

NATIONAL QUEER THEATER
PRESENTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL

CRIMINAL QUEERNESS FESTIVAL

A GLOBAL
THEATER FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING
LOVE, PRIDE, AND
RESISTANCE
THROUGH ART.



DAVID
RUBENSTEIN
ATRIUM AT
LINCOLN CENTER

SUMMERFORTHECITY.ORG

JUNE 21-24, 2022

WELCOME

Welcome to the Criminal Queerness Festival, a showcase and celebration of international queer playwrights fighting censorship in their home countries.

We are privileged to be able to share these stories in New York City, and at Lincoln Center no less. But with the rise of 'Don't Say Gay' bills and attacks on trans youth in schools in the United States, censorship is not exclusively an issue in far away nations. We must fight for our freedom, our expression, and our pride daily. It is not guaranteed.

The play you'll see tonight on stage can't be staged in the playwrights' country. Archaic colonial laws, censorship boards, and the morality police make sure of that. But these stories are essential. When we as a community tell our own stories, we are able to see ourselves on stage and become more fully human. When we bear witness to the stories of people different from ourselves, we build empathy.

Pride is a time of celebration, but it is also a protest. The first Pride parade in NYC marked the one year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots against police brutality of queer and trans young people. Today, countries around the world are having their own Stonewall uprisings. Pride parades from Turkey to Uganda are being banned or attacked. We must use this time to collectively create a better world for each other, and ensure the basic human rights of LGBTQ+ people around the world. When we have that, we can all really feel proud.



ADAM ODESSESS-RUBIN

National Queer Theater Founding Artistic Director

The official theater partner of NYC Pride

NATIONAL QUEER THEATER

in partnership with

LINCOLN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

presents the 4th annual

CRIMINAL QUEERNESS FESTIVAL

The Criminal Queerness Festival is a part of Lincoln Center's Summer for the City LGBTQIA+ Pride celebration.

FEATURED PLAYS

Courage Rebirth by Muleme Steven

Three Short Plays by Jonathan Opinya Wamukota

The Survival by Achiro P. Olwoch

DIRECTORS

Ann C. James, Raz Golden, Jacob Basri

ACTORS

Nessa Amherst, Lebene Ayivor, Tyler Isaiah Bey, Mar'shon

Dalton, Abdu Garmazi, Karl Hawkins, AnJu Hyppolite,

Rodney J. Jackson, Janet Kilonzo, Gregory Marlow

PRODUCER

Adam Odsess-Rubin

HEAD CURATOR

Nick Hadikwa Mwaluko

STAGE MANAGER

Aisling Galvin

CQF CO-FOUNDER

Adam Ashraf Elsayigh

DRAMATURG

Begum "Begsy" Inal

CASTING DIRECTOR

Joseph Hayes

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Moneé Stamp

VIDEO DESIGNER

Dmitri Barcomi and Eamon Goodman

SOUND DESIGNER

Courtney Seyl

SCENIC & PROPS DESIGNER

Zachary Blumner

COSTUME DESIGNER

Jules Peiperl

ASL INTERPRETATION

SignNexus

COVID SAFETY OFFICER

Rob Gaetano



National Queer Theater is an innovative queer theater collective dedicated to celebrating the brilliance of generations of LGBTQ+ artists and providing a home for unheard storytellers and activists.

Founded in 2018, National Queer Theater amplifies queer stories and experiences to increase visibility within the broader NYC community. By serving our elders, youth, and working professionals, NQT creates a more just future through radical and evocative theater experiences and free community classes.

National Queer Theater acknowledges that our programs are on the ancestral land of the Lenape and Canarsie people. We pay respect to their ancestors and descendants, and especially celebrate our queer and Two Spirit indigenous communities.



**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Criminal Queerness Festival is made possible with funds from the Howard Gilman Foundation, administered by

BROOKLYN **ARTS** COUNCIL



Heritage of Pride works toward a future without discrimination where all people have equal rights under the law. We do this by producing LGBTQIA+ Pride events that inspire, educate, commemorate and celebrate our diverse community.



