

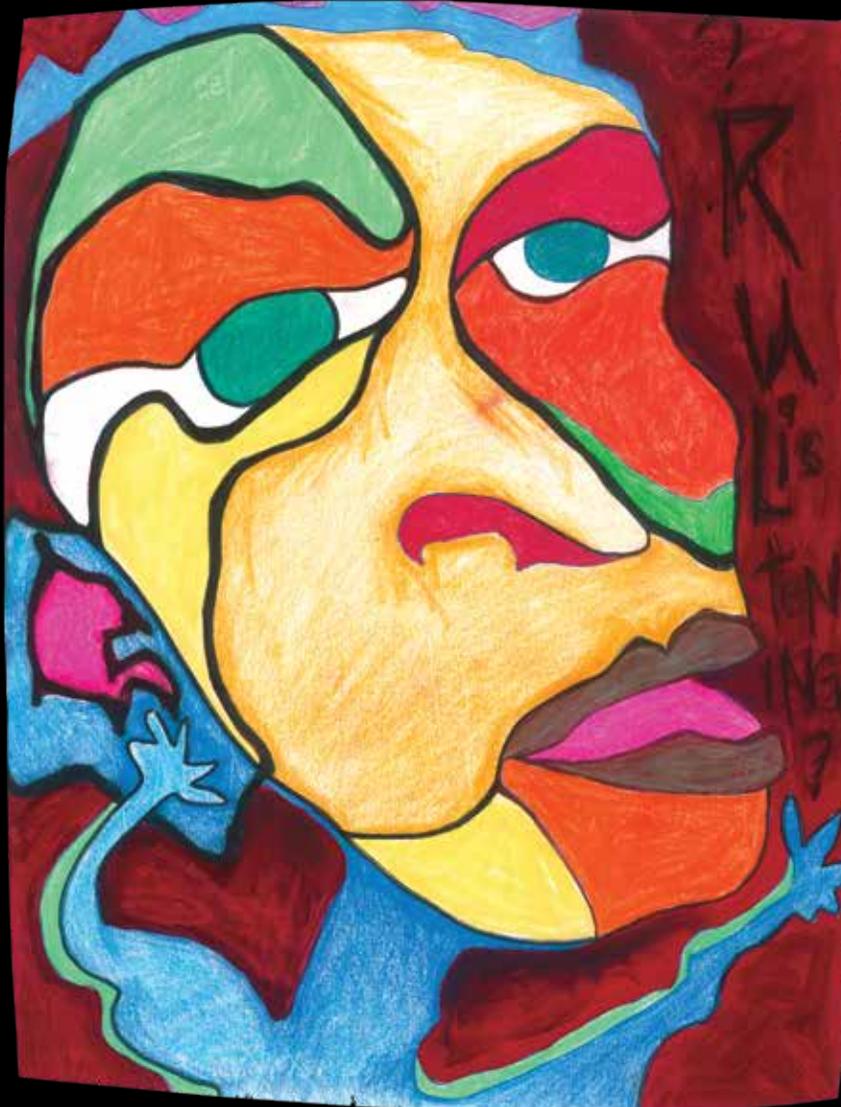
Pride In Art Society Presents the Annual Queer Arts Festival 2019



# QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

June 17-28 <sup>2019</sup> AT THE 

# MEDIA KIT



R U Listening? by Kinnie Starr

**rEvolution**

Media Relations:

Barb Snelgrove megamouthmedia consulting  
megamouthmedia1@gmail.com | Mobile: 604.838.2272

TRANSDISCIPLINARY visual arts dance performance music theatre media art literature

## WELCOME TO THE 2019 QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

# rEvolution

### QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL 2019 THEME:

This year's festival theme rEvolution gathers together artists who disassemble, push and transgress; art as the evolution of the revolution.

### STATEMENT FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*Art sparked Stonewall: the queers who fought back that day were gathered to mourn the death of Judy Garland. QAF rEvolution gathers together artists who push and transgress; engaging with our annals of struggle and erasure to revamp the artifacts of the past and turn them to our own ends: art as the evolution of the revolution.*

*In QAF's Signature Curated Visual Art Exhibition Relational rEvolutions, curator Elwood Jimmy invites us to consider to a radically different and tender way of being. Danny Ramadan brings his much-loved A Night of Storytelling to QAF, stretching the conventional literary reading to insert conversation and meeting of minds. In The Queen in Me, Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 deconstructs the stately institution of opera for its latent subversive potential. In Diaspora, our much-loved friends at The Frank Theatre question dominant Canadian preconceptions of queer identity through the gaze of first-generation migrants and refugees. And don't forget to take a trip to SUM Gallery during QAF for 69 Positions, Queer Media's touring series that fucks with official government messaging around the 1969 Omnibus Bill quinquagenary by sharing queer artifacts from queer archives.*

