

Eve Packer



if you ask me what i flash on first when i hear the name Miguel Algarín – the voice, that amazing deep, double-barreled voice, and then oh how he could sing. he was an amazing revelatory performer –

watching him at nuyorican, night after night, making introductions, performing himself, hanging at the bar, of course, propelling us all on –

i also remember, tho not clearly enough, a solo reading/performance he gave at joe's pub

– he talked about his life – how he had turned things around as a kid, by owning exactly what others made fun of him for, owning it and turning it around loud and clear. He also talked in detail about how joe papp had shaped and urged him on as a writer and performer. and then there was watching miguel perform: his own words, his songs – the exuberance, complexity, precision, and joy

and sending that performance into the audience – we can't do what he did, but he urged us to do what only we can do –

it was a great night –

and then, how he personally helped me – he was on the nyfa committee that awarded me a nyfa in poetry/1993. forever grateful.

the last occasion I saw miguel, on new years day evening, sitting at lower east side spot with nancy mercado, some others. doing what we all like to do, hanging out, laughing. just his presence – knowing he is there –

anyway, thanks miguel, you are irrepressible, irreplaceable, and missed.

Eve Packer: Bronx-born, poet/performer/actress, appears solo, w/music, in dance and theatre. She has appeared in works ranging from Beckett to Hansberry to Baraka & others. She has received several grants and awards including NYFA, Jerome Foundation,

NEH, and NYSCA. She has also published three poetry books, skulls head samba,, playland poems 1994-2004, and new nails. (Fly By Night Press); has several poetry/jazz CD's, the most recent: ny woman: poetry/jazz highlights. Eve also performs with Heidi Latsky Dance. Spring '18 saw her new chapbook, foss park. A proud contributor to many publications, including various Unbearable Anthologies, Tribes, Long Shot, Brevitas & others. Coordinates (w/sparrow) a loose collective of poet/performers. Teaches at WCC. Lives downtown and swims daily. (if possible!), evepacker@aol.com