

Monica Garrido receives the 2018 Buddies Queer Emerging Artist Award

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is thrilled to announce Toronto performer, theatre, creator, and filmmaker Monica Garrido as the winner of the fifth annual Buddies Queer Emerging Artist Award. The award was presented on Friday at the company's season launch party.

"We recognize Monica for her outstanding talent as well as her leadership within, and commitment to, the queer and Latinx communities. She brings a refreshing and overtly queer perspective to her work across theatre, film, and improv comedy," says Buddies Artistic Director Evalyn Parry.

A multidisciplinary performer, creator, and producer, Monica's work creates space for storytelling and representation in both the queer and Latinx communities. Monica created her solo piece, *The Cunning Linguist*, as part the Emerging Creators Unit in Buddies' 2015/16 season, which has since gone on to the Queer Acts Festival in Halifax (where it won the audience choice award) and Aluna Theatre's Caminos Festival. She also brings her unique voice to Toronto's comedy scene in her work with Bad Dog' Theatre's troupes *The Kweendom* and *Kinsey Fail*. This year, she was awarded the Diversity Fellowship at the Second City, which highlights some of the best and brightest new voices in comedy.

Her comedy and improv work has been seen at festivals including Blockbuster Weekend, Combustion Festival, and the Ottawa Improv Festival. Two of Monica's short films, *Love You to Death* and *Diferente*, were presented as part of the Inside Out Festival's official selection. Monica's Latinx drag king band, Boiband the Boyband have performed at the Rhubarb Festival and the Toronto Fringe Festival.

The Buddies Queer Emerging Artist Award seeks to recognize and encourage the achievements of queer artists who are founding careers in the arts while engaging with the community. Monica was selected by a panel of adjudicators comprised of the current and former Artistic Directors of the company: Evalyn Parry, Brendan Healy, David Oiyee, Sarah Garton Stanley, and Sky Gilbert. The award includes a \$1,000 cash prize, made possible by a gift from the Estate of John Alan Lee.

Established in 1979, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is Toronto's leading destination for artistically rigorous, alternative theatre and a world leader in developing queer voices and stories for the stage. Over the course of its history, it has evolved into the largest facility-based queer theatre company in the world and has made an unparalleled contribution to the recognition and acceptance of queer lives in Canada.
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