 50th season). He is also the executive producer of the mind-controlled levitation ride *The Ascent* (and the World's largest bio-feedback machine), with Emmy-award-winning production company Mindride (www.mindride.co).

Joe E. Jeffreys is a drag historian. He has published on the subject in encyclopedias, academic journals and book anthologies and featured in articles about the subject in media outlets including Time, The New York Times, Vice and Food and Wine. Jeffreys creates drag happy video works that have screened at museums and galleries worldwide including How! Happening, The Tate Modern and The Museum of Arts and Design. He teaches theatre studies at NYU and this semester at The New School is teaching a new class RuPaul's Drag Race and Its Impact.

John Kelly is a performance and visual artist. He is currently working on *Underneath The Skin*, a dance theatre work based on the life and work of the novelist and tattoo artist Samuel Steward. It will premier this October at The Skirball Center for the Performing Arts.

Jennifer Miller is the director and founder of Circus Amok – a one ring, no animal, free political, circus extravaganza that has toured the parks of New York annually since 1994. She is the recipient of an OBIE, a “Bessie”, and the 2008 Ethyl Eichelberger Award, along with numerous grants from the NEA, NYSCA, DCA, MAP, NYFA and others. Besides touring her own work internationally she performs with several choreographers and performance artists including Jennifer Monson and Vaginal Crème Davis. She had a 10 year stint at Coney Island Sideshow by the Seashore. She is a Professor of Performance at Pratt Institute.

Mark Russell was the Executive Artistic Director of Performance Space 122, from 1983-2004, bringing the space from an artist rental space to a world renowned presenting institution committed to developing the work of New York City artists. Mark launched the *Under the Radar Festival* at St. Ann’s Warehouse in January 2005. UTR focuses on theater based contemporary performance. The festival moved to the Public Theater in 2006 and has become a centerpiece in the New York City theater season; mixing international performances with national and local artists. Russell has also served as the guest artistic director of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art’s Time Based Arts Festival 2006-2008. He created the Off Center Festival for the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa California, as well as the Off the Wall series at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served as an associate curator for the Act French Festival in New York in 2005. Russell has been involved with many artists over his career in dance, music, performance and theater, creating opportunities for them to reach wider audiences.

Lori E. Seid has worked in theatres, clubs and art spaces all over the world as a producer, stage manager, lighting designer and DJ since 1984. Seid has worked extensively with; DANCENOISE, Charles Atlas, Anohni, Split Britches, Karen Finley, Diamanda Galas, John Kelly, Meredith Monk, Blue Man Group, Ethyl Eichelberger, Boy George, Rosie O’Donnell and Cyndi Lauper (to name but a few). Seid is the recipient of The Obie, A Bessie, and The Theatre Craft International Award all for sustained achievement in theatre as well as several Daytime Television Emmy’s for Producing Music. She has been a Queer Political Activist since birth.

Black Eyed Susan is an original member of Charles Ludlam’s Ridiculous Theatrical Company and received a Villager Award and an Obie for Sustained Achievement for her work with the Company. She has also appeared in productions by Ethyl Eichelberger, Stuart Sherman, Mabou Mines, Roslyn Drexler, Jim Neu, Charles Allcroft, Samuel Beckett, Stephanie Fleischmann, John Jahnke, Christina Campanella/Stephanie Fleischmann, and Mallory Catlett.

RELATED EVENT

Saturday, Feb 23rd at 4pm
Octopus: A Very Ethyl Eichelberger Evening
at Performance Space New York

Organized by the Ethyl Eichelberger Committee

Artists

Velvet Crayon
Chris Harris / Chris of Hur
Kemar Jewel
Morgan Weidinger

Octopus series invites artists and guest curators to individually organize an evening-length program with several artists working in any number of disciplines. Octopus continues Performance Space's legacy of artist-centric programming and creating space for the exploration of ideas free from expectations.

For Tickets* and Info:

<https://performancespacenewyork.org/shows/octopus/>

*Came to Coffeehouse Chronicles? Receive a discount code for \$5 tickets to Octopus: A Very Ethyl Eichelberger Evening

LA MAMA



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Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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