

News Release

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NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS

TRIUMPHANT CELEBRATION OF THE TRANS EXPERIENCE IN *TRANSNATIONAL CABARET*

San Francisco, CA (April 13, 2021) – This May, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is pleased to present *TransNational Cabaret*, an exuberant performance dedicated to the power of being Trans. This digital event features an array of Trans performers from the Bay Area and beyond as they bring audiences on a journey of self-love through original animation, poetry, voguing, and much more.

Transcultural. Transformative. Transcendent. Artists from across the country unite to unearth the joy, power and magic of being Trans in this effervescent celebration. Featuring a variety of innovative performances, *TransNational Cabaret* highlights the vibrant kaleidoscope of the Trans experience.

This thrilling declaration of pride in the Trans community was curated by Bay Area artists **Richard A Mosqueda** and **Chris Steele AKA Polly Amber Ross** (director and host, respectively) and conceived by **NCTC Founding Artistic Director Ed Decker**. Each performance is devised to showcase a different facet of the prism of Trans identity - from gender awakening and love to freedom and cultural revolution.

NCTC is proud to partner with these notable organizations that are doing important work to positively contribute to the Trans community: **Black Trans Femmes in the Arts Collective, Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, For The Gworls, Fresh Meat Productions, Trans Lifeline, and Trans Youth Equality Foundation.**

TransNational Cabaret will be available for streaming **May 10 - June 10**. Admission is pay-what-you-wish, \$5-40. Tickets are available at nctcsf.org.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Richard A Mosqueda (Director/Curator, he/she/they) is a queer, Mexican-American Theater Director based in San Francisco. Previous NCTC credits include *A Mighty Queer Virtual Variety Show* and the 2019 YouthAware production of Prince Gomolvilas' *Outspoken*. They have directed work for such companies as Portland Center Stage, Halcyon Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Custom Made Theater. BFA: The Theatre School at DePaul University. SDC Associate.

Chris Steele AKA Polly Amber Ross (Host/Curator, they/she) is a queer trans nonbinary performance artist, writer, and activist. Their work centers on highlighting queer narratives throughout history and

combating bigotry and white supremacy. As an actor, they have performed with companies across the Bay including We Players, NCTC, Cutting Ball, SF Shakespeare Festival, and the SF Playwrights Festival. As a writer they premiered adaptations of *Miss Julie* and *Troilus and Cressida* with their queer collective: Poltergeist Theatre Project. Chris is a co-founder of Poltergeist Theatre Project: a new queer theater collective.

Dubbed the Ancient Jazz Priestess of Mother Africa, **Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi (she/her)** is a Black Nigerian, Cuban, Indigenous, American Performance Artist, Author, Educator, Speech Writer, a Helen Hayes Award winning Playwright (*Klytmnestra: An Epic Slam Poem* - Helen Hayes Award 2020, *For Black Trans Girls...*, *Ghost/Writer*, *The Diaz Family Talent Show*, *Quest of The Reed Marsh Daughter*, *The Dance of Memories*). Lady Dane is an advocate, dramaturg, a two-time Helen Hayes Award Nominated choreographer (2016, 2018), and co-editor/co-Director of the *Black Trans Prayer Book*.

StormMiguel Florez (he/him) is a trans, queer Xicano filmmaker whose work includes award-winning documentaries, *The Whistle* (Producer/Director) and *MAJOR!* (Editor/Co-Producer 2015). StormMiguel is also an event and media producer, actor, and a life-long musician. He was a 2020 San Francisco Pride virtual Community Grand Marshal and a recipient of NALAC (National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures), The San Francisco Arts Commission, and Horizons Foundation grants. He's originally from Albuquerque, NM, which he very much considers to be his homeland, and has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 24 years.

Zad Gravebone (he/him) is a cartoonist, animator, drag performer, and voice actor. He's done animation for Comedy Central's series *Triptank*, been an illustrator for the Food Network's *Cake Wars*, and has done voice work for the PJ Library podcast *Have I Got a Story For You!*. He has had frequent performances on digital drag shows such as *The Serve Network* and *Majenta With a J's Full Spin*.