*And what are you doing on the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that launched modern-day Pride?*

*Join us as the celebrated Queer Songbook Orchestra returns to Vancouver for the first time since 2016, co-mingling with local artists to weave together stories and arrangements by Canada's foremost composers.*

*Then stay as le tout queer Vancouver comes together to revel in a half-century of queerevolution at Stonewall 50: Glitter is Forever. Stonewall was a riot — now, we dance!*

*I wish you a transformative and inspiring festival.*

— SD Holman

## ABOUT THE QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

The Queer Arts Festival (QAF) is an annual artist-run professional multidisciplinary arts festival held at the Roundhouse Community Arts Centre in Vancouver, B.C.

QAF produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing arts series, workshops, artist talks, panels, and media art screenings.

The Queer Arts Festival takes place on the traditional, unceded territory of the Coast Salish people, in particular the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwx wú7mesh (Squamish), and səl'ílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations. We recognize their sovereignty, as there are no treaties on these lands, and we are dedicated to building right relations based on respect and consent.

## QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL REVIEWS

QAF's programming has garnered wide acclaim both locally and abroad:

“Nothing short of a Revelation...”

(Vancouver Sun)

“...concise, brilliant and moving...”

(Georgia Straight)

”...easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver...”

(Vancouver Sun)

”...some of the most adventurous programming of any local arts festival...”

(The Province)

“...on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today...”

(Xtra)

”Viewed as one of the top five queer arts and cultural festivals in the world...”

(Melbourne Herald Sun)



## PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

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**May 14 - Aug 17 | 69 Positions:** Circa Omnibus: | @SUM Gallery | The west coast stop of Queer Media Database Canada-Québec Project's touring archive series, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Omnibus partial decrim. of sodomy.

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**Jun 12 - Jun 22 | Technical Knockouts:** Emerging Artists Lab | A female-centred music production, tech, songwriting and DJ drop-in lab for queer Indigenous and allied youth.

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**Jun 18 | 7pm | Art Party!** Gala Opening Reception 🍷 | Art and conviviality converge at the grand opening of the Queer Arts Festival.

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**Jun 17 - 26 | Relational rEvolution**s | QAF's signature curated visual art exhibition.

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**Jun 19 | 7pm | A Night of Storytelling** 🍷 | Literary readings presented by Danny Ramadan.

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**Jun 20 | 7pm | Curator Roundtable** 🍷 | Visual artists and curator Elwood Jimmy convene to discuss Relation rEvolution, curated visual art exhibition.

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**Jun 21 | 4 and 5pm | Cultivate** – Artist Support Circles for Indigi- and other Queers | @SUM Gallery | Shane Sable's space for sharing and creative community building amongst queer and 2Spirit artists.

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**Jun 21-22 | 7pm | The Queen In Me** 🍷 | Exploding operatic expectations with soprano Teiya Kasahara.

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**Jun 23 | 7pm | Technical Knockouts** 🍷 | Multidisciplinary music featuring mentors Kinnie Starr, DJ O Show and Tiffany Moses.

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**Jun 24 | 7pm | Jesse – An ASL Opera** | A workshop reading about one man's journey of self-discovery.

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**Jun 25 | 7pm | Diaspora** 🍷 Devised theatre workshop presentation addressing queer refugees and immigrants in Canada.

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**Jun 26 | 7pm | The Wide Open** | Curator Lacie Burning puts LGBTQ2S+ narratives fearlessly out in the open.

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**Jun 27 | 6pm | Queer Songbook Orchestra:** Emerging Artist Workshop | Workshop for emerging artists using their own personal narratives as an entry point for creating music.

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**Jun 27 | 6pm | 69 Positions:** Circa Omnibus Tour | @SUM Gallery | Co-curator Kaschelle Thiessen provides a guided tour of the exhibition, offering priceless insight into the significance of the archive.

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**Jun 28 | 7pm | Queer Songbook Orchestra** 🍷 | Weaving together stories by local narrators with arrangements by Canada's foremost composers.

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**Jun 28 | 9pm 'Til midnight | Stonewall 50: Glitter is Forever** | Our final blowout gathers our communities together to revel in a half-century of revolution.

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All events at Roundhouse unless otherwise noted.

