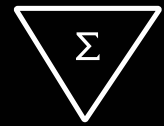




QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE



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To shock. Ignite. Empower. & Delight! Queer Arts Festival (QAF) presents Montreal drag artist ***Bijuriya*** in an exploration of *Desi* culture and Queerness

For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, June 23, 2022 | QAF welcomes Montreal-based composer, experimental vocalist and drag performer Gabriel Dharmoo as ***Bijuriya***, live on the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre stage Jun 28!

Code-switching between drag performance, original song, lip-syncing, humour and experimental sound design, this solo drag piece celebrates the artist’s heritage through an array of unexpected talents that stretch beyond mainstream, capitalistic notions of drag. Dharmoo and his drag persona, ***Bijuriya***, come together to explore their shared intersection of Queerness and *Desi* culture, and their contrasting experiences as a contemporary composer operating in institutional Eurocentric networks and a drag queen.

Dharmoo has garnered previous acclaim for his inter-arts solo performance pieces, mostly notably *Anthropologies imaginaires*. The piece was awarded top prizes at the Amsterdam Fringe Festival and the SummerWorks Performance Festival and has toured worldwide. For this solo performance, ***Bijuriya*** takes her place as the star of the show in her official Vancouver premiere.

Bijuriya sashays her way into the hearts of Vancouver audiences for one night only, Tue Jun 28 at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now ***and going fast*** at Queer Arts Festival’s [Eventbrite](#) page, or at [queerartsfestival.com](#). *Queer Arts Festival 2022: Hauntings* runs until Jul 8 at various venues across the city.

Production Credits:

Concept and performance: Gabriel Dharmoo (***Bijuriya***)
Technical Direction and Light Design: Jon Cleveland
Assistant to Light Design and to Tech Direction: Michael Tonus
Sound Design: Gabriel Dharmoo
Original songs: ***Bijuriya*** and Gabriel Ledoux
Voice, cello, steel pan and harmonium: ***Bijuriya***
Electric guitar: Gabriel Ledoux
Additional vocals: Vidita Kanniks
Costumes: ***Bijuriya***, Julie Pichette, Angela Rassenti
Wigs: Heaven Genderfck, Keith Fernandez
Sets accessories: ***Bijuriya***

About Gabriel Dharmoo aka ***Bijuriya*** [gabrieldharmoo.org](#)

Gabriel Dharmoo’s artistic practice encompasses composition, vocal improvisation, drag, interdisciplinary performance and research. His works have been performed in Canada, the U.S.A, Europe, Australia, Singapore and South Africa. He explores mixed-identity, brownness, queerness, imaginary culture, satire as well as the interplay between tradition and subversion. Key projects include his mockumentary performance *Anthropologies imaginaires*, his opera *À chaque ventre son monstre*, and his new solo stage production with original songs as their drag persona ***Bijuriya*** ([@bijuriya.drag](#)).

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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