

Show Guide for  
**ZOM-FAM**



Nov 3–6  
Buddies in Bad Times Theatre  
12 Alexander St., Toronto, ON

For more information about getting to Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, you can find the venue guide for our theatre here:

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/Buddies-in-Bad-Times-Venue-Guide..pdf>

The performance on **Sunday, November 6th** will be a **Relaxed Performance**.

For further assistance, please contact Box Office & Front of House Manager, **Julia Lewis**  
[julia@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:julia@buddiesinbadtimes.com)

## About the Show

The show is approximately 100 minutes long, with no intermission.

## COVID-19 Safety

Patrons, staff, and visitors must wear masks inside our facilities at all times. Patrons can only remove masks when seated at a table in the Cabaret pre-show, and must remain seated while drinking. Drinks will be consumed only in the Cabaret. If you need to stand and leave the table, you must put your mask back on. If you do not feel comfortable being around unmasked people at this time, you may wait in the Antechamber.

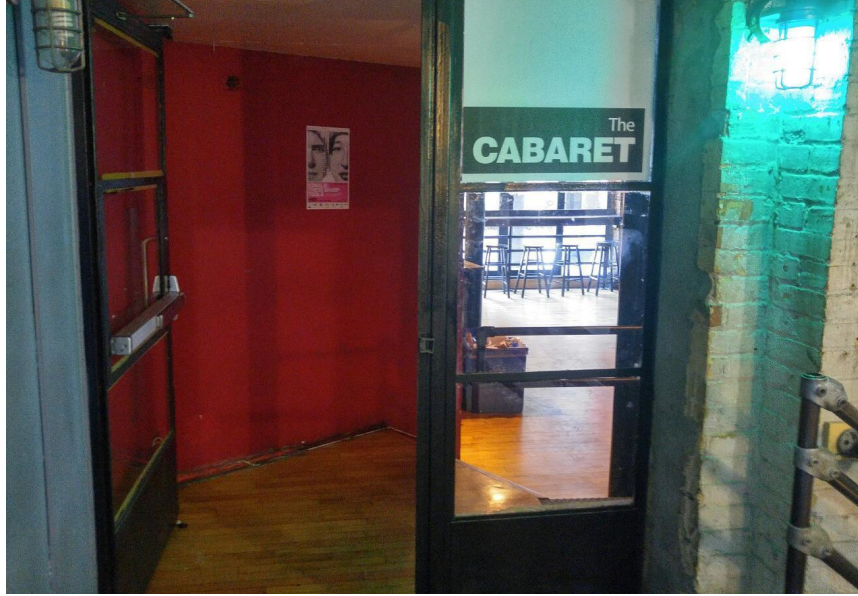
For more information regarding Buddies' COVID-19 safety policy, visit <https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/covid-safety/>

## Your Path

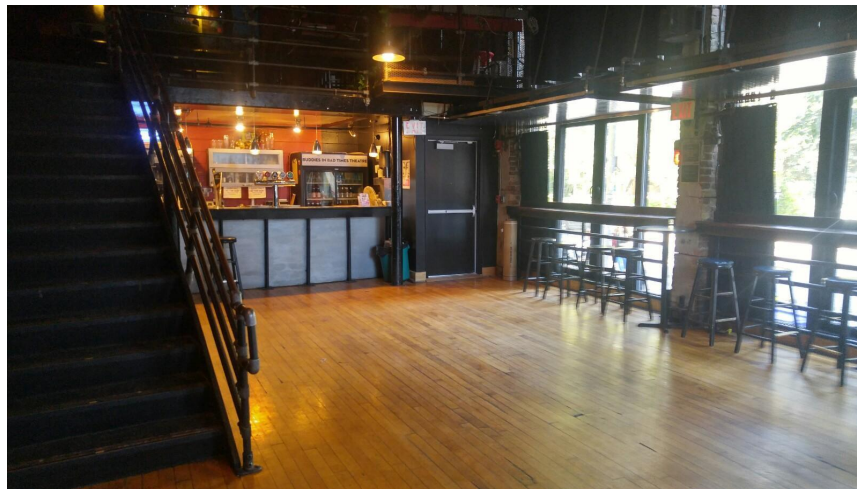
When you enter through the box office doors, a front of house staff member will greet you. Staff members will be wearing name tags. The show takes place in the Chamber space.

In the lobby, you will also be able to read the bios and view the headshots of the creative team of the show, displayed on two screens in slideshow form.

On your left, our bar will be open in the Cabaret should you wish to sit with a drink before the show begins. If you are not comfortable in a space where people are seated and unmasked, you can proceed into the Antechamber space.



*This is the entrance (above) and inside (below) of the Cabaret space.*





*This is the Antechamber space.*

## Preshow

There is no assigned seating in the Chamber, so you may sit in any unoccupied seat, unless it has a reserved sign on it. All seats will be a minimum of 6 feet away from the performer on stage for audience safety, as the performer will be unmasked for the duration of the show.



*This is the audience seating in the Chamber.*



The audience is seated south of the stage.



*This is the set (above).*

## What to Expect

### ***The Story***

*ZOM-FAM* is a solo show based off of Kama La Mackerel's book of poetry, which speaks to their experience and childhood as a queer, trans person from Mauritius. Using dance, storytelling, spoken word, and ritual, the piece weaves together ancestral voices, femme tongues, broken colonial languages, and a tender queer subjectivity, all of which grapple with the legacy of plantation servitude. The body and the voice are at the centre of the performance. The body movements are precise, rhythmic and punctuate the delivery of the text, working both with and against the rhythm of the voice. Kama's body dances with and against the poetry.

### **Set**

The stage is divided into 6 spaces:

The mother station: A dresser with a small stool behind it. On the dresser is a folded sari, a flowery sega skirt, some bangles, bindis, two

earrings and a necklace.

The salt station: 25kgs of salt in a pile.

The birth station: A circle made of flowers on the ground. At the front of this circle, a palkadam (copper pot) filled with flowers.

The home station: A textile installation of hanging fabric like the walls of a house.

The father station: The father station looks like a small building site, with six bricks, incl. one brick that is filled with pebbles on the inside. In one of the bricks is also hidden a small transistor radio.

The ancestors' path: bordering the stage on the right side, upstage and on the left side. The ancestors' path only comes to life through lighting.

### ***Violence***

References to colonial violence and collective trauma.

### ***Music and sound***

The sound of the radio often comes in and plays in the background. At other times, specific soundscapes hint at the environment in which the character is narrating their stories.

### ***Lighting***

The sound and light cues are always subtle, hinting at the different spaces of the home/island within the performance. Through each movement, each of the stations are lit separately, invoking each space as a memory through which Kama travels.

# Credits

These people created the show:

**Kama La Mackerel** // text, artistic direction + performance

**Mathieu Leroux** // dramaturgic advisor

**Andrew Tay + Rhodnie Désir** // choreographic advisors

**Sophie Gee** // external eye

**Jon Cleveland** // light design and technical direction

**Evan Stepanian** // sound design

**Nalo Soyini Bruce** // set design

**Rachel Habrih** // production management

**Vishmayaa Jeyamoorthy** // associate lighting design

The show is co-produced by Montréal, arts interculturels (MAI) and supported by the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec (CALQ).

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