## SD HOLMAN

### Admin Bio

Shaira ‘SD’ Holman (Artistic Director) is a queer pagan Jewish photo-based artist whose work has toured internationally. 1991 ECUAD graduate, SD Holman was picked up by the Vancouver Association for Non-commercial (the NON) right out of art school. Holman exhibited with Pride in Arts since its inception in 1998, and served on the board 2006-8, SD was asked to be Artistic Director in 2008, spearheading incorporation as a non-profit and a registered charity. Through Holman’s leadership as AD, Pride in Art Society founded the Queer Arts Festival, recognized as one of the top 5 of its kind internationally, and opened SUM, the only queer-mandated art gallery in Canada (and one of only a handful worldwide) presenting multidisciplinary queer artists. Holman is the recipient of the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Arts and Culture, one of Canada’s most prestigious awards. SD Holman’s other experience running art spaces includes founding and operating Studio Q, the notorious Art Salon in Vancouver’s DTES Chinatown, profiled in *Secrets of the City* (1st edition).



### Art bio

As a self defined non-commercial artist SD Holman is a participant observer, employing subjective conceptual documentary practice who has exhibited internationally at venues including Wellesley College, the Advocate Gallery (Los Angeles), the Soady-Campbell Gallery (New York), the San Francisco Public Library, The Helen Pitt International Gallery, Charles H. Scott, Exposure, Gallery Gachet, the Roundhouse, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Artropolis, and Fotobase Galleries (Vancouver).

Holman’s project BUTCH: Not like the other girls, published by Shooting Gallery Publications and distributed by Caitlin Press Dagger Editions, toured North America and is going into its’ second edition. Other work appears in books such as: *Culture and Education*, by Wadham, Pudsey & Boyd, (Pearson Education Australia: 2007; 2nd ed. 2009); *Femme/Butch: New Considerations of the Way We Want to Go*, by Gibson & Meem (Routledge: 2002); *Fusion* (Link publications: 2002); and *The Mammoth Book of Erotic Photography*, by Jakubowski & Jaye Lewis (Robinson Publishing: 2001).

Little known fact: Shaira ‘SD’ Holman played the first recurring lesbian role on Canadian network television, Beth on Global TV’s *Madison*, for three seasons, three years before Ellen Degeneres came out. This role was the reason *Madison* was refused syndication in the US.

## RACHEL IWAASA

Hailed in the press as a “keyboardvirtuoso and avant-garde muse” (Georgia Straight), Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa is recognized among Canada’s foremost contemporary music pianists.

Composers including Hildegard Westerkamp, Rodney Sharman, Jocelyn Morlock, Nicole Lizée, and Jordan Nobles, have written works specifically for her. Rachel has worked with flautist Mark Takeshi McGregor, conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Richard Reed Parry of Arcade Fire, choreographer Tara Cheyenne Friedenberg, and legendary multi-media provocateur Paul Wong.

Rachel works as Glitter Manager of the Pride in Art Society, harnessing the visceral power of the arts to promote respect and recognition of people who transgress sexual and gender norms. Together with SD Holman, Rachel co-founded Pride in Art’s Queer Arts Festival, recognized as one of the top 5 festivals of its kind worldwide, and SUM, Canada’s queer-mandated gallery.



# STAFF

SD Holman, *Artistic Director*  
Lalia Fraser, *Interim General Manager*  
Rachel Iwaasa, *Glitter Manager*  
Ben Siegl, *Arts Administrative Assistant*  
Miyra Olney, *Bookkeeper*  
Mark Carter, *Production Manager*  
Lacie Burning, *Curatorial Associate*  
Bobbi Kozinuk, *Media Art Preparator*  
Odette Hidalgo, *Graphic Design*  
Barb Snelgrove (megamouthmedia) *Media Relations*  
Maya Lubell, *Festival Associate*  
Raziel Reid, *Digital Communications*  
Mirim Jang, *Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator*  
Maxim Greer, *Box Office coordinator*  
Lea Hogan, *Intern*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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rEvolution  
June 17-28 | 2019

For Immediate Release

[queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

## You Won't Be SOLD OUT at the 2019 Queer Arts Festival, Advance Tickets On Sale!

Vancouver, BC / April 29, 2019 | The **annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF)**, Vancouver's artist-run, professional, transdisciplinary roister of queer arts, culture and history, presents their 2019 festival *rEvolution* with a stellar line up of arts programming and celebrations and has rolled out ticket and event passes well in advance of the building excitement of this year's lineup!

This year's festival theme *rEvolution* gathers together artists who dissemble, push and transgress; art as the evolution of the revolution. QAF has assembled nearly 100 artists and more than 20 events showcasing a variety of differing media on exhibit at the Roundhouse Arts Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews) in Vancouver, BC.

