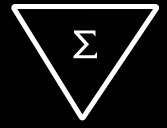




QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE



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A comedy show. A protest. A celebration. Queer Arts Festival (QAF)
presents Vancouver Fringe New Play Prize Winner
Catalina La O Presenta: Now With Me Jun 23 & 25.

For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, June 14, 2022 | QAF 2022 proudly presents **Catalina La O Presenta: Now With Me**, a solo show exploring the untold lives of Latinx women in the arts, live at Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews), *for two days only!*

Catalina La O turns the spotlight on the lives of performer khattieQ and Puerto Rican singing legends Myrta Silva and Ruth Fernández. To set the stage, khattieQ, as the titular Catalina La O, takes refuge in an abandoned television studio after a hurricane hits Puerto Rico. Without an audience, it's there that the singer decides to broadcast her show anyway. Catalina La O makes its live theatre debut at **QAF 2022: Hauntings** after winning the 2020 Vancouver Fringe New Play Prize.

"We hope Catalina La O makes folx laugh, cry, dance in their seats, and maybe even feel a little more connected to one another, after the show." — playwright/director Jenny Larson-Quiñones

Created by couple and performance art duo jk jk (khattieQ, musician/performer; Jenny Larson-Quiñones, director/writer), Catalina La O is a piece for queer communities, a piece for colonized bodies, a piece for Puerto Rico, and a piece for anyone who has experienced heartbreak. This cabaret-style show features original music by khattieQ and Puerto Rico-based composer Anton Berríos, woven amidst a story of resilience, bravery and survival.

"My intention is to share mine and my mother's story with you, and make you laugh, dance, and cry in the process."
— performer khattieQ

Produced by Shanae Sodhi, **Catalina La O Presenta: Now With Me** was developed with Playwrights Theatre Centre and has received dramaturgy from Joanna Garfinkel, with creative support from Adrienne Dawes and Newworld Theatre. The production is presented in partnership with the frank theatre co. and Rumble Theatre.

Catalina La O Presenta: Now With Me is live on the Roundhouse Performance Centre stage Thu Jun 23 at 7pm and Sat Jun 25 at 2pm. Tickets are \$20 concession, \$30 regular price and can be purchased on Queer Arts Festival's [Eventbrite](#) page.

Production Credits:

Performer: khattieQ

Playwright and Director: Jenny Larson-Quiñones

Producer: Shanae Sodhi

Associate Producer: Anahita Monfared

Composer: Anton Berrios

Sound Design: Erika Champion

Lighting Designer: Abby Levis

Set Designer: Kimira Reddy

Costume Design: Michelle Thorne

Stage Manager: Katie Voravong

Assistant Stage Manager: Rachel Brew

Production Manager: Jasmin Sandhu

Technical Manager: Victoria Bell

About jk jk www.jkjlol.org

jk jk is comprised of married couple, punk rocker khattieQ and experimental theatre artist Jenny Larson-Quiñones. The two create collaboratively devised queer performance that center joy and disrupt the status quo. khattieQ and Jenny began working together in 2015 as part of Adrienne Dawes' *Denim Doves*, a play devised with Salvage Vanguard Theater in Austin, TX. They have been artists-in-residence at the Osage Arts Community in Belle, MO (2016) and performed at the Kaustinen 50th Anniversary Folk Music Festival in Finland (2017). In 2018 they collaborated on Hannah Kenah's *Heaven Born Wind*. In 2019, they worked on Jay Byrd's *Fumbling for the Knob* and participated in the Interplay Festival. In 2020, jk jk's *Catalina La O Presenta: Now With Me* was the Vancouver Fringe New Play Prize Winner courtesy of Playwright Theatre Centre in Vancouver, B.C.

About performer khattieQ

khattieQ is a performer from Puerto Rico. They played as a professional musician in Austin, Texas for over twenty years. Most notably as guitarist and vocalist for punk band BLXPLTN and as drummer for queer femme core band The Tuna Helpers. Professional credits include *Denim Doves* and *Casta* for Salvage Vanguard Theater in Austin, TX, *Heaven Born Wind* at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and frank theatre's *Be Longing*.

About producer Shanae Sodhi

Shanae is a graduate of Studio 58 where he was one of the establishing members and Head Organizer of the school's Student Diversity Committee. A student lead group working to strengthen marginalized groups within the theatre community by empowering students with the tools and knowledge to engage in conversations of inclusivity. He works as an Associate Artist at Rumble Theatre. Recent producing credits: *Social Justice Forum* (New Harlem Productions), *Straight White Men* (ITSAZOO Productions), and *Mx* (winner of 2019 Fringe New Play Prize and Cultchivating the Fringe Award).

About the Queer Arts Festival queerartsfestival.com

The Queer Arts Festival is an annual, artist-run, professional, transdisciplinary arts festival. Recognized among the top 3 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits 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 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).

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For media & interview requests, please contact: Tanya Commisso,
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