

March 11 - April 9, 2023

KAJE

Mercedes

(exhibition and documentary screening)

Performances:

April 7th: 3pm

April 9th: 6:30pm

April 10th: 6:30pm

Modesto Flako Jimenez

Co-presented by ¡Oye! Group and Musical Factory Theater

Mercedes is a multidisciplinary installation inspired by Modesto 'Flako' Jimenez's grandmother Mercedes. After immigrating to America as a kid, Flako was raised by his grandmother in Bushwick, Brooklyn. As an adult, he served as her main caregiver as she battled dementia. In the process of taking care of his "mama," he uncovered years of letters, receipts, and papers that documented her impact on the Latine community. *Mercedes* includes a visual exhibition, a documentary, and a theatrical performance that honors the legacy of Latine individuals Mercedes helped migrate to the country. *Mercedes* is a multidisciplinary experience that explores our relationship to the matriarchy and our ancestors, familial bonds and inherited trauma, and how our own identity can impact our mental health.

BIO

Modesto 'Flako' Jimenez is a Dominican-born, Bushwick-raised, multi-hyphenate artist. As a poet, playwright, educator, actor, producer, and director, his work exists in and explores the intersections of identity, language, mediums, cultures, and communities found in his personal life and beyond. Jimenez's recent work includes *Taxilandia*, an Obie Award winning, multifaceted Bushwick community tour and poetic experience from the back of a taxicab that earned the *New York Times Critics' Pick* and rave reviews from *Time Out New York*. Jimenez is the founder of ¡Oye! Group, a nonprofit that serves as an incubator for artists both native and immigrant to New York City. Jimenez is currently a 2023-2024 Mary Mackall Gwinn Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, and in 2021, Jimenez received a Jerome Foundation Fellowship and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award in performing arts and theater.