Early-bird passes for QAF 2019 *rEvolution* are now [available on Eventbrite](http://available.onEventbrite) at \$69 or on the [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com) website until May 2. Individual show tickets go on sale May 2nd (regular passes include four QAF shows for only \$79).

Don't be left feeling SOLD OUT, get your passes or individual tickets early for the 2019 *rEvolution* featuring opening and closing galas, tours, visual art installations, theatre musical performances and much more.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

**Art Party!** | Gala Opening Reception | Jun 18 | Fun and conviviality converge at the grand opening of the 2019 QAF.

**Relational rEvolutions** | | QAF's Signature Curated Visual Art Exhibition | Jun 17 - Jun 26 | curator Elwood Jimmy posits a rumination on the theme of revolution and extends an invitation to recalibrate.

**A Night of Storytelling** | Literary Reading | Jun 19 | Danny Ramadan brings his much-loved nights of readings to the Queer Arts Festival. Featuring Kai Cheng Thom, Tash McAdam, Monica Meneghetti and Michael V. Smith.

**The Queen in Me** | Multidisciplinary Performance | Jun 22 and 21 | Exploding operatic expectations, soprano Teiya Kasahara

笠原貞野 explores the constraints of conventional opera roles combining original text with classic arias.

**Technical Knockouts** | Jun 23 | Multidisciplinary Music Electronic with Performances by young artists from QAF's music Lab, mentored by Kinnie Starr, DJ O Show and Tiffany Moses.

**Jesse** | re:Naissance Opera | Jun 24 | A workshop reading of a new ASL Opera that explores Deaf culture, queerness and the rhythms of being human.

**Diaspora** | Jun 25 | | Devised theatre production, led by Frank Theatre Artistic Director Fay Nass that works with community members, addressing their views and the experiences of queer refugees and immigrants in Canada.

**The Wide Open** | Jun 26 | media art project Curated by Lacie Burning fearlessly focuses on intersectional LGBTQ2S+ narratives.

**Queer Songbook Orchestra** | Jun 28 | Celebrated national chamber ensemble Queer Songbook Orchestra, weaves together stories told by local narrators with arrangements by Canada's foremost composers.

**Followed by Stonewall 50: Glitter is Forever.** On the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that launched modern-day Pride, QAF's final blowout gathers our communities together to revel in a half-century of queerevolution. Stonewall was a riot — now, we dance!

**The Queer Arts Festival ([queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com))** is an annual artist-run professional multi-disciplinary arts festival in Vancouver, BC. Recognized as one of the top 3 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. QAF's programming has garnered wide acclaim as "concise, brilliant and moving" (Georgia Straight), "one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver" (Vancouver Sun), and "some of the most adventurous of any local arts festival" (Vancouver Province).

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For more information and interview requests, please contact:

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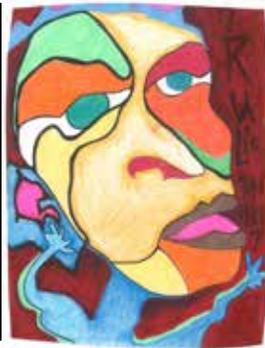


[queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

2019



rEvolution  
June 17-28 | 2019

For Immediate Release  
April 8, 2019

## The 2019 Vancouver Queer Arts Festival Speaks to the rEvolution

Vancouver, BC / April 8, 2019 | The **annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF)**, Vancouver's artist-run, professional, multi-disciplinary roster of queer arts, culture and history, takes place this year from June 17 – 28, 2019.

QAF's 2019 theme **rEvolution** assembles nearly 100 artists and more than 20 events and programming showcasing a variety of differing media, and will be on exhibit at the Roundhouse Arts Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews) in Vancouver, British Columbia.

QAF **rEvolution** gathers together artists who dissemble, push and transgress; art as the evolution of the revolution.

*"For generations, our communities have carved spaces out of a hostile world, spaces where we can make art, sing and dance and draw and rhyme and fuck our resistance; spaces that meld struggle with celebration, politics with sex, serious purpose with more fabulousness than anyone could ever swallow. QAF was specifically created as one of these spaces, a place for queer artists to do the things that are hard to do as queers in the art world, as well as those things that are hard to do as artists in the queer world, including—perhaps especially—at the intersections that get stonewalled in both worlds."* SD Holman, Artistic Director

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

**Art Party!** | Gala Opening Reception |  
Tue Jun 18 | 7 -10pm

The 3rd largest art opening to take place in Vancouver Yearly. Art and conviviality converge at the grand opening of the 2019 QAF.