Visual Echoes for Human Rights Advocacy is a youth-led LGBT organization founded in 2017 to advocate for LGBT Rights in Uganda through Sport, Visual Art and Culture.



Led by immigration and human rights attorneys, Artistic Freedom Initiative facilitates pro bono immigration representation and resettlement assistance for international artists who are persecuted or censored.



Arts On Site is a women-led multidisciplinary arts organization in NYC that supports artists through performance-based programs and community-building events by offering affordable studio rental space and hosting events that bring together communities to support the arts.



The Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York is an arts service organization dedicated to supporting New York City's vibrant community of nonprofit theatres.

Special thanks to Jon Nakagawa and the staff of Lincoln Center, Diagonal Media, Douglas Sebamala, and LGBTQ+ artists and activists around the world for sharing their stories.

THANK YOU

BEING LGBTQ+ IN EAST AFRICA

38 Countries in Africa criminalize sexual acts between persons of the same sex under sodomy laws.

Source: Human Rights House Foundation

Uganda's President Museveni signed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill (AHB) into law on 24 February 2014, when it became known as the **Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA)**

Source: Brandon Ambrosino for Vox

On October 14, 2009, David Bahati, a member of Uganda's parliament, introduced Bill No. 18, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. It begins like this:

"The object of this Bill is to establish a comprehensive consolidated legislation to protect the traditional family by prohibiting (i) any form of sexual relations between persons of the same sex; and (ii) the promotion or recognition of such sexual relations"

Source: Brandon Ambrosino for Vox

The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK) reported that during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been logging

up to 10 attacks on the LGBTQ community per month

Source: Rael Ombuor for VOA News

The term **"kuchu"**, in Swahili, means "homosexual", used by the Ugandan LGBTQ+ community.

Source: Moscas De Colores

Uganda's LGBTQ+ community has a history of being harassed and silenced by the government and police. A bill is proposed that goes even further by imposing sentences ranging from **seven years in prison to death** for either being gay or supporting anyone who is.

Source: Brandon Ambrosino for Vox

DESPITE VIOLENCE, CENSORSHIP, AND HOMOPHOBIA, LGBTQ+ EAST AFRICANS ARE NOT ONLY SURVIVING, BUT THEY ARE ORGANIZING, LOVING, AND CELEBRATING THEIR EXISTENCE EACH AND EVERY DAY.

"Why I was so open to write this story or this play, it's because I knew it was going to an international platform. This play instills determination, purpose, that respects all humans irrespective of how they identify." - Muleme Steven

"Stargazer, Beginner's Luck, and Waiting for Gordon are three short plays brought under the collective title: The boys from Down the Lane". With the world's current events it feels like, though we have reached a level where we can self actualize, in exchange we sacrificed empathy, compassion and our collective strength as the human whole. The three plays try to portray the plight of "criminal" love with relatable characters. Everyday people that could live just down the road from each of us. Characters who remind us that, though it may seem the war for rights is over in some places, in others, even within the US, these rights are either non-existent or slowly being removed. That this could be happening just down the road." - Jonathan Opinya

"This play represents my blood, sweat and tears. In many ways that is the reason that I changed the title to 'The Survival' from 'The Surrogate'. I believe that the queer community in Uganda and everyone who allies with them is in a race for survival because the law condemns them to imprisonment if they are found out. This play is a story of survival." - Achiro P. Olwoch

**FROM THE
PLAYWRIGHTS**

TUESDAY JUNE 21ST @ 7:30PM
DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM AT LINCOLN CENTER



COURAGE REBIRTH
A STAGED READING
BY MULEME STEVEN
DIR. ANN C. JAMES

When lesbian singer Fawzia is displaced by political unrest in her home country of Somalia, she finds asylum and an audience for her songs at a refugee camp in Kenya.

