

For immediate release: December 19, 2023

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Irreverent performance duo We Quit Theatre brings three works to Buddies in Bad Times this January

Tickets & info: <https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/we-quit-theatre/>

“...a frequently brilliant collage of scholarship, anecdote, political theory, and visit to the dog park. Woof!”

— *Glenn Sumi on i am your spaniel or, A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare by Gislina Patterson*

“a beautiful articulation of the kinds of experiences we’re only starting to find language for.”

— *Lisa McKeown on 805-4821*

For one week only, Winnipeg-based performance duo We Quit Theatre (**Gislina Patterson & Dasha Plett**) brings a trio of works to Buddies, including a farewell performance to a beloved project, and a world premiere of a new piece. Toronto audiences will have a rare chance to catch these “masters of intertextuality” (Intermission Magazine) between January 16 and 21, with a selection of rituals for the discontented, provocative reinterpretations of the canon, and conversations between trans best friends and lovers.

“If you are into action movies, family abolition, changing your gender, falling in love with your friends, blasphemy, having a dog, being a dog, over-reading, under-reading, communism, grammar, lesbians, being good, being bad, keanu reeves, early modern economic policy, mommy issues, psychoanalysis, iggy pop, propaganda, blood, or running away... What good is sitting alone in your room? Come see We Quit Theatre at Tallulah’s Cabaret!” say the duo.

Opening the series is the award-winning **805-4821**, a trans coming out story served up on an overhead projector, blending memoir, Hamlet, and action films, a text-based performance. The piece has been presented in both physical and digital incarnations across the country, and was included in Buddies’ pandemic-responsive *Queer, Far, Wherever You Are* series as a Google doc presentation. The performance of 805-4821 will be accompanied by a political exposé response piece by theatre artist **Sadie Berlin**.

Following up a smash debut at the Summerworks Festival in August, ***i am your spaniel, or, A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare by Gislina Patterson*** is up next, masterfully and messily jumping from Shakespearean text analysis to social commentary, and cultural critique. The series is capped off with a brand new piece, ***Passion Play***, an improvised, erotic reimaging of Bible stories, committed to cassette tape live onstage.

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This triple-bill run is an opportunity for Toronto audiences to catch both lauded and new works from this dynamic, intimate, and envelope-pushing duo, and is part of Buddies' ongoing work to create connections between queer audiences and artists across the country.

MEDIA INFO

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

REVIEWS – Contact Aidan 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 and other pertinent information for easy download. www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media

ACCESSIBILITY

Relaxed Performance - The performance anthology will feature a relaxed environment for the run, with audience members able to come and go as they please. A show guide will be available on the website ahead of the show.

Audio description - Audio description is available for both performances of 805-4821 (January 16 & 17), please indicate when purchasing a ticket to reserve a headset. The performance of *i am your spaniel* on January 19 will feature integrated audio description.

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents a

We Quit Theatre

performance anthology

805-4821 // *i am your spaniel, Or, A Midsummer Night's Dream* By William Shakespeare by Gislina Patterson // *Passion Play*

A week of performances by We Quit Theatre and friends. Rituals for the discontented, diversions for the disenchanting, and a carnival for quitters! A conversation between trans best friends and lovers, and a sharing of the shit they made, together and apart, in their basement apartments.

Last seen in a google doc performing 805-4821 as part of Buddies' Queer, Far, Wherever You Are series, Winnipeg-based duo We Quit Theatre takes over the Cabaret space with a collection of three works, including a trans coming out story made out of other stories; an errant lecture on Shakespearean text analysis; and a series of improvised erotic revisions of bible stories, immortalized to cassette tape live on stage.

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805-4821

Not all men are men. Welcome to the movies.

805-4821 is a trans coming out story made out of other stories: a dialogue from Shakespeare's Hamlet, a half-remembered swim lesson, and an 80,000 word Facebook correspondence. Performed using a hacked overhead projector, Dasha Plett invites us to reimagine how we might hold ourselves, and each other, in an age of apocalypse.

The performance of 805-4821 will be accompanied by a sharing of Sadie Berlin's Enchantment Island: This Alien Nation, a loose political exposé and response to We Quit Theatre's piece.

i am your spaniel. Or. A Midsummer Night's Dream By William Shakespeare by Gislina Patterson

We'd like to invite you to a beginners' lecture on Shakespearean First Folio text analysis. In this lecture we will cover: grammar and spelling, historical and literary context, pop culture adaptations, misplaced memories, climate disaster, violent revolution, Sam Rockwell movies, the end of the world, shoplifting, masculinity, CIA propaganda, baseball, T4T, and talking dogs. No lunch provided.

Passion Play

We Quit Theatre take you to church with this series of improvised erotic revisions of bible stories, immortalized to cassette tape live on stage.

Performance information:

805-4821: January 16 & 17, 7PM

i am your spaniel...: January 18 & 19, 7PM

Passion Play: January 20, 7PM & January 21, 1:30PM

Runs: Tues-Sat 7:00pm, Sun 1:30pm

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

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/we-quit-theatre/>

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We Quit Theatre is a collaboration between Gislina Patterson and Dasha Plett. Recent works include Men Explain Things to Us... and We Like It!, a short video work commissioned by the Stratford Festival Lab for Stratfest@Home. A digital version of their new full length performance piece, *i am your spaniel, or, A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare* by Gislina Patterson recently premiered as a coproduction between LOMAA and VideoPool.

wequittheatre.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

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