

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

QUEER PRIDE 2024

May 24 – June 30 | BUDDIESINBADTIMES.COM/PRIDE

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is pleased to announce the line-up for **Queer Pride 2024** – a festival of queer theatre, comedy, cabaret, art, music, and parties that showcases our community's unstoppable spirit. For over a month, Buddies will play host to a stellar line-up of Toronto's most exciting queer entertainers, with guest producers bringing their best, alongside Buddies staple events like the **2-Spirit Cabaret** (with Native Earth Performing Arts), **Emerging Creators Unit** showcase, and **Tallulah's Pride Party**.

"this year's "mega-Pride" caps off our 45th anniversary season with five weeks of queer excellence, celebration, and the glorious messiness of it all," says Artistic Director **ted witzel**, who curated this year's festival alongside Artistic Associate **Erum Khan**. "pride is a time when we throw open our doors and invite in all the throbbing, disruptive energy of queer joy. this year's line-up is an outsized and outstanding roster of queer brilliance from across the city and beyond, from intimate performances to sweaty dance parties and everything between."

This year's festival gets an early start in May, kicking off with a full-facility celebration, **45 Years of Messy Queers**, hosted by **Diane Flacks**, featuring site activations and performances by artists who've worked with the world's largest and longest-running queer theatre over the course of its 45 years.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Opportunities to see top tier drag artists from Toronto and beyond, with a glitzy Pride drag extravaganza in a new partnership with **Vision Drag**, and a visit from the Queen of Ireland herself, **Panti Bliss**, with her one-woman show, **If These Wigs Could Talk**, in partnership with the Canada Ireland Foundation
- Sharings from this year's **Emerging Creators Unit** cohort, **isi bhakhomen**, **Heddy Graterol** and **Sebastian Urmom**; and the return of the 2-Spirit Cabaret, in partnership with **Native Earth Performing Arts**, hosted this year by Canada's Drag Race star **Chelazon Leroux**.
- Concerts and cabarets, including **Vag Halen's The Vag of the Beast**, punk-music showcase **Scrapfest**, and a special 10-year anniversary concert by Toronto's beloved **Queer Songbook Orchestra**.
- The best queer comedy in town, with Buddies regulars **GayAF** and **Homo Night in Canada**– showcasing the talents of **Brandon Ash-Mohammed**, **Martha Chavez**, **Ben Sosa-Wright**, **Dawn Whitwell**, **Kyle Browrigg**, **Messy Margaret**, and more.
- **The Rainbow Seniors Showcase** - a cabaret and social celebrating queer elders and their stories, with a focus on intergenerational connection as part of Buddies' Youth/Elders Program, made possible through the support of the **Pride and Remembrance Foundation**.

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Media Contact: Aidan Morishita-Miki

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- Late night fun including **After Werk, Cherry Bomb, Pride Through the Decades, Fierce Furry Buddies x Pups and Pals, Amateur Strip Night judged by Drag Things, Throb, Steers and Queers**, plus two Pride weekend full-facility parties with some of Toronto's best drag queens and DJs, and, capping it all off on Pride Sunday, the Buddies debut of one of the city's hottest parties, **New Ho Queen**.

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Festival artists are available for interviews in English, with select artists available for interviews in Arabic, Cantonese, Farsi, French, German, Hindi/Punjabi, Italian, Mandarin, Pashto/Dari, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x40 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

MEDIA PASSES – Members of the media are invited to select events at Queer Pride 2024. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x 40 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation.

ON-LINE RESOURCE – The Buddies website includes a Media Centre that houses press releases, images, b-roll, artist bios and other pertinent information for easy download.

www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media

QUEER PRIDE 2024 PROGRAMMING

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

buddiesinbadtimes.com/pride

Queer Pride is radical love and defiant self expression. It's a time to celebrate everything that we are and all that we can be, while reimagining the spaces we create for all of our queer communities to come together.

It's in this spirit that we present Queer Pride 2024 – a festival of queer theatre, comedy, cabaret, art, music, and parties that showcases our community's unstoppable spirit. All month long, Buddies hosts a stellar line-up of Toronto's most exciting queer entertainers, with guest producers bringing their best, alongside Buddies staple events.

45th Birthday Party

May 24, 8PM

Full Facility

Free

Come celebrate your favourite queer theatre's 45th birthday with a free full-facility featuring pop-ups and performances from a bevy of Buddies buddies. It's going to be a joyous, messy, and most importantly, QUEER night!

