

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES ANNOUNCES ITS QUEER PRIDE PROGRAMMING

JUNE 15-27, 2021

[BUDDIESINBADTIMES.COM/PRIDE](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/pride)

Buddies' annual Queer Pride Festival celebrates our community's unstoppable spirit, with free digital and in-person (at a distance) offerings in performance, music, dance, and installation. And of course, a few parties for good measure. For the second year, the festival expands its footprint beyond the theatre's home in the heart of The Village with livestreams, publications, and pop-up performances occurring around the city.

Interim Programming Director **Daniel Carter**, who curated this year's festival, comments: "This has been a challenging year for many in so many ways; we've lost friends and community members, community and gathering spaces, and we continue to navigate the anxieties and fatigue brought on by COVID-19. At the same time, over the past year, our queer communities have consistently risen to the challenge of finding new ways to connect, to celebrate, and to care for each other. In this spirit, this year's Queer Pride artists have dreamed up thoughtful, provocative, and genre-defying offerings, both on and off screen, to forge connection across the distances between us and showcase the tenacity of our queer communities."

Capping off a season focused on development and creation, the festival features showcases from some of Buddies' core artistic development streams. Three **Emerging Creators Unit** artists, newly led this year by **Tawiah M'Carthy** and **Philip Geller**, share excerpts from their works, while **Emerging Company-in-Residence** artists, **Courage Bacchus** and **Gaitrie Persaud-Dhunmoon** host two events centring Deaf theatre artists. The **2-Spirit Cabaret**, Buddies' annual partnership with **Native Earth Performing Arts**, makes its Queer Pride Festival debut, with a digital edition hosted by **Mx Wolverine**, featuring nine 2-Spirit and queer Indigenous artists showcasing poetry, drag, music, and burlesque.

Pride in Place, a programming response to the pandemic last June, returns with more than twenty projects bringing Pride to different parts of the city (virtually and in-person). From activations to zines, and one-on-one performance to digital dance parties, this year's lineup includes **Prince Johnny**, **Jay Light**, **Split Britches (Lois Weaver + Peggy Shaw)**, **Boiband the Boyband**, **Jocelyn Reynolds**, **#ClownsKillEmpires**, **Jord Camp + Elizabeth Staples**, and many more. The series also includes a partnership with **lemonTree creations** and **bigT collective** for a reading of **Gabe Maharjan's** *Eva in Rio*, and with **Exhibition Place** and the **Canadian National Exhibition** for an intimate performance by rock legend and Rough Trade frontwoman, **Carole Pope**.

The festival wraps up on Pride Sunday with a **Pride Tea Dance**, a casual, early evening get-together to catch up with Buddies staff and regulars. Hosted by the inimitable **Ryan G. Hinds**, with special appearances by **Bom Bae**, **Wrong Note Rusty**, **Elvira Kurt**, and **Patricia Wilson**.

Alongside these events, June sees the return of the successful **Pride Pen Pals** matching program that received over 500 signups from across the country when first launched last year. Plus, the second iteration of The Youth/Elders Podcast debuts on June 15 - a nine-episode season featuring conversations curated and hosted by **Naomi Bain, S. Bear Bergman, leZlie lee kam, Ty Sloane, and Rhoma Spencer.**

Buddies will be monitoring public health regulations and will provide updates on any necessary changes to in-person events on our website and on social media. Ticketing, sign-up, and distribution details for all Pride events will be released June 1, 2021.

EMERGING CREATORS UNIT

Emerging Creators Unit sharings

June 19 + 20, 7PM ET

Online

Since January, three artists have been working with Tawiah M'Carthy, Philip Geller, and guest mentors to develop new works, and hone both artistic and producing skills. At our Queer Pride Festival, the ECU artists share a sneak peek into their projects and processes.

Now in its fifteenth year, the ECU offers an intensive, process-focused opportunity for emerging performance creators to develop their artistic practice and producing skills through the creation of a new project.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/ecu-2021/>

27 Club

by Ajahnis Charley

The year is 2046, and folks hitting the age of 27 have to prove their worth... or die. Combining sketch with playwriting, this dark comedy, speculative fiction piece digs into the pressures of youth, and the value of comedy.

Park Life

by Janis Mayers

Blending physical theatre, poetry, and in situ wanderings, Park Life follows Jade's recovery from addiction alongside the revitalization of her neighbourhood, Regent Park. The paths diverge as the quick fixes of gentrification are contrasted with long-term healing and renewal.

Whose Land is it Anyway?

by Weird Alice

Weird Alice brings a QTBIPOC twist to classic 1970s game show tropes. This interactive, fever-dream piece asks audiences to see the real life of impacts of their consumption of other cultures.

