

**THE MARSH BERKELEY  
CONTINUES THE CELEBRATION  
OF 14TH BIRTHDAY OF DON REED'S HIT SHOW  
EAST 14TH**

Written, Performed, Produced, and Directed by Don Reed  
November 11 – December 17, 2023

BERKELEY CA (18 October 2023) — The party will continue as Oakland native Don Reed celebrates the 14th birthday of his hilarious coming-of-age solo tour-de-force, bringing his hit *East 14th* to **The Marsh Berkeley** for a limited return-engagement run. Winner of the Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Award for Outstanding Presentation of a Solo Production, *East 14th* takes audiences on a free-wheeling trip to 1970s Oakland, where a teenaged Reed was trying to resist evangelical recruiting by his ultra-religious stepfather when all he really wanted was to be just like dear old Dad, not knowing that Dad was a pimp. Declared “a master storyteller” by *NPR's* Glynn Washington, Reed will celebrate this anniversary by incorporating additional stories, never-before-seen visuals, and a few more surprises to *East 14th*, which includes elements of the unforgettable story “I Miss Toni” featured on *NPR* podcast “Snap Judgment.” A bold and innovative peek into an extraordinary childhood, *East 14th* will play **November 11 – December 17, 2023** with performances 8:00pm Saturdays and 5:00pm Sundays at **The Marsh Berkeley**, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. For information or to order tickets (\$25-\$35 sliding scale, \$50 and \$100 reserved), the public may visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org).

*East 14th* traces Reed’s irregular teen years throughout the 1970s when he was torn between his mother and conservative stepfather on one side of the Oakland thoroughfare, and his enigmatic father on the other. Prior to making its Bay Area debut, *East 14th* transferred to Off-Broadway for a successful run. In 2009, *East 14th* premiered at The Marsh San Francisco and extended more than 20 times, and then transferred to The Marsh Berkeley, launching the opening of The Marsh San Francisco’s sister theater. *East 14th* has been welcomed by critics, who called it “hilarious” (*The New Yorker*), “hard not to love” (*The New York Times*), and “an underground hit” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), with *The Daily Californian* praising Reed for his ability to “easily inhabit all the roles of a sprawling cast of Oakland residents.” “I Miss Toni,” an excerpt

from *East 14th*, was featured on the popular *NPR* podcast “Snap Judgment” and won the 2016 “Snap Judgement” Performance of the Year award. The *East 14th* excerpt was so groundbreaking that it helped Reed close a feature film arrangement, and separately align a television development deal with major players from an Amazon Prime production. It was also included in the curriculum of the graduate writing program at American University in Washington D.C.

### **ABOUT DON REED**

*NPR* award-winning storyteller **Don Reed** (Writer/Performer/Director) was a 2018 nominee for the Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Outstanding Solo Production, as well as the 2016 TBA winner and the 2017 TBA nominee for the same award. The playwright/performer/director is also a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominee and NAACP triple nominee for Best Actor and Best Playwright. His past works at The Marsh include *East 14th*, *The Kipling Hotel*, *Can You Dig It?*, *That Don Reed Show*, and *Going Out*. Reed can be seen in the Amazon Prime series *Bartlett*, where Reed plays the boss in a struggling ad agency alongside Lin-Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton* creator and star). He has worked in various roles in front of and behind the camera for Warner Bros, Disney+, Marvel, Pixar, The CW, Sony, Lionsgate, and more. Reed has also performed, written, and directed for film, television, and theater. As a producer, Don has co-produced noted director/writer Robert Townsend's (*Hollywood Shuffle*, *The 5 Heartbeats*, *Eddie Murphy's Raw*, *The Last OG*) one-man show *Living the Shuffle* for The Marsh. Years ago, his memorable performance on Robert Townsend's HBO *Partners in Crime* special of up-and-coming comedians led to many recurring and guest starring roles. Reed's voice can be heard on *Spiderman*, *Johnny Quest*, *Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego?*, *Captain Planet*, *The Voice*, *Law & Order*, *SNL*, and as the voice of the cat on *2 Broke Girls*. Additionally, he has written, directed, produced, and starred in the HBO shorts: *Lucky: The Irish Pimp* and *Pookie Watson: Hood Detective*. Reed has also created content for Oprah Winfrey's *OWN* and can be seen in the Netflix feature film *Unleashed* alongside stars from Showtime's *Shameless*. Reed's excerpt story from *East 14th* was featured on *NPR/WYNC*'s “Snap Judgment,” and was also woven into the graduate writing curriculum at American University in Washington, D.C. Recently, Reed became a contributing special assignment writer for the *San Francisco Examiner* and has partnered with Virtual Bodyworks, a leading virtual reality entity making huge strides in the world of workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion. Charitable work includes MISSEY, providing supportive services to youth who are victimized by or vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation; Elevate Oakland, keeping music and the arts alive in Oakland Public Schools; and Mercy House, a leader in ending homelessness by providing a unique system of dignified housing, opportunities, programs, and supportive services.

### **ABOUT THE MARSH**

**The Marsh** is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and pre-COVID hosted more than 600

performances of 175 shows across the company’s two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh’s specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area’s best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.” Since its launch in April 2020, the theatre’s digital platform MarshStream has garnered more than 100,000 viewers. Notable MarshStream moments include the debut of MarshStream International Solo Fest 1 and 2, The Marsh’s first-ever digital festivals, and the U.S. premiere of *The Invisible Line*, a new documentary about one of the world’s most famous social experiments gone wrong. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic MarshStream has hosted over 700 live streams, providing some 300 performers a platform to continue developing and producing art. The Marsh will continue to offer digital content on MarshStream, as well as in-person performances.

#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** The party will continue as Oakland native Don Reed celebrates the 14th birthday of his hilarious coming-of-age solo tour-de-force, bringing his hit *East 14th* to **The Marsh Berkeley** for a limited return-engagement run. Winner of the Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Award for Outstanding Presentation of a Solo Production, *East 14th* takes audiences on a free-wheeling trip to 1970s Oakland, where a teenaged Reed was trying to resist evangelical recruiting by his ultra-religious stepfather when all he really wanted was to be just like dear old Dad, not knowing that Dad was a pimp. Declared “a master storyteller” by *NPR*’s Glynn Washington, Reed will celebrate this anniversary by incorporating additional stories, never-before-seen visuals, and a few more surprises to *East 14th*, which includes elements of the unforgettable story “I Miss Toni” featured on *NPR* podcast “Snap Judgment.”

**WHEN:** **November 11 – December 17, 2023**  
No performance: Sunday, November 26

**SHOWS:** 8:00pm Saturdays  
5:00pm Sundays

**WHERE:** **The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley**  
*Parking: Allston Way Garage, 2061 Allston Way between Milvia & Shattuck.*  
*BART station (closest): Downtown Berkeley BART*

**TICKETS:** \$25-\$35 sliding scale; \$50 and \$100 reserved

**INFO:** For information or to order tickets visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org) or call (415) 282-3055 (Monday through Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm).

**PRESS:** Contact Courtney Heimbeck, Carla Befera & Co.  
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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here: <http://cbpr.co/press/east14th>