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[PRESS ROOM](#)

NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES A MONTH-LONG DIGITAL PRIDE PARTY

San Francisco, CA (May 27, 2020) – This June, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** celebrates Pride month with exciting new virtual offerings. While we can't gather in person to celebrate this important month in LGBTQ+ history, we can come together digitally to celebrate the bravery and artistry of our community.

Our weekly variety show, *NCTV: Live at Five* will feature interviews with community members, an over-the-top night of Drag Trivia, and a Loud and Proud Cabaret performance featuring an array of LGBTQ+ artists. Join us every Friday (June 5, 12, 19, 26) at 5pm PST on the NCTC Facebook (facebook.com/nctcsf/live) or YouTube page (youtube.com/NCTCSF) for your weekly Pride celebration!

We'll also be celebrating GiveOUT day on June 30th with a special benefit performance by drag legend Katya Smirnoff-Sky. More details to be announced soon! Learn more about GiveOUT day at giveoutday.org.

Upcoming Events Include:

NCTV: LIVE AT FIVE

June 5: Growing Pride: A Conversation with NCTC Conservatory Director Stephanie Temple

Playwright, teacher, and performer Stephanie Temple discusses diversity and inclusion in the classroom, as well as the future of arts education with NCTC Founder & Artistic Director Ed Decker.

Over the past twenty years, Stephanie Temple has taught acting, improvisation, dance and musical theatre at NCTC, SFSU, CSU Stanislaus, Merced College, PCPA Theatrefest and currently runs the drama program at Live Oak School in Potrero Hill. As director of the Family Matinee program, Ms. Temple has adapted and developed original plays such as *Goldi Locks and the Three Aliens*, *Sock Puppet Jamboree*, *Bollywood Sleeping Beauty*, *The Odyssey*, and *Rock 'n Roll Cinderella*.

June 12: Finding Mindfulness with Andrew Nance

Center yourself during this unusual Pride season with meditation exercises led by author and mindfulness expert Andrew Nance.

Andrew Nance is the Founder and Lead Trainer for Mindful Arts San Francisco (MASF). He offers trainings and assemblies around the globe for libraries, schools, and school districts to provide the principles of mindfulness to students and staff. His mindfulness training comes from Mindful Schools, Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Omega and Esalen. He is the author of four Mindfulness books, the popular *Puppy Mind*, *Mindful Arts in the Classroom*, *The Lion in Me*, and *The Barefoot King*.

June 19: Quarantine Is A Drag Trivia Night

Hosted by NCTC favorite J. Conrad Frank (known to many as drag celebrity Katya Smirnoff-Skyy), drag performers Coco Buttah, Elsa Touche, and Piranha put their drag know-how to the test as they battle for the title of NCTV Trivia Queen.

A San Mateo native, J. Conrad Frank is best known for his work as The Countess Katya Smirnoff-Skyy. As an actor, he's frequently performed on the NCTC stage in *Red Scare on Sunset*, *Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly*, *Buyer and Cellar*, *Die, Mommie, Die!*, and *Still at Risk*.

Coco Buttah is an actor, singer, dancer and drag performer from San Francisco. Recently, Coco has hosted events at the Oasis, including *Mother* and the *Drunk Drag Red Carpet Party*.

Elsa Touche is co-hostess of *The Monster Show*, the Castro's longest continuous drag show. A San Francisco-based drag entertainer, emcee, and actor, Elsa is Miss California GOLD 2019-202 and Queen of Hearts 2018-19 at the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda & Contra Costa Counties Inc.

Piranha is a SF-based drag performer, theater artist, and filmmaker, best known for their work at Oasis nightclub and cabaret, on the upcoming film "Shit & Champagne", and for co-directing Ray of Light's recent production of "Hedwig & the Angry Inch". Along with their partner Franzia Kafka, Piranha hosts the drag show Media Meltdown, a celebration of cult media, nostalgic deep-cuts, and all things weird.

June 26: Loud and Proud Cabaret

Join us for a sparkling evening of Pride, with live performances featuring familiar faces from the NCTC stage, hosted by cabaret sensation Joe Wicht.