COURAGE REBIRTH CAST

FAUZIA Lebene Ayivor
AXMED Abdu Garmazi
DAVID KATO Gregory Marlow
RASHID/PEPE Tyler Bey
THE MINISTER Rodney Jackson
REVEREND/OBAMA Mar'Shon Dalton
ENSEMBLE 1 Janet Kilonzo
ENSEMBLE 2 Rodney Jackson
ENSEMBLE 3 Karl Hawkins

CONTENT WARNING

war, homophobia, mention of rape,
mention of violence against immigrants

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Muleme Steven is a gay Ugandan LGBT+ advocate, founder and director of an NGO organization called Visual Echoes for Human Rights Advocacy (VEHRA). He's a human rights defender and visual artist born and raised in the Baikwe district. He has a bachelor's degree in Commercial Industrial art and design and is an Illustrator for UHAI EASHRI. He's the head netball coach for the VEHRA netball teams and have certificates in HIV/AIDS prevention and training for the LGBTQI community. Muleme's dream is to change attitudes through his art. After graduating from Nkumba in 2011, he enrolled as a fine art teacher in school within Kampala.

During his teaching days, Muleme established contacts within the LGBT+ community, and decided to join Youth on Rock Foundation, a community based organization that focuses on LGBT+ youth rights. Afterwards, he joined Rainbow Mirrors Uganda as a finance officer and became a community peer leader for Ice Breakers Uganda. His dream is to tell stories that others never told through use of visual illustrations and writing. Muleme, in 2017, started Visual Echoes to share his skills with other community members that are interested in various forms of art where they portray the real life experiences of LGBTI Ugandans.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22ND @ 7:30PM
DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM AT LINCOLN CENTER



THREE SHORT PLAYS
STAGED READINGS
BY JONATHAN OPINYA WAMUKOTA
DIR. RAZ GOLDEN

In Stargazer, Beginner's Luck, and Waiting for Gordon, poetry crafts a picture of the realities of queer love in a society that punishes same-sex romance.

THREE SHORT PLAYS CAST

WAITING FOR GORDON

ANGELINE Lebene Ayivor
FRANCIS' MOTHER..... AnJu Hyppolite
FRANCIS' FATHER Karl Hawkins
FRANCIS Gregory Marlow
JAMES Rodney Jackson
OFF-STAGE VOICES Tyler Bey, Abdu Garmazi

BEGINNER'S LUCK

YOUNG LADY Lebene Ayivor
YOUNG MAN 1 Abdu Garmazi
YOUNG MAN 2 Gregory Marlow

STARGAZER

JONATHAN Abdu Garmazi
UNKNOWN Gregory Marlow

CONTENT WARNING

homophobic language

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



For singer, writer, music lover and teacher Jonathan Opinya, the creative realm has been not just an outlet, but a safe space from life's turmoils. The allure of the stage and the written word has always intrigued him as a form of escape. A strange magic that could allow for the loss of one's self in fantastical worlds filled with intrigue suspense, drama and such colorful characters and yet the safety of the writing desk or the stage is never left. He received his Bachelor's degree in Vocal Studies as a recipient of The Adler-Buchmann International Program for Outstanding Foreign Students from Tel Aviv University and is currently working toward an MA in Clinical Psychology and Music Therapy.

Jonathan's interests range from music to literature, design, culture, and dance all of which he sees as important tools that allow for not only healing but understanding. Currently based in Nairobi, Kenya, Jonathan spends his days teaching alongside working as an independent contractor for CloudFactory, performing whenever the opportunity presents itself, writing and spoiling his three cats whenever the chance allows.

FRIDAY JUNE 24TH @ 7:30PM

DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM AT LINCOLN CENTER



THE SURVIVAL
BY ACHIRO P. OLWOCH
DIR. JACOB BARSI

Achan, stigmatized for being unmarried at 27 in modern Uganda, falls for Oyat who unbeknownst to her, hopes she will be a surrogate for him and his boyfriend's child.

THE SURVIVAL CAST

ACHAN Janet Kilonzo
ASIIMWE Lebene Ayivor
MOTHER AnJu Hyppolite
GRANDMOTHER Nessa Amherst
JOHN Tyler Bey
OYAT Gregory Marlow

CONTENT WARNING

Mention of rape, miscarriage,
war, and homophobia

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Achiro Patricia Olwoch hails from Gulu, in Northern Uganda and she is a writer, playwright and film maker. She is currently an artist at risk in residence at Westbeth in New York. Achiro lives to write and she writes to live. She has a good sense of imagination and even though she bases her writing on real life situations, she adds a twist of imagination to each and every story. She writes because she would like to make a difference in her community through the different stories that she has to tell. Her stories start conversations and lend a voice to the people that she writes about who are not able to tell their own stories.