**Relational Revolutions** | Visual Art  
Exhibition | Tue Jun 17 - Wed Jun 26 |

**Curator Elwood Jimmy**

Our signature curated visual art exhibition for 2019, **Relational Revolutions**, posits a rumination on the theme of **rEvolution** and extends an invitation to recalibrate our desires, how we hope, how we sense, how we love, and above all to re-examine our relationships with each other, with the land, with time, with form and with space. Curator Elwood Jimmy, of the Thunderchild First Nation, is an artist, facilitator, cultural manager and writer. This exhibit will showcase an eclectic array of artists including Thirza Cuthand, Raven Davis, Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Alexandra Gelis, Jessica Karuhanga, Lisa Myers, David Ng, Jessa Chse, and Ty Sloane.

**The Queen in Me** | Multidisciplinary  
Performance | Fri Jun 21 & Sat Jun 22 | 7pm

Exploding operatic expectations, soprano Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 explores the constraints of conventional opera roles and their reliance on gender and sex stereotypes, combining Mozart's Queen of the Night and other classic arias with original text..

**The Wide Open** | Media Art Program | Wed  
Jun 26 | 7pm | with Vancouver Indigenous  
Media Arts Festival

Lacie Kanerahtahsónhon Burning curates in the 3rd edition of QAF's collaboration with VIMAF, exploring shared and emerging histories to highlight discourses within Queered experiences and its intersections. Including Fallon Simard, Alec Butler, and more.

**Queer Songbook Orchestra** | Fri Jun 28  
| 7pm

Celebrated national chamber ensemble Queer Songbook Orchestra unearth the queer backstories and personal narratives inspired by music of the past several generations. Weaving together stories told by local narrators with arrangements by Canada's foremost composers. **Followed by Stonewall 50 Glitter is Forever.** On the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that launched modern-day *Pride*, QAF's final blowout gathers together our communities to revel in a half-century of queerevolution. Stonewall was a riot — now, we dance!

## At SUM Gallery during QAF

### 69 Positions: Circa Omnibus

| May 14-Aug 17 | Visual Art Exhibition at SUM #425 - 268 Keefer St. The west coast stop of Queer Media Database Canada-Québec Project's touring exhibition, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Omnibus which decriminalized sodomy. In partnership with VIVO and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

### About the Queer Arts Festival ([queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)):

The Queer Arts Festival (QAF) is an annual artist-run professional multi-disciplinary arts festival at the Roundhouse in Vancouver, BC. Recognized as one of the top 5 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing arts series, workshops, artist talks, panels, and media art screenings. QAF's programming has garnered wide acclaim as "concise, brilliant and moving" (Georgia Straight), "easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver" (Vancouver Sun), some of the most adventurous of any local arts festival" (Vancouver Province) and "on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today" (Xtra)

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QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL  
2019



rEvolution  
June 17-28 | 2019

For Immediate Release

[queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

## The 2019 Vancouver Queer Arts Festival Brings the rEvolution to the Party!

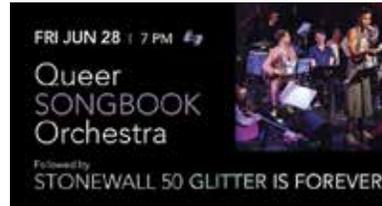
**Vancouver, B.C. / June 6, 2019** | The 11th Annual **Queer Arts Festival (QAF)**, Vancouver's artist-run, professional, multi-disciplinary roster of queer arts, culture and history, is set to celebrate their 2019 festival *rEvolution* with a stellar line up of parties showcasing queer arts, culture and celebrations!

This year's festival theme *rEvolution* gathers together artists who dissemble, push and transgress; art as the evolution of the revolution. QAF has assembled nearly 100 artists and more than 20 events and programming showcasing a variety of differing media on exhibit at the Roundhouse Arts Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews) in Vancouver, B.C. **Tickets for all events can be purchases at [www.queerrtsfestival.com](http://www.queerrtsfestival.com)**



**Art Party! Gala Opening Reception** |  
**FREE Entry** | 7pm | **Roundhouse Exhibition Hall**  
(181 Roundhouse Mews)

One of the hottest tickets in town for Festival parties; Art and conviviality converge at the grand opening of the 2019 QAF, marking the opening night of QAF's curated (Curator Elwood Jimmy) exhibition *Relational rEvolutions*, and is the kick off for the incredible exhibitions, performances and satellite outreach initiatives that make up the Festival. Our opening night galas are one of Vancouver's best attended visual arts events, making this a party you don't want to miss!



**Queer Songbook Orchestra** | 7pm  
(Doors 6:30pm) |  
\$40-\$30 | **Roundhouse Exhibition Hall**  
(181 Roundhouse Mews)

Celebrated national chamber ensemble **Queer Songbook Orchestra** unearth the queer backstories and personal narratives inspired by music of the past several generations. Weaving together stories told by local narrators with arrangements by Canada's foremost composers. **Queer Songbook Orchestra** will be promptly followed by **Stonewall 50 Glitter is Forever**.