Joe Wicht is a local musician and composer. While most frequently seen and heard at Martuni's where he hosts Piano Bar 101 (on Mondays) and Sing-Along Saturdays, he also co-produces the Cabaret Showcase Showdown and is a fervent champion of new and emerging cabaret artists in the Bay Area.

trixie carr is a one woman chaos parade - a drag whirlwind and musician/playwright who shocks and seduces audiences with her wit and wisdom. Her glam rock opera "Salome, Dance for Me" premiered at NCTC and she can be found online during the shelter in place performing on twitch.tv/trixiecarr in addition to online drag events - find her music, upcoming shows and more at trixiecarr.com.

Amy Meyers is a native Texan who grew up training classically in opera and majoring in theater at Northwestern. Amy performs as a solo artist, with her band, and as the keyboardist and backing vocalist for The Judea Eden Band. She is also a co-founder and member of the pop/jazz/rock trio Bittersweet which released its debut CD in Dec 2009. Recognition and features include numerous West Coast Songwriters Best Performer and Best Song Awards, KFOG featured artist, KTVU Mornings On 2, KPFA Local Artist Feature, West Coast Live, and Lillith Fair Competition Finalist.

Chris Steele is a queer theater creator, performer, and producer. They are the co-artistic director of queer feminist theater company Poltergeist Theatre Project and creator-operator of drag production entity PollyAndPeter Present, both focused on championing intersectional queer visibility and activism through world premier performance art. As a drag performer Polly Amber Ross and Peter Pansexual haunt queer common spaces across the Bay, creating subversive and sensual performance art and can be tracked on Instagram @PollyAndPeter.

Ari Rice is the conceptual performer behind drag king Calvin Decline. Calvin Decline was voted Mr. Congeniality at Brighton's King of the Fringe, and won the second iteration of Man Up!, the U.K.'s largest Drag King competition. As Calvin, Ari has performed at The Royal Vauxhall Tavern, The Chelsea Theatre, and Latitude Festival.

Nick Rodrigues graduated from Santa Clara University with degrees in Accounting and Theatre Arts with minors in Mathematics and Musical Theatre. He has performed around the Bay as Princeton in *Avenue Q*, Lumière in *Beauty and the Beast*, Hunter in [title of show], and Bernardo in *West Side Story*. He was last seen on the NCTC stage as Wes in *The View UpStairs*.

Give OUT Day SPECIAL EVENT:

June 30: A Night OUT with Katya

For our final June event, we're closing out Pride month with a special performance by famed drag artist Katya Smirnoff-Skyy to raise money in support of NCTC for Give OUT Day, the nation's only day of giving for LGBTQ+ nonprofits. Join us for an evening of songs, stories, and strong cocktails with Katya as she performs live from the NCTC basement. Pour yourself a drink and join the virtual audience of Russia's (self proclaimed) Greatest Mezzo-Soprano Understudy, turned Countess, turned Macy's

cosmetic counter lady as she celebrates her 15 year anniversary at NCTC. Donations accepted at giveoutday.org/nctcsf. Additional details to be announced next week.

As Katya Smirnoff-Skyy, J. Conrad Frank has appeared in various theatrical runs and nightclubs including sold out Shows at the RRazz room, The Eureka Theater, Trannyshack, and monthly shows at San Francisco's Premiere piano bar, Martuni's. Named "Best Drag Act" in 2008 by the San Francisco Bay Guardian and "Best Actor" in a musical Bay Area Theater Critics Association for "Katya, a Holiday Spectacular 2009." He is also a frequent performer on the NCTC stage, most recently appearing in 2018's *Red Scare on Sunset*.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been San Francisco's premier LGBTQ+ performing arts institution and **progressive arts education** conservatory since 1981. NCTC is renowned for its diverse range of innovative, **high-quality productions**, touring productions and shows for young audiences; its foundational **anti-bullying work** with youth and educators through YouthAware; and its commitment to developing **new plays** to continue expanding the canon of Queer and Allied dramatic work.

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FACT SHEET

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WHERE: nctcsf.org/NCTV, facebook.com/nctcsf/live, youtube.com/NCTCSF

WHEN: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 30