Her plays 'On Time', 'No Cause', 'The Child Bride', 'Esterina' and 'The Surrogate' have had readings and performances around the world. Her present play, 'The Survival' was born from 'The Surrogate' and it has taken shape over the years from the changing laws against homosexuality in Uganda. She presently volunteers as the Africa representative on the Women Playwrights International Management committee and serves as part of the Artistic Collective with the National Queer Theater.

CAST



NESSA AMHERST



LEBENE AYIVOR



TYLER ISAIAH BEY



KARL HAWKINS



ANJU HYPOLITE



MAR'SHON DALTON



ABDU GARMAZI



RODNEY J. JACKSON



JANET KILONZO



GREGORY MARLOW

CAST

NESSA AMHERST she/her

(The Survival) is an actress and writer based in the Washington D.C. metro region. During the pandemic, she had the pleasure of performing in virtual theatre shows and readings of original works. Some of the theaters she had the pleasure of being a part of include 1st Stage, Rorschach Theatre, Transformation Theatre, Barefoot Shakespeare Company, Letter of Marque Company, and PlayZoomers. Her favorite credits are District Merchants, Julia Caesar, Runtime Error, As You Like It, Henry VIII, Interventions, Lotto & Raffles & Sweepstakes, Oh My!, and Medea. Much love to her family and friends for being the amazing support system on this crazy career called acting. Carpe Diem!

LEBENE AYIVOR she/her

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays, The Survival) is a Brooklyn-based actor, writer and teaching artist from Accra, Ghana. She has performed at New World Stages, Circle in the Square, and The New Ohio Theatre. She is a founding member of Tritone Paradox Productions, a women-led production company creating space for underrepresented communities in the arts. Lebene is a passionate educator and performer committed to the art of sharing untold stories. When not performing Lebene enjoys cooking, eating, laying on beaches and spending quality time with loved ones. Lebene is a graduate of Circle in the Square Theatre School. @pinklebene

TYLER ISAIAH BEY he/him

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays, The Survival) is a 20-year-old actor and writer originally from Atlanta studying acting at Fordham University. His credits include—Fordham Mainstage: Fucking A (Butcher), The Drag (James Richmond), Everybody (Stuff/Strength/Evil). Fordham Studio: White Rabbit, Red Rabbit (Nassim), Constructed Realities (Devised). Regional: The Collision Project (Devised) at The Alliance Theatre, A Brief History of Fire (Devised) at The Alliance Theatre, Human (Devised) at 7 Stages Theatre.

MAR'SHON DALTON he/him

(Courage Rebirth) is a New York based actor and writer focused on investigating the stories of people who live at the margins of Blackness and queerness. He is a recent graduate of Marymount Manhattan College where he acquired a BFA in Musical Theatre.

ABDU GARMAZI he/they

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays) is thrilled to be making his Lincoln Center debut with the Criminal Queerness Festival. Recent credits include Ashraf in Borders at the York Theater Off-Broadway and Nino in Amelie at the Chaberee theater. Other theater credits include By Association (MPAACT theater) Animals Out of Paper (Theater Wit) and The Realm (Other Theater Company). He wants to give a ginormous shoutout to his mom, brother, and rest of his family in Tunisia, he wouldn't be here without them. And finally, shoutout to the Amazigh Community and to every Black and Indigenous Tunisian, we will not be erased from history!

KARL HAWKINS any pronouns

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays) is delighted to be making his debut with The National Queer Theater! Originally from St. Louis, MO, Karl holds a BFA in Acting from the Conservatory of Theatre & Dance at Southeast Missouri State University. By day he is a bookseller in Brooklyn but by night (when not in rehearsal as an actor or director) he is either helping fellow performers hone their craft as an acting coach or working on projects with the nonprofit, BlackLight Community! You can find more about Karl at their website www.karljhawkins.com or on Instagram @littlekarl_ To Thine Own Self Be True!