EMERGING COMPANY IN RESIDENCE**Emerging Company-in-Residence Projects**

In January, Buddies welcomed its first-ever Emerging Company-in-Residence at Buddies. Deaf BIPOC artists **Gaitrie Persaud Dhunmoon** and **Courage Bacchus** have been working with Buddies staff and outside mentors to gain experience in script development, grant-writing, workshop planning and facilitation, and communications - using their play, *The Two Natashas*, as a focal point and case study.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/emerging-company-in-residence/>

Finding Community in Deaf Queer Women Spaces

June 22, 7PM ET

Online

Courage Bacchus is joined by three Deaf women artists - Tamyka Bullen, Thurga Kanagasekarampillai, and Gaitrie Persaud Dhunmoon - for an open discussion of their journeys through queerness and art-making, and the barriers that they've had to overcome.

Tamyka Bullen, Thurga Kanagasekarampillai + Gaitrie Persaud-Dhunmoon // panelists
Courage Bacchus // moderator

Splitting the Lens

presented by Phoenix the Fire

June 23, 7PM ET

Outside of Buddies

Led by Gaitrie Persaud, Deaf actors and hearing actors re-imagine improv and create a way to work together without ASL interpreters. Happening outside Buddies, for anyone to observe, this workshop hopes to bridge language divides, and create more opportunities for Deaf and hearing performers to share a stage.

Gaitrie Persaud-Dhunmoon // Facilitator

Courage Bacchus, Jaideep Goray, Robert Haughton + Sage Lovell // Deaf actors

Derek Kwan, Uche McKenzie, Tsholo Visions + Suchiththa Wickremesooriya // hearing actors

2-SPIRIT CABARET**2-Spirit Cabaret**

presented by Native Earth Performing Arts and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Wednesday, June 24, 8PM ET

Online

Back for its fifth year, the 2-Spirit Cabaret is a celebration of the strength, beauty, and talent of queer and 2-Spirit Indigenous people. This year, after a series of workshops with guest artists and mentors, nine artists take the digital stage as the cabaret makes its Queer Pride festival debut.

Hosted by Mx Wolverine, with performances by Nina Boujee, Ronald R. Braman, Sophie Dow, Seán Carson Kinsella, Roger Kuhn, Denise B. McLeod, Raylah, Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone, and Weird Alice, and a DJ set by DeeJay Jams.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/2-spirit-cabaret-2021>

PRIDE TEA DANCE**Pride Tea Dance**

Sunday, June 27, 5-7PM ET

Hosted on Gather.Town

Every Pride Sunday, we open up our cabaret in the afternoon for some respite from the sun and the parade crowds. While the Village will be a little quieter this year, we're creating an online space to catch up with Patricia and all your favourite Buddies regulars. Join us on Gather.town for a casual get-together hosted by Ryan G. Hinds, with performances by Bom Bae, Rusty Note Wong, and Elvira Kurt.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/pride-tea-dance/>

PRIDE IN PLACE**Pride in Place**

June 15-27

During this ongoing time of isolation and physical distancing, we ask: how can we still find ways to take up public space, be visible, out, loud and proud, political? How can we bring the spirit of queer pride to our neighbourhoods, public, private and shared spaces right across our city? This year, over 60 artists respond, with 22 digital, in-person, and object-based projects animating streets, parks, screens, and mailboxes across the city.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/pride-in-place/>



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THE AFTERPARTY 2.021

by Jord + Liz
June 22 - 26, 8PM
Bickford Park

THE AFTERPARTY is back—with a new park, new songs, and new looks!! Jord Camp invites you to a one-on-one, physically distant but socially intimate performance-art-drag-experience. Meet in the park, pop on your headphones, and be prepared to be taken on a journey of dance, reveals, and surprises.

Jord Camp // Creator + Performer
Elizabeth Staples // Creator + Director
Robin Gaudreau // Assistant Stage Manager

Boiband The Boyband: The Series

June 17, 8PM
Online

The Latinx drag king EXPERIENCE make their way into your hearts, and onto your screens, with a new web series in the works. Join Papi, H&M and BabyFace for some of their greatest hits, plus a star-studded, world-premiere reading of the pilot episode.

Heath V. Salazar, Lucia Linares Leon + Monica Garrido // performers + writers
Tricia Hagoriles // director + writer

BOUNTIFUL Pride: Healthy Movement Workshop Series

by BOUNTIFUL Pride
June 21 + 22, 12PM + 6PM
Online

This community health initiative offers a low-impact opportunity for Black-identifying folks in Toronto's queer and trans communities (aged 30+) to get reacquainted with their bodies and their needs. All bodies are different and all bodies are good bodies!

