

MICHAEL SEAN EDWARDS

A SHORT HISTORY

I was born in England, raised in Canada, and moved to New York City when I was 22 years old. For the next 35 years I was, at random intervals, a film editor¹ an actor² a busboy³ a manager of a proofreading department at a cable TV guide magazine⁴ a “professional” photographer⁵ a carpenter, house painter, plasterer, and contractor⁶ a photo retoucher⁷ a customer service rep for a printing company⁸ and finally caretaker and companion for a paraplegic old man whom I loved dearly. ⁹ He passed in the summer of 2016. That was my last gig. Photography and wondering what to do next have been the lodestones of my life to date.¹⁰

- *Michael Sean Edwards, 2023*

Notes:

1. TV ads for *Air Canada*, *GM*, *Kraft Foods*, *Whisper Pantyhose*, *Comet Cleanser*, *Playtex Living Gloves*, *Maybelline Eye Liner*, *Krispy Creme Donuts*, *Advil*, and others. (1976-1981)
“*No Place Like Home*”; Feature film written and directed by Perry Henzell (“*The Harder They Come*”) I’m one of about five editors credited on the film, which didn’t get released until 2006. (1981-1982)
“*Alice Underwater*”; a double screen projection for **The Floating Cinema**. Jon Rubin, Director. (1985)
A pornographic feature film, the name of which escapes me. (1986)
“*Red Hot Rhapsody*”, and “*Red Hot Lisbon*”; music shows for **The Red Hot Organization**. (1998)
“*Dresden*”; Feature film. Ben Speth, Director, writer and cinematographer. (1999)
Various music videos and promotional films for **O-matic Corp.**, Marina Zurkow, Director/Producer. (1997-1999)
Reality and documentary TV episodes for **The New York Times**. (2001-2003)
“*My Country is Tibet*”; Consulting Producer for **ByKids.org**, Holly Carter, Producer. (2008)
2. Treplev, in “*The Seagull*”; **Brooklyn Heights Players**, Nance Kass, Director. (1980)
Paul, in “*The Danube*”; **Theatre For the New City**, Maria Irene Fornes, Writer and Director. (1982)
Sparkish, in “*The Country Wife*”, Ejler Lovborg, in “*Hedda Gabler*”, and *Vanya*, in “*Uncle Vanya*”; **Westside Repertory Theatre**. (1983-1985)
Featured extra in “*Zaruela*”, with Placid Domingo; **Madison Square Garden**. (1985)
Charlie, in “*Da*”; **The Irish Arts Center**. Jim Sheridan, Artistic Director. (1987)
Richard Carpenter, in “*Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*”; written and directed by Todd Haynes and Cynthia Schneider. (1987)
Featured roles in two short films by Christine Vachon. (1986-1988)
Other stuff.

3. **Mama Siltka Restaurant** on West Broadway. Long gone.. (1980)
4. Proofreader and Department Manager at **Cableview Magazine**, which was located in what is now the Google Building, 111 8th Avenue. (1985-1988)
5. Staff photographer/filmmaker for **Peter Martin Associates**, PR agency: Clients included *Air Jamaica*, *The Jamaican Tourist Board*, and *The American Book Association*. I spent lots of time in Jamaica, and I met Stephen King and Erica Jong. (1981)
Editorial photographer for an Australian news syndicate. Featured spreads in "**Hello**" Magazine" of *Adnan Kashoggi*, *Paul Simon* and *Cynthia Lennon*. Other assignments. (1989-1992)
Set photographer on a few obscure TV series and feature films. I also assisted various still life and editorial photographers, and for a short while managed a rental darkroom facility called 20/20, located at 20 W. 20th St., NYC. (1988-1992)
6. The projects are too numerous to list, but they were all in Manhattan; East Village tenements, Tribeca lofts, pre-war Upper Westside apartments, Upper East Side high rises, 5th Avenue Coops. (1981-2011)
7. Retouching, color correction, and page layout for **JMJ Ltd.** on Hudson Street (long gone). We produced wholesale catalogues for all kinds of merchandise. (1993-1996)
8. Customer Service rep at **1800postcards/Circle Press**, 131 Varick Street, NYC (2012)
9. Tom Mulligan is his name. He had a storefront apartment on E. 10th St near Avenue A. I met him in about 1988, and over the years built and destroyed several things for him; we treated his apartment like it was a video game. For the last three years of his life I was what used to be known as his Gentlemen's Gentleman. (1988-2016)
10. "*Impressions of Eire*"; a show of dye transfer prints. **The Victor Parker Gallery**, NYC. (1980)
"*Post no Bills*"; color photographs of East Village wallscapes; **Salon show** in my loft, 128 E. 7th Street. (1980) (*some of these pictures are on exhibit at Gnocco Restaurant, 337 East 10th Street, NYC*)
EVGrieve makes me famous for ten minutes by posting my old East Village photos. (2010)
<https://evgrieve.com/2010/02/east-village-in-photos-from-1978-1985.html>
Three shows with **Tinsquo/Adjacent to Life**; 341 E. 10th Street, NYC; "*Habeus Corpus*", "*Short Films*", and "*Aspiration*". Mark Roth, Curator. (2013-2014)
"*No Dogs Allowed*"; a photo essay on dogs waiting outside a coffee shop. (2014)
"*Past Future Past: The East Village, 1978-1980*" is published as a limited edition hardcover book. ((2015))
<https://www.michaelseanedwards.com/past-future-past.html>
"*BAR*", a slideshow of photos I took in bars around the East Village; **Salon show** at Savelli, 195 Smith St. (2022)