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Walking: Holding

Presented by The Bentway in partnership with Buddies

May 25 + 26

Offsite: at the Bentway

Free

Walking: Holding is a unique, experiential performance that invites audience members (one at a time) on a guided walk through The Bentway neighbourhood, where they encounter and hold hands with a series of people along the way. Rosana Cade's project embraces social connections between strangers, culminating in a photography series by Kirk Lisaj running June 26-October 6.

Rainbow Seniors Showcase & Celebration

May 25, 1-5PM

Free

The Youth/Elders Program invites you to celebrate PRIDE at Buddies! The afternoon event will feature performances by our cohort of six Rainbow Seniors, who've been working over the past few months to develop their pieces through our Rainbow Seniors Project. Plus, we'll have vendors and other opportunities to meet new people throughout the day.

Meshy May After Werk Party

May 25, 10:30PM

\$12-\$20

Join us for a special full facility edition of After Werk in your best mesh look with DJ Ames playing your favourite house, retro & dance anthems. After Werk takes place at Buddies the last Saturday of every month, with a big thanks to their proud partner The Prep Clinic for supporting all their events!

VAG HALEN presents

THE VAG OF THE BEAST

May 31 + June 1, 9PM

\$20

VAG of the BEAST is a throwback to dive bars, parking lots, and suburban basements blaring metal and grunge. It's mullets and labryses. It's bikinis and bikes. It's queers and dykes in denim and leather. Join us for two nights of queer sex, music, and rock n roll!

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Cherry Bomb: Erotic City

May 31, 10:30PM

\$12-\$15

Cherry Bomb brings you the Vag Halen afterparty to rock – and funk up – your queer world. Sexy, sassy, and synthy, with guest DJ LL Cool Wei joining CB residents Cozmic Cat & Denise Benson. Plus a rare chance to catch performances by burlesque artist Kimora Koi of Les Femmes Fatales AND their drag alter ego, Baby Boy Koi.

Emerging Creators Unit Showcase

June 5, 7:30PM

PWYC-\$70

Facilitated this year by multidisciplinary artist Stephen Jackman-Torkoff, our Emerging Creators Unit has been curating a path of artistic exploration and discovery. At Queer Pride, participants isi bhakhomen, Heddy Graterol, and Sebastian Urmom conclude their time with a sharing of newly developed work and insights into their creative processes and learnings.

Canada-Ireland Foundation and Buddies present

Panti Bliss: If These Wigs Could Talk

A THISISPOPBABY and Abbey Theatre co-production

June 6-9, 8PM

\$45

Meet notorious drag queen Panti Bliss at 54. After a lifetime of accidental activism, far-fetched shenanigans and making a full time show of herself, she's now taking a moment to question her purpose and place in this changing world. Expect salacious stories, impassioned polemics, and some seriously funny soul searching as Panti takes us from rural Mayo to London's glittering West End.

Fierce x PALS Present: Buddies Pride

June 7, 10:30PM

\$10-\$15

Fierce and PALS create events for the furry, pup, and little community of Toronto, and have joined up for a special collaboration to show their pride in their own way. This event is kink friendly, queer friendly, and hella accepting!

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Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention presents

50 Shades of the Rainbow

June 8, 2PM

\$15-\$20

Join ASAAP community members in a safe and culturally focused space to celebrate Pride. Enjoy performances and vendors, participate in a talent contest, and visit the outreach table where you can learn more about the services ASAAP offers in Sexual Health, Harm Reduction, Education, and Settlement.

Something presents

BI BI BABY: PRIDE

June 8, 9PM

\$20-\$30

BI BI BABY is a bi-monthly immersive art and dance party celebrating bisexuality. This Pride month, we're bringing back our classic BI BI BABY with an art market, photo moments, poetry, tarot readings, live tattoos, special performances, music and dancing all night long.

Toronto City Opera & Opéra Queens present

PROUD VOICES: A Pride Celebration Cabaret

June 9, 2PM

\$20

Hosted by drag diva Tanya Smania, PROUD VOICES showcases performances from Toronto City Opera and Opéra Queens' professional and community artists in a fabulous evening of musical theatre, pop, and of course - opera! Artists include baritone Austin Larusson, drag bass Dylan Wright, soprano Thera Barclay, tenor Mike Fan | 范祖铭, pianist Suzanne Yeo, and many more.

