

A YEAR IN THE MAKING, THE YOUTH / ELDERS PROJECT TAKES THE STAGE AT BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE, MAY 30 - JUNE 4

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and the 519 in partnership with Senior Pride Network present

THE YOUTH / ELDERS PROJECT

directed by **Evalyn Parry**

with **Leelee Davis + Vanessa Dunn**

In an exciting partnership between Buddies, The 519, and the Senior Pride Network, The Youth / Elders Project brings together young and old to create a space where identities, personal histories, and queer perspectives get turned into performance.

Since September 2016, a group of queer youth and elders have been engaged in weekly, theatre-based explorations of queer identities and personal histories, led by Buddies' artistic director **Evalyn Parry**, **Vanessa Dunn**, and **LeeLee Davis**. From over 50 community members who attended the initial workshops, a thirteen-member ensemble was formed, ranging in age from 18 to 73, with varying degrees of formal theatre training.

The group has worked together to create a space for deep and authentic exchange through theatre and storytelling techniques, including lesbian performance pioneer Lois Weaver's "The Long Table" – a structured conversation format for fostering dialogue between a group of people. Reflecting back on these exercises – and the presence and absence of topics and voices - has sparked ongoing discussions around how we take and make space, and how we perform ourselves. These ideas and explorations culminate in a main stage presentation that closes off Buddies' 2017-18 season - part social experiment, part staged conversation, part performance art.

Evalyn Parry, who directs at Buddies for the first time since taking on the artistic directorship, comments, "I see this project as a living experiment in form, content, theatre practice, community building, and creating space. With this project, we are using the framework of theatre to forge real relationships between two generations who don't find many spaces / places to get to know each other. We are using performance to document the queer narratives and lived experience of this group at this unique moment in history – where the generation gap in queer experience has never been bigger – and to build new community."

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Contact 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

OPENING NIGHT – Opening night is Thursday, June 1st at 8pm. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation.

ON-LINE RESOURCE – The Buddies website includes a Media Centre that houses press releases, images and other pertinent information for easy download. www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 18, 2017
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aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com | 416-975-9130 x35

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The Youth/Elders Project

directed by **Evalyn Parry**

with **Leelee Davis + Vanessa Dunn**

performed + created by **Jordan Campbell, Daniel Carter, Brian Cope, Monica Garrido, Genady Gavleshov, Riley Kelk, Bella Larsen, Lezlie Lee Kam, Neila Lem, Lila Pine, Russell Powell, Shauna Sloan + Ty Sloane**

Preview: Wednesday, May 31st, 2017

Opening Night: Thursday, June 1st, 2017

Closing Performance: Sunday June 4th, 2017

Runs: Weds-Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Tickets: PWYC - \$39

Box Office 416-975-8555 or buddiesinbadtimes.com

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto ON

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.