ANJU HYPOLITE she/her

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays, The Survival) is an award-winning actor, writer, and educator who works at the intersection of theater arts, technology, and social equity. She was a 2020-2021 artist-in-residence with Haiti Cultural Exchange, and explored the multiplicities of the Haitian-American identity through short stories and poetry. Off-Broadway: *Mirrors* (Mabel Mosley), *The Johnsons* (Michael), *Rent Party* (Jenny), *The Passage* (Revolutionary/Runaway), *Rebelliousness* (Cherry Turner), and *Speechless* (Deviser/Lila/Puppeteer). Regional: *Intimate Apparel* (Mayme, Arty Award nominee), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Calpurnia, Arty Award recipient), *Mama Won't Fly* (Essie/Aunt Ardale/Kiki, Shellie Award nominee), *Penthesilea* (Prothoe), *The Color Purple* (Olivia/Ensemble), *Agamemnon* (Cassandra), and *Fortinbras* (Horatio).

RODNEY J. JACKSON he/they

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays) is a Chicago native, graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Recent credits Off-Broadway: *The Importance of Being Earnestly LGBTQ+* (Daughter/Dancer 2). Other: *Life Jacket Co.* preview of *The Gorgeous Nothings* (Gene Mosely), *The Scottsboro Boys* (Olen). Ecstatic to share the truth of queer narratives. Special thanks to my mentor the late Yvonne Nesbitt and my family for the push I needed. Instagram: @RodneyJahan Twitter: @RodneyJJackson1

JANET KILONZO she/her

(Courage Rebirth, The Survival) is a Kenyan actress based in NYC, she has trained at the National Youth Theatre (UK) and is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Janet has previously worked with The Arctic Cycle as The Teller in the play *Listen to Vanessa Nakate* which premiered as an official event of the Climate Week NYC. She has also been directed by the likes of Shelley Butler, Estafania Fadul and Barbara Rubin. Janet is ecstatic to be a part of this production and would like to thank her family and friends for their support. www.janetkilonzo.com

GREGORY MARLOW he/him

(Courage Rebirth, Three Short Plays, The Survival) Artist and writer Gregory Marlow is from Chicago IL and lives in Harlem. He is a staff writer/researcher/content creator for You Matter Studios. Gregory's first full-length play *PartiTime* received a virtual developmental reading with the Fresh Fruit Festival/All Out Artist during the pandemic. Greg is wrapping up a full-length play inspired by the life of Bayard Rustin. NYC acting: *VOYEUR*, *The Windows of Toulouse-Lautrec* (Alphonse), *FENCES* (Lyons, Bono), *SAWBONES* (Here ARTS), *ESCAPE* (American Theatre Company), *Films- Far From Heaven* (Reginald Carter) and *What Happened, Miss Simone* (Nina's father). Education: MFA, The Theatre School at DePaul University.

CREATIVE

ADAM ODESSE-RUBIN he/him

(Founding Artistic Director/Producer) is the Founding Artistic Director of National Queer Theater (NQT) and Co-Founder of the acclaimed Criminal Queerness Festival, showcasing censored and criminalized LGBTQ+ artists from around the world. Last year, he was a founding Teaching Artist for Rainbow Connection, an intergenerational theater program for queer teens and elders in Fire Island. In 2023, he will launch Staging Pride: Queer Youth Theater, a free afterschool theater program for marginalized LGBTQ+ youth in New York City at The Center. At NQT he has presented work with Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York Theatre Workshop, NYC Pride, MCC Theater, and The Lark and has raised over \$250,000 for queer and trans artists since 2018. Odess-Rubin is a Teaching Artist and former Education Associate at New York Theatre Workshop, and served as the first Education and Community Programs Fellow at American Conservatory Theatre. He has published work in Howlround and The Teaching Artist Journal on queer theater education, and is a 2020 Mayor's Grant for Cultural Impact awardee. BA: UC Santa Cruz MA: New York University.