**Stonewall 50 Glitter is Forever** | 9pm 'til midnight  
**Entrance FREE with Queer Songbook Orchestra ticket or \$20 for party only.**

On the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that launched modern-day Pride, Vancouver Pride Society, Zee Zee Theatre, and The Frank Theatre join QAF's final blowout, gathering together to revel in a half-century of queerevolution. Stonewall was a riot – now, we dance!

**About the Queer Arts Festival ([queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)):** The **Queer Arts Festival (QAF)** is an annual artist-run professional multi-disciplinary arts festival at the Roundhouse in Vancouver, BC. Recognized as one of the top 5 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing arts series, workshops, artist talks, panels, and media art screenings. QAF's programming has garnered wide acclaim as "concise, brilliant and moving" (Georgia Straight) and "easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver" (Vancouver Sun).

For more information and interview requests, please contact:

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## SHORT ARTIST BIOS

Please note that these represent biography materials provided by the artists at time of print. Should you require any materials not found here, please reach out for assistance.

**Ahmad Danny Ramadan** (A Night of Storytelling) is a Syrian-Canadian award winning author, storyteller and LGBTQ-Refugee activist. His debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, continues to receive praise and awards. | <https://dannynamadan.com>

**Tash McAdam** (A Night of Storytelling) is a Welsh-Canadian author and teacher. They've been published in multiple anthologies, and their first personal release, a YA novella called *SLAM* was an international bestseller. Their debut series, *The Psionics*, is being released in full over 2019, from Nine Star Press | <https://www.tashmccadam.com>

**Michael V. Smith** (A Night of Storytelling) is a maker of six books, more than a dozen short films, and countless small-stage performances. An improviser by nature, Smith's signature brand of storytelling plucks the mood out of a live moment, gives it a shake, and returns it feeling brand new. | <https://www.michaelvsmith.com>

**Monica Meneghetti** (A Night of Storytelling) *Monica's What the Mouth Wants: A Memoir of Food, Love and Belonging* was a Lambda Literary Award finalist and Bi Book Award winner. *Queer Songbook Orchestra* included her Bowie memoir in their Fall 2018 cross-Canada tour. Her essay about being a queer child of immigrants is found in *The Globe and Mail*. Her literary translation from Italian, *The Call of the Ice* (Mountaineers Books) was a Banff Mountain Book Award finalist. | <https://monicameneghetti.wordpress.com>

**Melanie Valencia** (JESSE) is a young and innovative artist who took her first steps into the dance industry at the humble age of 10. Her passion for dance is deeply rooted in PraiseTEAM Dance Studio (Surrey, BC) where at 12 years of age she began her competitive dance career and has been competing both locally and internationally since then. Some of these competitions include Hip Hop International, BodyRock, America's Got Talent and World of Dance. Her repertoire of dance styles includes hip hop, urban movement, contemporary, tap and locking. Melanie is extremely grateful for every dancer and artist who has blessed her life with their creativity and energy.

**Paula Joanne Lynn Weber** (JESSE) recently finished her studies at the U of R in the Master of Fine Arts program in Interdisciplinary studies; music and creative technologies. Paula has presented her work with support from the International Institute for Critical Studies in improvisation, initially in 2016 at the Sound Symposium and colloquium at Memorial University and then at the Improvisation and Mobility conference at the University of Regina in the following year.



**Landon Krentz** (JESSE) is a bilaterally profoundly Deaf artist who is completely bilingual in American Sign Language (ASL) and English. As a Deaf artist, he brings a unique perspective to his roles of Director of Artistic Sign Language and ASL performer for theatre. He hopes to establish professional sign language theatre by engaging in theatrical practices from an intersectional standpoint: one that allows both sign and spoken languages to coexist in an artistic practice. | <https://landonkrentzblog.wordpress.com>

**Mezzo- Soprano Heather Molloy** (JESSE) makes her home in Vancouver where she earned her Masters Degree at the University of British Columbia and currently sings with Vancouver Opera Chorus. She is a graduate of the Calgary Opera Emerging Artist Program and made her orchestral debut singing with the Regina Symphony Orchestra in 2010. Heather has a certificate in Deaf Studies from Vancouver Community College and is passionate about Deaf rights and advocacy in the arts.