Kevin Morris: Bad Gay, Volume 2

June 12, 6PM

\$30-\$35

Cabaret superstar Kevin Morris returns to Buddies with a brand new edition of his hit Pride cabaret "Bad Gay" showcasing his gorgeous vocals and hilarious storytelling. David Atkinson leads a live band playing some of your favourite Pride tunes with (in true Kevin Morris style!) some crazy surprises along the way.

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Queer Songbook Orchestra 10 Year Anniversary Show!

June 12, 7:30PM

\$30-\$45

Since 2014 the QSO have been bringing 2SLGBTQ+ experience to centre stage in tender evenings of story and song across the country. Returning home to Buddies, the venue the QSO has played more than any other, this will be a night to honour a milestone and reflect on the narratives, songs and people that have shaped the Queer Songbook Orchestra.

Native Earth Performing Arts and Buddies present

2-Spirit Cabaret

June 13, 8:30PM

\$10-\$70

2-Spirit Cabaret is back for its 8th edition! A celebration of the strength, beauty, and talent of queer and 2-Spirit Indigenous people, the Cabaret features music, dance, drag, performance art, and comedy. Hosted by Chelazon Leroux with performances by Nina Boujee (AKA Olivia Shortt), Zachariah Highgate, Madame Ode'miin Surprise, Rhinestone Chickadee, Michaela Washburn, and Ravyn Wngz.

Pride Through the Decades Dance Party

Presented by Toronto Spartan Volleyball League

June 14, 10:30PM

\$10-\$20

Come dance the night away with members from TSVL and other queer sports leagues from Toronto to all your favourite Pride hits from the 80s to today! Music by DJ Sumation.

Vision Drag

June 14, 8PM

\$15

Buddies and Vision Drag are collaborating on a brand new event series celebrating the best of Toronto's drag scene. These monthly shows are an opportunity for audiences to see work from some of our best and brightest local talent exploring new themes and forms. Join us for a very special Pride edition this June.

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BE... A Celebration of 2SLGBTQI+ Rainbow Seniors

Presented by Rekai Centres and Pride Toronto in collaboration with TD Ready Commitment, Senior Pride Network and Buddies

June 15, 1-3PM

Offsite: The Rekai Centre - Wellesley Central Place

Free

Join us at the Rekai Centre at Wellesley Central Place for a celebration of queer seniors in support of the 1st Rainbow Wing in North America. This free event features drag performances, local artists (Sofonda Cox, Titus Androgynous, Ori Dagan, Annmarie Costigan, BonBon Bonbay), ice cream, snacks, and so much more! Engage with intergenerational conversation, advocacy, and queer artistry this Pride.

ScrapARTS presents

Muslim Pride

June 15, 6:30PM

\$21-\$36

Muslim Pride is not just a music festival; it's a movement. It recognizes the rich history and ongoing struggle of queer and trans Muslims, providing a platform for artists to express their identities boldly and authentically. The festival invites everyone, regardless of religious or sexual orientation, to come together and celebrate diversity, acceptance, and love.

Resurrection Live: A Michael Callen Cabaret

June 15, 8PM

\$26

Canada's hit queer podcast, *Resurrection*, is going live! Join us for 'A Michael Callen Cabaret' — a show that's half-podcast, half-cabaret, all about the life and music of early AIDS activist and singer-songwriter, Michael Callen. The show will be hosted by Resurrection's own Dane Stewart with musical performances by Andrew Morrisey and Andrew Boudreau.

Amateur Strip Night Judged By Drag Things

Presented by Bathhouse & Body Works

June 15, 10:30PM

\$15-\$18

Witness the filthiest strip acts you can imagine from your local pervs...or take the stage yourself! Winners receive cash prizes and hot glued trophies, and every performer receives cab fare, free admission, and a drink ticket. Acts that adhere to the theme are given a leg up in judging, but the more ridiculous the better! It's body-posi, queer-posi, all posi.

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Poetry Open Mic

June 16, 4:30PM

PWYC

Join host Raymond Helkio for some of Toronto's most dazzling, brazen, saucy and flamboyant poets + featured artist Johnny D Trinh!

The Royal Court: Pride & Royalty

June 19, 10PM

\$30/PWYC

The Royal Court welcomes you to a special show full of Kings, Things, Court Jesters, Courtesans and everything in between! They strive to provide a safe space for the trans, queer, and QTBIPOC community – for sexy shenanigans, gender fuckery, and general slayage.

Les Femmes Fatales present

Femme Ambassador! Still Mad!

