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**INIMITABLE PERFORMER MARTHA GRAHAM CRACKER TO TAKE THE STAGE
FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY'S *OPEN FOR
INTERPRETATION* ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM**



Courtesy of Andrew Loxley/Feltfoto

The **National Museum of American Jewish History** welcomes co-founder and co-Artistic Director of the OBIE Award-winning Pig Iron Theatre Company and alter-ego of the wildly-popular drag queen Martha Graham Cracker, **Dito van Reigersberg**, along with Music Director Andrew Nelson, for the second installment of its ***OPEN For Interpretation*** artists-in-residence program. OPEN invites creative thinkers to immerse themselves in the Museum's many stories of courage, imagination, struggle, and heritage as inspiration for new works of art, music, dance, writing, or performance that explore the American experience in new and unexpected ways.

For their culminating project, the artists are creating a 'Martha's eye-view' Museum **audio experience** launching in October, and an **original cabaret** entitled ***It's High***

Time I Said Something: Martha Graham Cracker's Intervention at the Museum, which will be performed at the Museum in December. Van Reigersberg and Nelson drew their inspiration from the Museum's stories of American Jewish composers, lyricists, performers, and music-related artifacts; and from the lesser-known stories of interesting and inspirational women throughout American Jewish history featured in the Museum's core exhibition.

Martha's Audio Experience & OPEN Launch Party

The approximately 45-minute audio experience will take the visitor through highlights of the Museum's core exhibition with commentary from Martha Graham Cracker herself. She will provide insights into interesting details and facts that the casual observer might otherwise miss, fashion do's and don't's, and stories of the countless ways in which Jewish American history has made the world a better place for the gender warrior – people who break from traditional gender expectations. The audio will be accessible from visitors' personal smart phones and MP3 devices.

Visitors can mingle with the artists and be among the first to sample the [audio experience](#) at the October 29 OPEN Launch Party during the Museum's final Pay What You Wish Wednesday evening of the season.

The Cabaret

It's High Time I Said Something: Martha Graham Cracker's Intervention at the Museum will feature Martha accompanied by her six-piece band as she draws the audience into an intimate confessional, serenading them with Broadway classics and pop standards, created mostly by Jewish composers. Boldly and impossibly inserting herself into history, the personality hailed as the "Drag Queen King" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, will use her mash up savvy and sly way with radical musical reinvention to take audiences on a wild and bumpy musical ride through American Jewish history, offering a private glimpse into her reconnection with her own roots as she fans her inner Jewish flame into a blaze.

Directed by Elizabeth Stevens.

Cabaret will be performed **December 3rd and 4th at 7:00 pm**, and **December 6th at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm**. Tickets are \$18 General Admission, \$15 for Museum Members.

Advanced registration strongly encouraged

For more information and tickets, visit nmajh.org/open.

The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the 360-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all backgrounds to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. NMAJH is closed most Mondays, including federal holidays and some Jewish holidays. Museum admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID. For information on the Museum, the public may call 215.923.3811 or visit the website at NMAJH.org.