Widely known for her vivacious playing, Canadian collaborative pianist **Patricia Au** (JESSE) leads an active performing and coaching career and has toured throughout North America and Europe performing opera and art songs. Currently based in Boston, she is on faculty at New England Conservatory where she earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts specializing in Collaborative Piano. She is also part of the coaching staff at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. As a Resident Teaching Artist for Boston Lyric Opera, Patricia has a passion introducing young people to opera as a story telling art. | <http://patriciaau.com>

**Keisha Erwin Roberts** (The Wide Open) is an Urban Indigenous and Black youth living in Tkaronto. Nicole is a Latinx trans-femme living on treaty 6 territory, adopted from Ecuador. Her main work is co-running a group called “Shades of Colour” – a space for the QTIBPOC community in Edmonton. She is very recently getting back into filmmaking to help spread messages that need to be told from community. A current question that she is grappling with is: – how to heal when your roots, and family history may be forever cut off.

**Athena Holmes** (The Wide Open) is a singer-songwriter, producer and performing artist based in Montreal, QC. Through the drag character BiG SiSSY, Holmes questions the ways in which society upholds systemic oppression. Their work has been featured in VICE and Exclaim magazine. | <https://msholmes.com>

**Chhaya Naran** (The Wide Open) is a brown, queer, trans artist. They make GIFs, animation, and zines about food, friendship, and fantasy. | <https://ahycah.com>

**Joshua Zubot** (Queer Songbook Orchestra) is a masterful violinist and composer who performs with conviction, emotion and power. He has toured internationally in ensembles such as Subtle Lip Can, In The Sea, Marie-Jo Therio and Quartestki. Zubot has turned many heads playing genres from bluegrass to musique actuelle and everything in between. He has shared stages with folk/

pop musicians like Martha Wainwright, Joe Grass, Patrick Watson plus experimental musicians such as Jean Derome, Matana Roberts, cellist Tristan Honsinger, Sun Ra's Orchestra's Marshall Allen and New York double bassist William Parker. Peterborough born, Toronto based bassist. A member of Bernice, Myriad3, Queer Songbook Orchestra. Most recent release: Clock Radio (w/ Michael Davidson); Elastic Recordings, 2019. | [https://www.supermusique.qc.ca/en/artistes/zubot\\_jo](https://www.supermusique.qc.ca/en/artistes/zubot_jo)

**Veda Hille** (Queer Songbook Orchestra) is a Vancouver songwriter/performer who has been making records, touring, writing for theatre and dance and film, and generally keeping busy since 1992. Recent projects include the hit musical Onegin, the solo show Little Volcano, and the cast album for King Arthur's Night. Veda is thrilled to be joining the QSO for this show, her second time guesting with the ensemble. <https://vedahille.com>

**Ellen Marple** (Queer Songbook Orchestra) took up the trombone at age 11 with dreams of playing swing. She soon became fascinated with the instrument's incredible versatility, immersing herself in style and technique across genres. As a freelancer, Ellen performs/records with artists including Adele, Dan Mangan, Capella Borealis, the Hard Rubber Orchestra and the Vancouver Opera Orchestra. Ellen teaches at the Vancouver Academy of Music and co-directs East Side Horns at the Hastings Community Centre. <https://cappellaborealis.com>

A classically trained musician with a performance degree from the University of Victoria, **Shaun Brodie** (Queer Songbook Orchestra) worked for many years as a session and freelance player in the indie-pop/rock communities across Canada. Performing live and in-studio with numerous prominent acts such as Dan Mangan, Frazey Ford, Veda Hille, AC Newman and The New Pornographers, Shaun has toured internationally and appeared in a wide variety of venues from The Late Show with David Letterman to the Glastonbury Festival. In 2014 Shaun founded the Queer Songbook Orchestra. | <http://www.queersongbook.com>

**Stephen Jackman-Torkoff** (Queer Songbook Orchestra) is a wandering poet and performer who has worked in several institutional settings and is now immersing themselves in creation and collaboration beyond institutional walls. Stephen is curious about exploring the inherent power in people, the relationships between us and the unknowns within. They seek to create work that activates the soul and takes us into a world of imagination. Like Willy Wonka. Stephen was one of the creator/performers of Black Boys that toured across Canada.