June 20, 9PM

\$25-\$35

Femme is queer. Femme is dangerous. Femme is powerful. Femme is resistance and lipstick. Girl gangs, outlaws, misfits and deliberate outcasts, these showbabes are planning on making some good trouble.

Gay AF Comedy presents

Pride-A-Palooza

June 21, 8PM

\$25-\$35

Gay AF Comedy returns to serve up a cornucopia of Canada's top Queer comedic talent! Hosted by Canadian Comedy Award winner Robert Watson (OutTV, JFL Toronto) and headlined by 2024 Juno Award winner for Best Comedy Album, Kyle Brownrigg! Featuring a fabulous lineup including Inés Anaya, Sashka DC, Ben Sosa Wright, Messy Margaret and surprise guests!

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Thirst Nation: Fed

In partnership with Native Women in the Arts, the Textile Museum, and Woodland Cultural Center

June 21, 9PM

\$20-\$40

Are you ready to eat? Thirst Nation delivers their fourth event of the year with a full facility take-over of Indigi-queer ecstasy to liberate the Gay Village on National Indigenous People's Day. Dive into a colourful kaleidoscope of slut gear, lingerie, drag, and decadence. Previous headliner Lou Lou la Duchesse de Rière returns, with DJ's Fawn Big Canoe and Gussyee!

ScrapARTS presents

Scrapfest

June 22, 6:30PM

\$21-\$36

ScrapFest is a groundbreaking movement aimed at smashing barriers, celebrating diversity, and empowering trans and underground artists. Since its inception in 2019, ScrapFest has evolved into a revolutionary force that has made its way to Pakistan, challenging norms and igniting conversations. Brace yourselves for a sensational night of live music, burlesque, drag, DJ's, comedy, and more!

THROB: CLUB PRIDE

June 22, 10:30PM

\$15-\$25

All night long to the THROB, baby, feel the beat! THROB: CLUB PRIDE returns for an electric night of pop anthems, throwbacks, and sexy grooves. This event aims to be a safe space for everyone in the LGBTQIA+ and QTBIPOC communities.

Supporting Our Youth presents

Pride Prom 2024: Wonderland

June 25, 7:30PM

Free

Calling all 2SLGBTQIA+ youth aged 21 and under! You are the Main Character and invited to a world where dreams can come true. Live proud, shine bright, be a mythical creature (or not), and glow up because you are celebrated here. This the 24th annual Pride Prom!

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Steers & Queers Night of 1000 Dollys

June 27, 9PM

\$30

Dollylujah! Toronto's cult queer honky tonk is back! Join our Folsom County Fair filled with drag, dancing, burlesque, live music, and worship of all things Dolly. Dress code: Farm-to-Dungeon, Leather & Leche.

The B-Girlz present

Homo Night in Canada

June 28, 7:30PM

\$30

Created by The B-Girlz, Homo Night in Canada has become the must see event of Pride weekend in Toronto, showcasing some of North America's best queer comics in a night of hilarity and high-schticking. Our stellar 2024 lineup includes Brandon Ash-Mohammed, Martha Chavez, Mickey Dykeman, Paul Hutcheson, Ted Morris, Tamara Shevon, Ben Sosa-Wright and Dawn Whitwell!

Tallulah's Pride Party

June 28, 10:30PM

\$15-\$20

Hosted by Gay Jesus, with performances by Devery Bess, Lucinda Miu, and Diana Sauss, and music by DJ Sofia Fly.

Tallulah's Pride Party

June 29, 10:30PM

\$15-\$20

Hosted by Makayla Couture, with performances by Kuya Atay, Manny Dingo, and Ocean La'Vodka Giovanni, and music by DJs Fawn Big Canoe and KIMIWAN.

The Lady Oiyé's Tea Dance

June 30, 3-7PM

Free

Buddies provides cool respite for the weary and thirsty on Pride Day afternoon, spreading out the welcome mat for a friendly gathering just off the parade route. Come hang out with all your favourite people, while DJ Lushus Lix keeps the music going all afternoon.

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New Ho Queen

June 30, 10:30PM

Full Facility

\$50

Since 2018, New Ho Queen collective has come together to create safer, non-judgmental, queer affirming parties and artistic spaces for our communities to connect and celebrate Queer Asian Love and Joy. Join them on the dance floor (and in the dungeon) as they take over Buddies for the final party of Pride Weekend.

For updated lineups and more event details please check out our online Queer Pride listings at buddiesinbadtimes.com/pride