Ashley T. // creator + facilitator

#ClownsKillEmpires present High (f)Art

June 24, 9PM
Online

Toronto's non-binary clown collective presents an art-house themed variety show celebrating local queer artists, including Gay Jesus, Sita Moon, Buster Hymen, Dolly Berlin, and Kaspar the Queer Ghost. Stick around for a digital dance party after the show.

Imogen Quest // host + co-producer

Pickles LaVey // co-producer

Aggie Panda // DJ + technician

Buster Hymen, Gay Jesus, Dolly Berlin, Kaspar The Queer Ghost + Sita Moon // performers

Comedy Corner

Canadian-Caribbean Arts Network

June 26, 6:30PM + 7:30PM

Regent Park (Shuter & Sackville)

If laughter is the best medicine, it's something we could all use about now. Rhoma Spencer hosts a pop-up comedy corner for residents in the heart of Regent Park, featuring Martha Chaves, Monica Garrido, and Aliya Kanani.

Rhoma Spencer // curator + host

Martha Chaves, Monica Garrido + Aliya Kanani // comedians

Drag King Bedtime Stories

June 18, 7PM + 10PM

Live online + available for subsequent streaming

Drag king Titus Androgynous hosts two separate bedtime story sets for your streaming pleasure - a sweet and song-filled queery tale for the kids; and a sultry, original queer erotica reading for the 18+ crowd.

Titus Androgynous // writer + performer

Eva in Rio

co-produced by bigT collective, lemonTree creations + Buddies

June 23, 6PM

Online

Eva wakes up in her wonderland – Rio de Janeiro. With a physical transformation scheduled today, she Tinders her way to one last dose of vitamin D before 8 weeks of post-surgical celibacy. Tune in for a virtual reading of a comedically twisted trans-fantasy by Gabe Maharjan, directed by Cole Alvis, to see Eva's surreal ambitions flirt with reality.

Gabe Maharjan // playwright

Cole Alvis // director

Jesse Stong + Letícia Tórgo // dramaturges

Nalo Soyini Bruce // design consultant

Michelle O. Tiwo // Eva

Kaleido: A Pride Celebration

June 18, 6-10PM

Glad Day Books

From the Greek "kalos," meaning "beautiful", and "eidos", meaning "form"—this parade-in-reverse celebrates the beauty of our communities. A bevy of dancers and some of Toronto's best DJs entertain passers-by from the Glad Day windowscape.

DJ Sofia Fly, DJ Fawn Big Canoe, DJ Relentless + DJ Dwayne Minard // DJs

Rolyn Chambers // dancer

Mars Alexander // shaker

Peter Kelly // mover

Ferrera Rosé // groover

Curated by black queer artist, producer, songwriter, dj, and creative Jay Light

Last Gasp WFH

by Split Britches

June 18, 7PM

Online

In *Last Gasp WFH*, a house becomes a stage for the experience of sheltering in place, serving both as an intimate capsule of sequestered time and an apt reflection on the precarious nature of our bodies and the planet we call home. A presentation of this site-specific Zoom performance will be followed by a live Q&A with creators Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw.

Lois Weaver + Peggy Shaw // creators + performers

Nao Nagai // lighting + video designer

Vivian Stoll // sound design

Morgan Thorson // choreographer

The Most Magnificent Mini Pride Parade

by The Grand Salto Theatre

June 18, 2PM + June 19, 3PM

Online (and in your neighbourhood!)

Deck out your strollers, scooters, or trikes to show your Pride this June! The Grand Salto Theatre offers two online crafting sessions, complete with songs, a story, and parade practice. Families with children aged 0-5 can sign up by June 4 to receive a decorating kit.

Zita Nyarady // project lead

Nascha Freire // song circle facilitator

Titus Androgynous // special storytime guest

Moments In Time

June 21 - 27

Zine

Raymond Helkio pays homage to the people, events, and organizations that made the Village what it is today. This analog zine celebrates the resilience of our communities as we continue to navigate the pandemic.

Raymond Helkio // creator

Rachel Beattie + Stewart Borden // curation team

Music for Lesbians

presented in partnership with Exhibition Place + the Canadian National Exhibition

June 15

Exhibition Place

Rock legend Carole Pope plays an intimate, unplugged, pop-up concert at the CNE fairgrounds. Mask up for this limited capacity performance of selections from her latest album.

Carole Pope // performer

Tim Welch // guitarist

Painting Church Street in Lavender

by Lavender, with Goblin Cat Zines

June 15 - 27 // June 21, 7PM (launch)

Zine + Virtual Launch Party

Lavender celebrates their third anniversary with a retrospective zine highlighting community memories of their monthly events. The digital launch features spoken word performances from contributors and a virtual dance party.

