

Visual Story for  
the Relaxed Performance of  
**Shove It Down My Throat**



***Relaxed Performance:***  
Sunday, April 7, 2:30PM  
Buddies in Bad Times Theatre  
12 Alexander St., Toronto, ON

## About the Show

The show is about two hours and thirty minutes long, with a twenty minute intermission after the first 80 minutes.

The show takes place in the Chamber space at Buddies. An usher will help you find your way. There is no assigned seating in the theatre, so you may sit in any unoccupied seat, unless it has a reserved sign on it.



*This is the audience seating area*

When you enter the space, there will be a big purple curtain across the entire stage and a white towel on the floor. A performer, Johnnie, will speak directly to the audience with the house-lights (lights above the audience) still on. When the lights go down, the curtains open and the stage is set up to look like a dressing room. Against the back wall of the set is a row of mirrors and dressing room counters. The walls are covered in posters of shows that have taken place at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

# What to Expect

*Shove It Down My Throat* is a play written by Johnnie Walker that centres around the case of Luke O'Donovan. In 2013, Luke O'Donovan was arrested after a New Year's Eve knife fight. While the media portrayed Luke as a maniac who went on a stabbing spree, Luke claimed that he was defending himself from a queer-bashing.

In the play, Johnnie explains to the audience how he heard about and became interested in Luke's case, and then dives into the different accounts of what happened that night, and of who Luke really is. Soon, he is joined by a chorus of "ghosts" who help him explore the incident, and what it means to him. The first act of the play takes place in a dressing room that is made to look like the dressing rooms at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

In the second act, Johnnie jumps between characters – different people involved in the incident – as he and the other actors take us through his trip to Atlanta to interview Luke and other people involved in the incident.

## ***Violence***

*Shove It Down My Throat* explores a violent incident, and the characters in the play try to re-enact it several times. Prop knives and simulated fighting are used in the process. The play also deals with homophobia and queerphobia, and violent language is used in exploring these themes.

## ***Fog Effects***

There is a fog effect used near the end of act one, and throughout act two.

## **Music**

There is a lot of music in the play, and it is sometimes played quite loudly (especially in the scenes re-enacting the New Year's Eve party). For the relaxed performance, the volume will be slightly lowered.

## **Set**

In Act 1 the set is made to look like a dressing room, but with some hidden surprises – at some points props will fall from the ceiling onto the stage and a trapdoor in the floor is opened.

In Act 2 the set is transformed, and pieces of the dressing room set are used to create various scenes. The curtains are opened and closed throughout the act to create different spaces on the stage.

# Meet the Performers



## **Johnnie**

Johnnie is the playwright of *Shove It Down My Throat* and also performs in the show. In act one he is mostly playing himself. In act two Johnnie plays different characters. He will sometimes speak directly to the audience.



### **Anders**

Anders plays 'Campy', one of the ghosts that helps Johnnie explore the details of Luke O'Donovan's case. Throughout the play Anders also plays several other characters.



### **Craig**

Craig plays 'Masc', one of the ghosts that helps Johnnie explore the details of Luke O'Donovan's case. Throughout the play Craig also plays several other characters.



### **Daniel**

Daniel plays 'Flirt', one of the ghosts that helps Johnnie explore the details of Luke O'Donovan's case. Throughout the play Daniel also plays several other characters.



### **Heath**

Heath plays 'Them', one of the ghosts that helps Johnnie explore the details of Luke O'Donovan's case. Throughout the play Heath also plays several other characters.



### **Kwaku**

Kwaku plays 'Woke', one of the ghosts that helps Johnnie explore the details of Luke O'Donovan's case. Throughout the play Kwaku also plays several other characters.



### **Willard**

Willard plays 'Bitter', one of the ghosts that helps Johnnie explore the details of Luke O'Donovan's case. Throughout the play Willard also plays several other characters.



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# Credits

These people created the show:

by **Johnnie Walker**

directed by **Tom Arthur Davis**

starring **Johnnie Walker, Daniel Carter, Willard Gillard, Kwaku Okyere, Craig Pike, Heath V Salazar + Anders Yates**

set + costume design by **Anahita Dehbonehie**

lighting design by **Rebecca Vandavelde**

sound design by **Jivesh Parasram**

assistant directed by **Rhiannon Collett**

stage manager **Waleed Ansari**

assistant stage manager **Chin Palipane**

production manager **Oz Weaver**

technical director **Adrien Whan**

fight consultant **Robin Luckwaldt**

props coordinator **Vanessa Janiszewski**

head scenic painter **Edith Nataprawira**

The show is produced by **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** and **Pandemic Theatre**

For more information about getting to Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, you can find the visual story for our theatre here:

<http://buddiesinbadtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/Visual-Story-Buddies-in-Bad-Times-Theatre.pdf>