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Charlotte Street Foundation presents
***Jolly Rancher* – a performance by David Wayne Reed**



Consistent with its exploration of memory and place, *Have I been here before?* presents David Wayne Reed's *Jolly Rancher*, a comedic take on both the formative and incongruent nature of place and personal identity. Growing up on a farm in Louisburg, Kansas, without formal creative outlets, Reed created his own venues for self-expression—performing impromptu drag performances for visiting seed salesmen, dancing for the hay crew, rehearsing Shakespeare in abandoned grain silos... Finding the wheat among the chaff, *Jolly Rancher's* collection of stories are culled from this rural upbringing. Telling each story in a characteristically jovial way, Reed plows through tales rife with hilarious characters and universal truths unveiled from life in the Land of Oz.

***Jolly Rancher*-a performance by David Wayne Reed**

Dates/Times: Friday, **December 14, 8pm** featuring Chadwick Brooks as Candi Barr
Saturday, **December 15, 8pm** featuring Honey Tahini
Sunday, **December 16, 6pm** featuring Dirty Dorothy
(Doors open 30 min prior to showtime)

Tickets: \$15 at the door or in advance at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/297632>

Location: La Esquina / 1000 West 25th Street, KCMO 64108

Excerpt from *Jolly Rancher*:

“So you’re gay, huh? You become a vegetarian, too, while you were at it?”

No, Dad.

“Well, good, cause you best be supporting beef because beef supported you.”

Jolly Rancher is the hilarious and poignant story of a prodigal son.

“If everything we read was like this, I might give a shit.” —Community College student from Gardner, KS

“Funny, etc.”—Christie Hodgens, *Elegies for the Brokenhearted*

This limited engagement runs for three performances at la Esquina in conjunction with *Have I Been Here Before?*, an exhibition organized by Charlotte Street Curator-in-Residence Jamilee Polson Lacy, and to which David Wayne Reed has contributed as a writer.

ABOUT DAVID WAYNE REED

David Wayne Reed is an actor and writer. He has written and directed eight plays including *Mother Trucker*, *Mother Trucker 2: Ride On*, and *Jolly Rancher*. Reed is a 2011 ArtsKC Inspiration Grant recipient and a Resident Artist at the Fishtank Performance Studio.

ABOUT HAVE I BEEN HERE BEFORE?

Have I Been Here Before?

Location: la Esquina / 1000 W 25th St. KCMO 64108

Exhibition Runs: November 2 - December 22, 2012

Gallery Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 12-5pm; Thurs 11am-6pm

Exhibition Website: <http://www.haveibeenherebefore.virb.com>

Have I been here before?, the first exhibition organized by Charlotte Street Foundations' inaugural Curator-In-Residence, Jamilee Polson Lacy, brings together Kansas City-specific and not-so-specific moments, memories and histories in an attempt to capture what is just so familiar about this place, that place or any place. The exhibition features the work of Kansas City-area visual and conceptual artists who combine real places with false memories and exaggerated perceptions to create sites and situations that may be vaguely familiar to viewers. Each displayed artwork contributes to a vast and varied view of the local urban landscape and draws attention to the real and imagined territories navigated by city-dwellers and travelers alike. While much of the show incorporates found sources originating in and around Kansas City, a considerable portion of the installation relies extensively on artistic chimera to highlight the strange, even fantastical elements of the urban experience attributable to *déjà vu*, misremembering and recollections of grandeur.

Drawing further comparison between the historical and illusory qualities of the city-place, *Have I Been Here Before?* Also features personal and collective remembrances and stories from local writers and thinkers. Put in writing just for this exhibition, these old memories, fresh interpretations, and critical analyses of the greater Kansas City locale, as well as travels in and out of the area, add another dimension to this exploration of place and memory. Featured writing ranges from travelogues and historical accounts to short fictions and non-fictions recounting the lives of place-dwellers. Excerpts from each piece of writing are scrawled along the gallery walls, operating both in tandem with displayed artworks and as ancillary reading throughout the exhibition's installation. The complete texts, artist biographies, and a curatorial essay are presented in a limited edition poster publication designed by UMKD students Karen Daugherty, Erick Mitchell, and Aamina Nahlawi and available exclusively at la Esquina throughout the run of the show.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET

Over 15 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed over \$775,000 in awards and grants to artists and their projects, and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. Charlotte Street – with its community of artists – strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, ideas, and surprise. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit www.charlottestreet.org

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