

AMANDA CORDNER AND DAVID DI GIOVANNI'S HIT SHOW *BODY SO FLUORESCENT* HITS THE BUDDIES MAIN STAGE, APRIL 13-23

a madonnanera, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, and b current performing arts production

Body So Fluorescent

by Amanda Cordner + David di Giovanni

[TICKETS + INFO](#)

"Body So Fluorescent is poetic, heartbreaking, and insightful."

- Andrea Warner, Georgia Straight

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre partners with **madonnanera** and **b current theatre** to close its 2022-23 season with the mainstage debut of the acclaimed solo show *Body So Fluorescent*, co-created by **Amanda Cordner** and **David di Giovanni**. Featuring a stunning performance by award-winning performer Amanda Cordner (*Sort Of*, *The Expanse*, *Baroness von Sketch Show*), the play examines the falling apart of a friendship while asking difficult questions about Blackness, otherness, and appropriation. In this electrifying solo piece, friends Gary and Desiree retrace their steps from the night before at the club to figure out how it all ended in an explosive fight, shifting from self to alter-ego in their effort to untangle the facts. And after the dust settles, can their friendship be rebuilt?

First shared as a 25 minute piece in the 2016 Rhubarb Festival, *Body So Fluorescent* went on to tour festivals across the country, including a stop at SummerWorks Festival in 2018, where it received *Now Magazine's* Best of the Fest in Outstanding Play, Direction, and Production. In 2020, Cordner and Di Giovanni adapted the piece to a short film, which premiered at the 2020 InsideOut LGBT Film Festival, taking home the Emerging Canadian Artist award.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Buddies and b current in bringing Body So Fluorescent to a Toronto main stage," say co-creators Cordner and di Giovanni *"We've been across the country with this show and we're deeply grateful for those opportunities— while at the same time, our hearts quietly yearned to be produced in our hometown. We're HERE. Get READY, Toronto!"*

The production at Buddies marks the mainstage debut for *Body So Fluorescent*, allowing for a more robust production design. Director David di Giovanni (*Wring the Roses*) reimagines the show for the chamber space, with support from lighting designer **Rebecca Vandavelde** and sound designer and composer **Stephen Bowa**. The production also engages local drag performers as opening acts throughout the run.

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Contact aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

REVIEWS – Opening night is **Thursday, April 13 at 7:30pm**. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x40 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation, or to inquire about attending another performance.

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

ACCESSIBILITY + SPECIAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Reduced Capacity Performances - April 11 + 14 at 7:30pm: These smaller-capacity performances (50% of our usual house capacity) are scheduled with immuno-compromised audience members in mind, as well as those who do not yet feel comfortable in a full theatre. Note: proof of vaccination is no longer required for these performances.

Black Out Night - Saturday, April 15 at 7:30pm: Black Out Nights are designed to create an affinity space for Black community members to come together and engage with works by Black artists. The performance on **April 15** is an intentional invitation to Black community members to experience *Body So Fluorescent* together, followed by a talkback. Advance tickets can be booked online, with PWYC tickets available at the door.

Relaxed performance - Sunday, April 16 at 2:00pm: Relaxed Performances are designed to welcome audience members who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment, including house lights being left on at a low level, more freedom to come and go from the space, and an alternate space to take a break from the show if needed.

Deaf-interpreted performance - Thursday, April 20 at 7:30pm: This performance will feature ASL interpretation by Deaf interpreter Natasha “Courage” Bacchus.

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

a Madonnanera, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, and b current production

Body So Fluorescent

What happened last night on the dance floor? Two friends retrace their steps from the night before to figure out how it all ended in an explosive fight, shifting from self to alter-ego in their effort to untangle the facts. Body So Fluorescent is an electrifying solo performance that asks difficult questions about Blackness, otherness, and appropriation.

Following a national tour, critical acclaim, and a short film adaptation, co-creators Amanda Corder and David di Giovanni reimagine their hit show for the Buddies stage.

Amanda Corder + David di Giovanni // playwrights

Amanda Corder // performer

David di Giovanni // director

Rebecca Vandavelde // lighting design

Steven Bowa // composition + sound design

Performance information:

Previews: April 11 + 12

Opening Night: April 13

Closing Performance: April 23

Runs: Tues-Sat 7:30pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm

Tickets: Sliding scale (\$10 / \$25 / \$40 / \$70)

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/body-so-fluorescent/>

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madonnanera is an artistic collaboration invested in creating outrageous and intersectional new work. madonnanera's second show WRING THE ROSES played as part of Why Not Theatre's RISER Project in 2019, and was nominated for Outstanding Ensemble at the Dora Mavor Moore awards.

b current Performing Arts is a hotbed for culturally-rooted theatre development in Toronto. Originally founded as a place for Black artists to create, nurture, and present their new works, our company has grown to support artists from all diasporas. Over three decades, b current has created space for intersectional voices to be heard, always with a focus on engaging the communities from which their stories emerge. As a result, these communities trust the company and respect the work that it does. Whether audiences identify with the work through ethnic experience, social values, or political awareness, these groups are loyal to the programming because they recognize the high level of cultural authenticity and integrity fostered in its artists and their works.

<https://www.bcurrent.ca/>

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.

buddiesinbadtimes.com