Sica Saccone + Tianna Henry // editors

Goblin Cat Zines // publisher

Pirate Tails

June 26, 12PM (Allan Gardens) + 3PM (Regent Park)

Pride weekend (Online)

A family-friendly circus performance reimagines the childhood tropes of the pirate and the siren through lenses of Queerness and Disability. Catch this high-flying hoop duo in-person, or in the weekend-long digital presentation created with described video and open captions.

Erin Ball (she/her) // circus artist (pirate)

Jayeden W (she/her) // circus artist (mermaid)

Pride Care Packages

June 17-27

Celebrate Pride safely wherever you are with a DIY Pride kit including stickers, hand sanitizer, and that queerest of items - a tote bag. Packages will be available for pick-up at select queer hubs around the city.

Emily Templeman // co-organizer + visual artist
Camila Farah // co-organizer + seamstress

Prince Johnny Sings

June 17, 7PM

Outside of Buddies

Drag artist Prince Johnny weaves parody covers about his trans masc experience into this outdoor happening. Come sing along to these hits as he asks the tough questions, like: *how do you remove trans tape?*; *why can't pads fit into boxers?* and; *what's in a gender neutral name?*

TWHC Pride March and Celebration

by Toronto Women's Housing Co-operative

June 26

Regent Park

The Toronto Women's Housing Co-op gets together to march and celebrate pride, community, and connection in the face of a challenging year. Look out for movement, music, and motorcycles!

Resilient: Body. Mind. Soul.

by Rainbows Pride in Scarborough

June 20, 4PM ET

Online

A poster campaign and a live online performance highlight the talent, community strength, and resilience of disabled QTBIPOC folks living in Scarborough, with acts ranging from rap and singing, to drag.

Romeo // performer (singing, rap)
Jess // performer (singer)
Skittles // performer (singer)
Rainbow // drag performer
El Deekha // drag performer
Lesean // hip hop performer

Return, Seek, Carry

presented in partnership with Pride Toronto

June 15-27

Online

This growing body of work documents elder 2SLGBTQIA+ people through portraiture and oral histories, witnessing their legacies and contributions to our communities. Jocelyn Reynolds' series aims to act as a catalyst for conversations between past and present — to help imagine futures in which we thrive together.

Jocelyn Reynolds // artist

Sleep Codes & Coordinates

June 19, 5:30-8:30PM ET

The Annex

Installation art and live performance animate an Annex courtyard, exploring the relationship between burnout and the invisible awards that we self-declare. In this in-between space, shame is reclaimed and rethought to imagine new forms of inclusion.

Maren K Elliott // performer + project lead

Juan Saavedra // visual and installation artist, project lead

Julian Morello // make up artist

Sean Morello // sound production

Space, Time, Motion

June 24

Traveling

This multimedia performance installation by Steven Conway and Celia Green invites its audience to shake off their routine relationships to their surroundings. Choreographed movement and musical improvisation will make pop-up appearances around the city.

Steven Conway // musical performance

Celia Green // movement performance



STAY AT HOMO

June 26, 9PM ET

Online

Award-winning comics Ajahnis Charley and Tom Hearn team up for a double-solo sketch comedy, backyard extravaganza. With all the thrill and danger of a livestream, expect songs, original characters, impressions, and more.

Ajahnis Charley + Tom Hearn // creators + performers
Spencer Crone // streaming director

PRIDE PEN PALS

Pride Pen Pals

Sign-ups open now through to June 8

Connecting queers across generations, geographies, and stay-at-home-orders, our Pride Pen Pals program is back after resounding success last year.

We are looking for queers from across Canada—artists, audience members, club goers, retirees, arts workers, community leaders, arts appreciators — anyone who would welcome the chance to write an email (or maybe a few), and get to know someone through a one-on-one exchange.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/pride-pen-pals/>

THE YOUTH/ELDERS PODCAST

The Youth/Elders Podcast

Season Two premieres June 15

The Youth/Elders Podcast returns for a second season, and a brand new format. Co-hosts and curators Naomi Bain, S. Bear Bergman, leZlie lee kam, Rhoma Spencer, and Ty Sloane are joined by guests to chat about topics affecting our queer communities, including navigating identity across different contexts, activist movements, institutional change in the arts sector, and the need for intersectional community spaces.

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/the-youth-elders-podcast/>

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Select artists are available for interview in ASL, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, and ASL. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com or 416-735-7991 to arrange.

ONLINE RESOURCE – For press releases, high-resolution images, b-roll, and other pertinent information visit www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media

Established in 1979, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is a professional Canadian theatre company dedicated to the development and presentation of queer theatre. The largest and longest running queer theatre in the world, Buddies has made an unparalleled contribution to the recognition and acceptance of queer lives in Canada and is Toronto's leading destination for artistically rigorous alternative theatre.