**Chelsea D.E Johnson** (Queer Songbook Orchestra) is East Van's very own Soul Sister! Serving you Female empowerment, delivered with a Rock n Roll kick! Fueled by healing lyrics and raw vocal Power! You can find D.E #werkin it with the female led power duo Old Soul Rebel. Chelsea brings it you every time leaving nothing unsaid! | <https://chelseadejohnson.bandcamp.com>



**Vanessa Dion Fletcher** (Relational rEvolutions) graduated from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2016 with an MFA in performance, she has exhibited across Canada and the US, at Art Mur in Montreal, Eastern Edge Gallery Newfoundland, The Queer Arts Festival Vancouver, Satellite Art show Miami. Her work is in the Indigenous Art Centre in Gatineau, Quebec, Joan Flasch Artist Book collection, Vtape and Seneca College. In 2019 Vanessa is supported by the City of Toronto Indigenous partnerships fund to be Artist in residence at OCAD University. | <https://www.dionfletcher.com>

**Preston Buffalo** (Relational rEvolutions) is a Two Spirited Cree man who lives and loves in the unceded territories of the Coastal Salish Peoples. His Multidisciplinary practice asks the question “Can First Nations art evolve while still respecting and challenging traditional forms” and often meets at the intersection of hyphenated identities. | <https://prestonbuffalo.com>

Co-founded by **David Ng** and **Jen Sunshine** (Relational rEvolutions) in 2014, Love Intersections is a media arts collective made up of queer artists of colour, who use artistic practice to share stories of queer, trans and intersex people, living, dancing, and breathing in the margins. Our desire is to provoke artful change through employing a lens of love in all that we do. | <https://loveintersections.com>

**Tyler (Ty) J Sloane** (Relational rEvolutions) (THEY/THEM) is a Two-Spirit Non-Binary Mixed Race (Anishinaabe/East Asian/Greek/Irish) multidisciplinary theatre/performance artist. Their personal mandate is to emphasize marginalized voices that intersect: race; fluid sexualities; trans, non-binary, and fluid gender expressions; non-monogamous relationships; and class. They’ve explored the aforementioned themes in various disciplines; Photography (Light Our Bodies), Visual Art (Breath On One Land). Selected theatre credits include, workshop actor in Scanner by Yolanda Bonnell (Factory Theatre); and Assistant Directing in the upcoming production of Lilies; Or, the Revival of a Romantic Drama (Buddies In Bad Times, Lemontree creations, & Why Not Theatre).

**Thirza Cuthand** (Relational rEvolutions) was born in Regina Saskatchewan in 1978 and started her video career in 1995. She works in experimental narratives about Indigeneity, being Indigiqueer, Gender, and Queer life. She is a Whitney Biennial 2019 artist. | <http://www.thirzacuthand.com>

**Dayna Danger** (Relational rEvolutions) is a 2Spirit, Metis - Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) - Polish visual artist raised in so called Winnipeg, MB. Utilizing photography, sculpture, performance and video, Dayna Danger’s practice questions the line between empowerment and objectification by claiming space with her larger than life scale work. Danger’s current use of BDSM and beading leather fetish masks explores the complicated dynamics of sexuality, gender, and power in a consensual and feminist manner. Danger is currently based in Tio’tia:ke - Moniang. Danger holds a MFA in Photography from Concordia University. Danger currently serves as a board member for the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (ACC/CCA). | <http://www.daynadanger.com>

**DJ O Show** (Technical Knockouts) brings 10+ years of experience to the industry. She has dedicated herself to her passion of music, chiseling out her niche as a female hip hop and R&B DJ in Vancouver, BC. O Show delivers energy-filled playlists customized for your unique event. Whether you are hosting an industry party, planning your wedding or birthday or other special event, O Show creates memorable sets, proving time and time again that diversity makes beautiful music. | <http://www.djoshow.com>

**Kinnie Starr** (Technical Knockouts) is one of Canada's most critically acclaimed underground musicians. Widely known in hip hop circles as an artist with a strikingly authentic voice, the Juno award winning Starr has been blazing trails since 1996 with her beat slamming recordings, outspoken race and gender politics, intelligent and edgy visual art. <https://www.kinniestarr.ca>

**Tiffany Moses** (Technical Knockouts) is a vocalist and audio engineer currently living in Vancouver. Inspired by a love of music, she has been singing since a young girl following her Grandfather into the bush. Musical influences include Jazz singers such as Billie Holiday and Nina Simone, classical composers such as Vivaldi and later trip-hop bands such as Portishead and Massive Attack. | <https://soundcloud.com/tiffany-moses>

Nikkei-Canadian soprano **Teiya Kasahara** 笠原貞野 (they/them) (The Queen In Me) is a queer, gender non-conforming multidisciplinary artist – praised for being a “magnetic performer” (Opera Canada), creator, and co-artistic director of amplified Opera. Upcoming performances include Flora in Dead Equal (Edinburgh Festival Fringe), The Wager (Theatre Gargantua), the title role in Madama Butterfly (Windsor Symphony), and Beethoven 9 (Kingston Symphony). Teiya is an apprentice with Raging Asian Women Taiko Drummers. | <https://www.teiyakasahara.com>



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