



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

2020

queerartsfestival.com

WICKED July 16-26



## The 2020 Queer Arts Festival Vancouver *On-Line, On the Street and On the Page!*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC / July 13, 2020 | The stage is set, the glitter is dusted and the *12th Queer Arts Festival — WICKED* (QAF) is ready to showcase the best of queer art (digitally-ish) to the world! Taking place over 11 days July 16 – 26th, QAF has upped our on-line game with a re-imagined festival celebrating queer art, culture and history.

From “zines to screens”, #QAF2020 promises a queerly-digital-visual experience across varied platforms ensuring everyone the opportunity to participate in this year’s Queer Arts Festival. *WICKED* features streaming art tours, on-line presentations of the performances, installations throughout the city, and a hard copy QAF **free Zine** that encompasses the entire festival with artist and programming notes, behind the scenes commentary and additional art content for the reader. Keep your eyes peeled for our *Two-Spirit Public Art Project, Shift* a series of posters in transit shelters across Vancouver, and in The Sun Wah lobby, created by interdisciplinary artist *Kinnie Starr* as well as the *Flash Collective* out on the Mount Pleasant Community Art Screen Presented in partnership with grunt gallery.

Highlights include the official QAF opening this Thursday, July 16th at 5pm showcasing our *Visual Art Exhibition*: enjoy the visual art tour and artist panel with *Curator Jonny Sopotniuk* and guest artists as they take the audience through the featured exhibition at The Cultch. Then a new link awaits to take you to the *artparty!* hosted by *Continental Breakfast*, for an online mingle and closing set by *DJ Softieshan* featuring a gallery of intimate friends old and new.

Abandon your alliance to nation and gender borders! After the tour apply online for a stateless and genderless passport designed by Brooklyn artist *Elektra KB* that will be mailed to the first 500 lucky participants. Enjoy the rest of the festival with your limited-edition passport in hand!

An internationally acclaimed dancer, a minimalist stage and 16 (disco) balls... prepare to trip the queer light fantastic with *Noam Gagnon* as he presents his swan song performance of the raucously vulnerable *This Crazy Show*.

QAF proudly welcomes Vancouver faves, avant-drag collective *The Darlings* with a new performance created around the festival theme of “wickedness”. Expect the unexpected with a show titled “UNCENSORED...”

*Virago Nation’s Too Spirited*; bombastic burlesque from the badass babes of Virago Nation. Tit-illatingly queer and proudly indigenous!

*A Night of Storytelling* and *A Conversation on Queer Mentorship* offer up award winning LGBTTQ+ writers and storytellers, *Media Nights with VIVO* features back-to-back screenings starting with *Rupture Probe* sampling queer shorts that rupture normative notions of gender, pleasure and activism and *Return To Sodom North* -90’s queer video , out and uncensored (in partnership with VIVO Media Arts Centre). Experience speculative theatre with *Underground Absolute Fiction*: an immersive play-meets-punk-concert inspired by the apartment theatre of 1980’s Poland; a co-production between QAF and the frank theatre.

And for our finale, join QAF’s *Glitter is Forever Pajama Party* Closing Binge-fest; get your best dress-jammies on, grab popcorn and bevies and feast your senses on the entire line up of festival programs, with plenty of additional surprises and prizes! Interact with friends on the QAF online HUB while gorging on the fabulous showcase of our 2020 queer art and artists!

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. QAF revels in the quintessentially queer traditions of scandal and excess with visual art, performance, theatre, music, dance, and literary events!

#### EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

- **Art Party! | Cinq-à-Sept Festival Opening | Thu Jul 16, 5 - 7PM PST**
- **QAF's opening: Luxuriate in a cinq-à-sept afternoon delight to come together with visual art curator Jonny Sopotiuik, Wicked Visual Art tour w/ guest artists, and a gallery of intimate friends old and new. Wonderfully Wicked**
- **Wicked: Curated Visual Art 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**
- **Rupture Probe: Queer Inquiries & Remediations | Sat Jul 18, 7PM PST | Media Art Screening**
- **Return to Sodom North | Sun Jul 19, 7PM PST | VIVO Media Art Screening**
- **A Night of Storytelling | Wed Jul 22, 7PM PST | Literary Readings**
- **Underground Absolute Fiction | Thu Jul 23, 7PM PST | Speculative Theatre**
- **The Darlings | Fri Jul 24, 7PM PST | Drag Performance**
- **A Conversation on Queer Mentorship | Sat Jul 25, 12PM PST | Lunch Discourse**
- **This Crazy Show | Sat Jul 25, 7PM PST | Sun July 26, 2PM PST | Dance Performance**
- **Glitter is Forever: Pajama Party | Sun Jul 26 | 4PM PST 'til late | Closing Binge**

#### ABOUT THE QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL ([queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com))

The Queer Arts Festival (QAF) is an annual artist-run professional multi-disciplinary art 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 art 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 "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.*

[30]

For more information and interview requests, please contact:

BARB SNELGROVE ([megamouthmedia consulting](http://megamouthmedia.com)) | 604-838-2272 | [megamouthmedia1@gmail.com](mailto:megamouthmedia1@gmail.com)