ANN C. JAMES she/they

(Director - Courage Rebirth) has an extensive career in international stage direction and theater education. James recently made her debut as the first Black Intimacy Coordinator of Broadway for Antoinette Nwandu's Pass Over. James is a freelance director and serves as an intimacy and sensitivity consultant for Hamilton(USA) and Hamilton (UK), intimacy consultant for the Broadway-bound production of Lempicka at La Jolla Playhouse, Intimacy Director and Sensitivity Specialist® for the provocative Off-Broadway productions of Drama Desk Awarded, Moises Kaufman's Seven Deadly Sins by Tectonic Theatre Project, Seize the King produced by Classical Theatre of Harlem, Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 at Signature Theater And ART, F*cking A at Fordham University and Dominique Morisseau's compelling play, Confederates. James also has a thriving mentorship program, Intimacy Coordinators of Color.

RAZ GOLDEN he/him

(Director - Three Short Plays) is a director of theatre, film, and audio. He focuses on new and classical texts, as well as narratives that explore shared cultural histories and myths and that center people of color. He has developed work with Playrights Horizons, the Mercury Store, Public Theatre, The National Black Theatre, NYU Tisch, and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He is currently a member of the Drama League Director's Council and the Roundabout Directors Group. As a filmmaker he has collaborated on numerous projects with the creative agency Adventure We Can and recently worked as the lead video editor for Eisa Davis' installation at PSNY: The Essentialisn't: Gold Taste. Directing: We Are Proud to Present... (SUNY Purchase), The Tempest (AADA), The Mountaintop by Katori Hall (Weston Playhouse), Queen of the Night, a new play by travis tate (Dorset Theatre Festival), Macbeth, (HVSF), Associate/ Assistant Directing: Macbeth (dir. Sam Gold) Romeo y Julieta, Shipwreck, Richard II (dir. Saheem Ali)

JACOB BARSİ he/him

(Director - The Survival) is currently an MFA Directing candidate at the David Geffen School of School of Drama at Yale. His work has been seen at Sarah Lawrence College, Wow Haus, The Tank, The Flea, Dixon Place, Columbia University School of the Arts, Williamstown Theater Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre, and Yale. He is an alum of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and was the 2017/2018 Van Lier Community Trust Directing Fellow at Playwright's Horizons.

AISLING GALVIN he/him

(Stage Manager) is a freelance stage manager hailing from Canada. Aisling has stage managed across North America and Europe over the past 10 years and is currently pursuing an MFA in Stage Management at the Yale School of Drama. Recent productions include Affinity (Yale School of Drama), Passing Strange (Long Wharf Theater), and Meet Me in the Gardens (Shiva Productions). Aisling is thrilled to be working with the National Queer Theater to help bring The Criminal Queerness Festival to life.

NICK HADIKWA MWALUKO pronoun **athiest**

(Head Curator) 3rd-culture, non-binary, trans, queer Tanzanian-American playwright raised in East & central Africa currently in the USA. Nick was recently awarded the New Visions Fellowship for Black Gender Non-Conforming and Trans Playwrights by the Dramatist Guild of America and National Queer Theater. Nick is a member of Playwright Foundations' Resident Playwright Initiative. Nick was a member of The Public Theater's (NYC) Emerging Writers' Group (EWG), Crowded Fire Writers' Lab (San Francisco), and other residencies. Plays include Waafrika 1-2-3, They/Them/Theirs, Silence Is A Sound, Asymmetrical We, Blueprint for a Lesbian Planet, Homeless in the Afterlife, 37, S.T.A.R: Marsha P. Johnson, Jizz, Pence At the Border & more.

BEGUM "BEGSY" INAL they/she

(Dramaturg/Artistic Associate) is a gender non-conforming theater artist born and raised in Turkey currently studying Dramaturgy at Columbia University. She graduated with a theater degree from UC Santa Cruz where she wrote and directed the production of her play "Coup-ed Up". Begsy has been bringing their perspective and lived experiences into many different sides of theater such as stage, props and costume designing to directing, writing and dramaturging performance arts pieces. They've recently helped coordinate artistic engagement for NQT's Jubilee for a New Vision, and have assessed and chosen the plays that showcased at the Criminal Queerness Festival.