Kimiyah Prescott (she/her) is a first-generation American born of pastoral Guyanese parents. She was the youngest of 6 and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. Kimiyah began dancing in high school when her dance teacher entrusted her with leadership in various dance performances. Upon leaving high school in 2013, Kimiyah found her new family in the LGBTQ underground ballroom scene. She walked Performance, Runway, and Face in the Kiki scenes for the house of Juicy Couture. Learning her foundation in Juicy, Kimiyah was then ready to walk mainstream balls in which the Legendary House of Ebony welcomed her. Becoming appointed as the Overall Princess of the House of Ebony soon after joining, Kimiyah began to receive more recognition. In 2016 Kimiyah began her medical transition journey into womanhood. Kimiyah has won \$1000s of dollars in prize money, trophies, and prizes. She has been privileged to work with esteemed labels such as Pose, Coach, Bloomingdales, and NicoPanda, just to name a few. Kimiyah has traveled internationally, performing and teaching the art of Vogue. In 2019 she made her debut with The Iconic House of Balenciaga.

Ezra Reaves (they/them) is a professional performer, comedian, singer and experimental theater artist. They've toured nationally and internationally with The Neo-Futurists, performed over 150 shows as Velma in the immersive show *The Speakeasy* and most recently played Spike/Shorty in Patricia Cotter's world-premiere play *The Daughters* at SF Playhouse. As a comedian, Ezra has opened for Janeane Garofalo, Bob Odenkirk, John Hodgman, Paul F. Tompkins and even shared the stage with Michael Ian Black at SF Sketchfest.

Ada Westfall (Composer for Chris Steele AKA Polly Amber Ross's performance, pronouns: she/her) is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, music director, performer, and proud transgender woman whose mission is to disrupt, interrogate, and diversify the field of musical theater. Notable work includes: *Heather Christian's I Am Sending You the Sacred Face* (Theater in Quarantine - NY Times Critic's Pick), *Another Rose* (Virgin Voyages), *Big Apple Circus* (Lincoln Center Damrosch Park & 2020 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade), *In the Green* (Lincoln Center LCT3 - six 2020 Lortel nominations), *David Byrne's Joan of Arc: Into the Fire* (The Public Theater), *Rimbaud in New York* (BAM), *Songbird* (59E59 & Two River Theater), and *The Last Goodbye* (The Old Globe). Ada has been an Associate Artist with Theater Mitu since 2006, collaborating on many shows including *Remnant* (MITU580), its digital adaptation *</remnant>* (NYTW), *Death of a Salesman* (BAM), and *A Play On War* (Connelly Theater - 2010 Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Music in a Play).

The *TransNational Cabaret* creative team includes technical direction by **Carlos Aceves**, production management by **Stephanie Desnoyers**, additional filming and editing by **Kareem Jay**, and sound collaboration by **Kalon Thibodeaux**.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been San Francisco's premier LGBTQ+ and Allied 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.

Supported in part by **The Bernard Osher Foundation**, **Horizons Foundation**, **Grants for the Arts** and the generosity of NCTC's individual donors

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TransNational Cabaret

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Conceived by **NCTC Founding Artistic Director Ed Decker** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed/Curated by **Richard Mosqueda** (*pronouns: he/she/they*)

Hosted/Curated by **Chris Steele AKA Polly Amber Ross** (*pronouns: they/she*)

Starring...

Kimiyah Prescott (*pronouns: she/her*)

Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi (*pronouns: she/her*)

StormMiguel Florez (*pronouns: he/him*)

Zad Gravebone (*pronouns: he/him*)

Ezra Reaves (*pronouns: they/them*)

Technical Direction by **Carlos Aceves** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Production Management by **Stephanie Desnoyers** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Sound Collaboration by **Kalon Thibodeaux** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Music for **Chris Steele AKA Polly Amber Ross's** performance by **Ada Westfall** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Filming and Editing of **Kimiyah Prescott's** performance by **Kareem Jay** (*pronouns: he/him*)

WHAT: Virtual Celebration of Trans Joy, *TransNational Cabaret*

WHEN: May 10 - June 10, 2021

COST: Pay-what-you-wish, \$5-40

LEARN MORE: www.nctcsf.org/TransNational-Cabaret

LISTENER SUPPORT AND BOX OFFICE: [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972), boxoffice@nctcsf.org