



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

2020

WICKED

July 16-26



queerartsfestival.com

## The 2020 Vancouver Queer Arts Festival *Something WICKED this way comes...*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC / May 12th, 2020 | The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF), Vancouver's artist-run, professional, multi-disciplinary roster of queer arts, culture and history, takes place July 16 - 26, 2020.

Art keeps us connected during the age of social distancing. **The QAF and SUM Gallery remain steadfast in our commitment to artists amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff hard at work (from home) to maintain the integrity of our programming.** We've reimaged the festival to make sure you get your Queer Art fix on from a distance. Please visit [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com) to find out how you can experience all of our events remotely!

QAF's *Wicked* reimagines identity politics, exposing the implications of homonormativity as erasure. This past decade has seen the mainstreaming of gay; sexual difference wins approval so long as it is palatable, marketable, and doesn't stray too far from bourgeois notions of taste and morality. The commodification of queer experience is inextricably linked to the pathologization of the queer body, where medical and sociological interventions adjudicate which anatomies and passions are accepted as authentic.

There's no place like home for the Wicked Witch of the West, green by devilment and through her magical aberrance. QAF 2020 forsakes the yellow brick road that leads only to a man behind a curtain gentrifying our desires. Instead, QAF revels in the quintessentially queer traditions of scandal and excess with visual art, performance, theatre, music, dance and literary events!

QAF's *Wicked* runs **11 days** from our digital hub, coming soon. Highlights include **Jonny Sopotiuik's** visual arts curation; choreographer Noam Gagnon's raucously vulnerable *Swan Song*, **This Crazy Show**; Indigenous Burlesque with Virago Nation's **Too Spirited**; and the latest offering from non-binary drag collective **The Darlings**.

*Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account  
for the curious attractiveness of others.*

— Oscar Wilde

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **Art Party! | Cinq-à-Sept Festival Opening | Thu Jul 16, 5 - 7PM PST**  
QAF's opening: Luxuriate in a cinq-à-sept afternoon delight! Come together for our Visual Art tour with curator Jonny Sopotiuik, guest artists, and a gallery of intimate friends old and new. Wonderfully Wicked...
- **Wicked: Curated Visual Arts Exhibition | Thu Jul 16 - Sun Jul 26 | Visual Art**
- **Pride in Art Community Exhibition | Thu Jul 16 - Sun Jul 26 | Visual Art**
- **Too Spirited | Fri Jul 17, 7PM PST | Indigenous Burlesque**  
Embrace your too-muchness with bombastic burlesque brought to you by the badass babes of Virago Nation.

- **Rupture Probe: Queer Inquiries & Remediations | Sat Jul 18, 7PM PST | Media Art Screening**  
Recent queer shorts rupture normative notions of gender, pleasure, and activism, curated in partnership with VIVO Media Arts Centre.
- **Return to Sodom North | Sun Jul 19, 7PM PST | VIVO Media Art Screening**  
90s Queer Video Out & Uncensored. Time travel with the Vancouver Queer media artists who raged back against the malignment and suppression of queer lived realities and representations of desire.
- **A Night of Storytelling | Wed Jul 22, 7PM PST | Literary Readings**  
Curated by Danny Ramadan, readings by local, national, and international writers.
- **Underground Absolute Fiction | Thu Jul 23, 7PM PST | Speculative Theatre**  
An immersive play-meets-punk-concert, inspired by the Polish “home theatre.” Written by Anais West and co-produced by Queer Arts Festival and The Frank Theatre.
- **The Darlings, Uncensored | Fri Jul 24, 7PM PST | Drag Performance**  
Experience the unexpected with genre-bending non-binary avant-drag collective, the Darlings: Continental Breakfast, PM, Rose Butch and Maiden China.
- **A Conversation on Queer Mentorship | Sat Jul 25, 12PM PST | Lunch Discourse**  
Hiromi Goto and Erica Isomura explore the nuances of intergenerational mentorship as queer POC writers.
- **This Crazy Show | Sat Jul 25, 7PM PST | Sun July 26, 2PM PST | Dance Performance**  
In his Swan Song, contemporary dance legend Noam Gagnon sashays the fine line between pain and pleasure in a fetishization of something glamorous and beautifully twisted: a monster beautified.
- **Glitter is Forever: Pajama Party | Sun Jul 26 | 4PM PST til late | Closing Binge**  
Get your dress jammies on, grab a drink and binge-watch the entire Queer Arts Festival with us (take it all in!!). Expect surprises and special prizes.

### 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 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. 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), and “on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today” (Xtra). QAF was voted the “Best LGBTQ Event” in the 24th Annual Georgia Straight Best of Vancouver Readers Poll (2019).

The Pride in Art Society’s (PiA) projects include Queer Arts Festival (QAF) and SUM Gallery, Canada’s only transdisciplinary queer mandated gallery.

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For more information and interview requests, please contact:

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