YOSHI KUROI they/them

(Business Manager) is a genderqueer British-Canadian arts administrator who immigrated to the United States for the majority of their education. They grew up and worked primarily in California with various companies including San Francisco Shakespeare in the Park, City Lights Theater Company, and Disneyland. They graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with concentrations in theatre and literature. They've been working professionally in the NYC theatre community since 2010, most notably as the Managing Director of the New York Neo-Futurists and as General Manager for FRIGID New York. They were awarded Fractured Atlas' 2016 Unsung Heroes of Arts Administration for their work with the New York Neo-Futurists.

JOSEPH HAYES he/him

(Casting Director) is a Casting Director and advocate who is at the forefront of creating and inciting the change that is inevitable in our industry. He recognizes that making a more inclusive, collaborative, and innovative industry starts from within these rooms. Joseph has worked on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and has been on casting teams at Paramount+ and HBO Max.

ZACHARY BLUMNER he/him

(Scenic & Props Designer) is a scenic designer, production designer, and visual artist from New York. He began his studies as an illustrator and found his way into storytelling by means of scenic design. He's fascinated by entities that are ephemeral and beings that are reclusive. Music, music videos, and fashion are big influences in his work. Zach is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, University of Southern California, and NYU Tisch design for stage and film. He currently resides in New York City.

JULES PEIPERL they/them

(Costume Designer) is a nonbinary costumer who has been designing the Criminal Queerness Festival since it first opened in 2019. Their studio work can be seen on Broadway in Mean Girls, Pretty Woman, and King Kong. Their design credits include Princeton Summer Theater, Grind Arts Company, and NYU/Tisch. They are grateful to be able to further LGBTQIA+ stories and voices with this incredible organization.

www.juliapeperl.com

DMITRI BARCOMI he/him

(Video Designer) is a theater creator, director, and designer from New York City. His artistic interests include working with unusual source materials, integrating technology and live performance, and honoring queer icons. Dmitri's work has been seen throughout New York at Ars Nova, HERE Arts, La MaMa, Cloud City, BRIC, and other hubs of experimental new work, as well as internationally at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Teatr Słowackiego in Kraków. Dmitri is founder of international artist collective §175. BA: The New School. Upcoming: queer liberation drag musical "Looking Back Through Stained Glass" (APAC, July 2022). mxbarcomi.com | @dmxbarcomi

COURTNEY SEYL they/them

(Sound Designer) is a playwright, director, and sound designer based in NYC. They graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 2017 with their BA in Theatre Arts and English. In 2018 they participated in the Intiman Emerging Artists Program in Seattle, WA. In 2021 they're one-act *Compulsion* premiered with the Irondale On Women Festival. They also took part in the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive and Voice's of America Workshop. They're play, *REVOLUTION*, premiered at the Tank Theatre last October and won best performance in an off-off Broadway show in 2021. They're set to direct the NYC premiere of *Little Egg*, *Big World* by Rachel Leighson at Theatre Row this June. www.courtneyseyl.com

MONEÉ STAMP she/her

(Lighting Designer) is a 3rd generation Caribbean immigrant born and raised in Long Island, New York. She received her BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design and her MFA from Ohio University. She has managed juggling being a full time mom, owning her own business, freelancing, and using her art to help other BIPOC feel represented. Recently, she designed *God's Way* (Braata Productions), and *Panther Women*.

SUPPORT THE FUND FOR CRIMINAL QUEERNESS



AS NATIONAL QUEER THEATER CONTINUES TO GROW, WE AIM TO INCREASE OUR SUPPORT FOR QUEER AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS EACH YEAR. IN ORDER TO CONTINUE IN OUR MISSION TO UPLIFT AND PROVIDE ARTISTIC SPACE FREE OF CENSORSHIP, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

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LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



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National Queer Theater works tirelessly to support queer communities through social justice-based performing arts programming, but we cannot operate without the kindness of people like you. Make a **tax-deductible** donation to NQT today to support LGBTQ artists, youth programming, and community outreach to build a more equitable future for queer people everywhere.

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