Thursday, May 5, 2016, 8pm
Friday, May 6, 2016, 8pm
Saturday, May 7, 2016, 2pm and 8pm
Sunday, May 8, 2016, 3pm
Zellerbach Playhouse

Helen & Edgar
Written and performed by Edgar Oliver
Directed by Catherine Burns
Produced by George Dawes Green
Associate Producer: Bonnie Blue Edwards
Paintings and Sketches: Louise Oliver
Graphic Design: Omnivore
Slides and Projection: Aaron Howard
Promotional Video: Matthew Perry
Featuring music by Amerigo Mackeral & the Octave Doktors

www.helenandedgar.com
Presented by Sudden Owl

Cal Performances’ 2015-2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.
The creative team behind *The Moth*—the acclaimed and phenomenally popular nonprofit group dedicated to the art and craft of live storytelling—joined with acclaimed raconteur Edgar Oliver in October 2012 to present the world premiere of *Helen & Edgar*. The mesmerizing, hilarious, and heartbreaking tale tracks Oliver and his sister Helen’s strange childhood in Savannah, and their mother’s struggle with madness.

Lauded as “a living work of theater all by himself” by Ben Brantley of *The New York Times*, Oliver is a novelist, poet, and playwright, and an incandescent presence in the New York art scene.

*Helen & Edgar* is an expanded version of a story Oliver has been weaving piece by piece since his debut at *The Moth* in 1998, when he instantly became an audience favorite. Shepherded to the stage by George Dawes Green, founder of *The Moth*, and developed and directed by Catherine Burns, *The Moth*’s longtime artistic director, *Helen & Edgar* is an experiment in long-form storytelling. The evening showcases the power of spontaneity and authenticity celebrated by *The Moth*, stripping away the set pieces of a scripted play to reveal an honest, unadorned personal tale. Oliver simply tells a story.

**Edgar Oliver** is a playwright, poet, and performer. He is a member of the Axis Theatre Company, under the direction of Randy Sharp, which is located at 1 Sheridan Square in Manhattan. His last one-man show, *East 10th Street: Self-Portrait with Empty House*—produced by Axis and directed by Randy Sharp—was the recipient of a Fringe First award at the 2009 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Three collections of his poems are available from Oilcan Press: *A Portrait of New York by a Wanderer There, Summer*, and *The Brooklyn Public Library* (oilcanpress.com). His novel, *The Man Who Loved Plants*, is available from Panther Books (www.goodie.org). Oliver is one of the most beloved storytellers of *The Moth*.

**Catherine Burns** is the artistic director of *The Moth* and a frequent host of the Peabody Award-winning *The Moth Radio Hour*. Prior to *The Moth*, she directed and produced independent films and television with such diverse talents as Ozzy Osbourne, Martha Stewart, and Howard Stern. An accomplished fire performer, she also directed the New York City portion of the Burning Man Festival’s Fire Conclave for three years, coordinating a 70-person fire dancing show performed in front of 50,000 people. Born and raised in Alabama, she now lives in Brooklyn with her husband and five-year-old son.

**George Dawes Green** created *The Moth* in 1997. He is the author of three highly acclaimed novels: *The Caveman’s Valentine*, which won an Edgar Award for Best First Mystery, and was made into a motion picture starring Samuel L. Jackson; *The Juror*, which sold nearly three million copies worldwide and was the basis for a film starring Alec Baldwin and Demi Moore; and *Ravens*, which was featured on many Best Novel of the Year lists, including *Publisher’s Weekly*, the UK’s *Daily Mirror*, and *Entertainment Weekly*.

**Bonnie Blue Edwards** has been on the road in the Deep South with the *Unchained* tour, produced *The Night of the Telephone*—a sold-out run of avant-garde plays—and worked alongside award-winning actors at NYC’s historic Century Club. Edwards has also worked on a number of independent feature films. Currently, she is the director/producer of the documentary *Out in Alabama*, celebrating the LGBT community in her home state.

Love and gratitude to: Helen Oliver Adelson.