

## presents

# La MaMa's Squirts: Past // Present // Future

Curated by Alexander Paris



The Downstairs 66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003 June 10 - 12, 2022

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## JUNE 10: THE PAST

Roger Q Mason Alexander Paris Gara Lonning Linda La Tahtianna Fermin MTHR TRSA

## JUNE 11: THE PRESENT

Joanie Drago June Buck Synead Qween Jean Crackhead Barney

## JUNE 12: THE FUTURE

Linda Simpson Kevin Aviance Claywoman STEFA\* Klondyke

Sound Board Operator: David Bonilla Light Board Operator: Jimmy Dewhurt Lighting Programmer: David Bonilla

La MaMa's Squirts 2022 is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council District 25. Additional support from the Howard Gilman Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Special thank you to former NYC Council Member, Daniel Dromm. ALEXANDER PARIS (curator) is a multidisciplinary performance artist, playwright, and curator. Their work is often seen as performance art at the intersection with theatre, stand up, drag, and film- with a heavy focus on autobiographical fiction and time as a vehicle. They have had fellowships with University Settlement, Clubbed Thumb, The Lark, and the New Visions Fellowship. They perform and produce a monthly experimental drag review with Voxigma Lo and Julie J at Purgatory (Brooklyn) called Sylvester. Their work Bullshit- written and performed with Hannah Kallenbachrecently went up at ARS NOVA- curated by Machel Ross for her Vision Residency. Favorite projects of 2021 include Legacy's The Black Beginning—a video cabaret presented with Ars Nova; as cowriter and performer with Hannah Kallenbach in Bullshit at JACK; in drag artist Mthr Trsa's HOLE PICS; as an actor in Raja Feather Kelly's The Kill One Race, a faux relity show presented by Playwrights Horizons; as well as *unrest*, a roving immersive play by Curb Alert, presented in Oakland, CA.

**DAVID LEE SIERRA (Production Manager)** is an artist and writer. She practices and researches performance and production in many contexts, performing and producing her own work and that of other artists. Sierra reads and writes about sex, science, fiction, and language. She creates text, dance, video, sound, images, installation, and public programming. Her artistic practices are concerned with embodied experiences of movement and sound in procedural settings, horror, and medical technology. Sierra is the Digital Media Editor for Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory.--David Sierra (she/her) davidleesierra.com

**GINEIRIS GARCIA (Stage Manager)** is a Bronx-born-and-based creative freelancer focused on artistic directing, producing, assisting, performing and teaching. She has assisted directors such as Jackson Gay, Awoye Timpo, Saheem Ali, Lou Moreno and Arpita Mukherjee through MCC Theater, New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW), Atlantic Theater Company, INTAR Theatre and Hypokrit Theatre Company, respectively. In addition to her freelancing projects, she is currently one of the Artistic Producers of the Dominican Artists Collective.

JUNE 10: THE PAST Roger Q Mason Alexander Paris Gara Lonning Linda La Tahtianna Fermin MTHR TRSA

**ROGER Q. MASON** (they/them, playwright and voice performer) was recently dubbed by the Brooklyn Rail as "quickly becoming one of the most significant playwrights of the decade." Their work has been seen on Broadway (Circle in the Square Reading Series); Off and Off-Off-Broadway, regionally, and digitally. Mason is a proud member of Page 73's Interstate 73 Writers Group, Primary Stages Writing Cohort, and the Dramatists Guild.

(for Roger's piece)-DAVID GONZALEZ (he/him, sound designer) A passionate musician since childhood, David Gonzalez is an accomplished composer based in Los Angeles whose work has appeared in film, television, stage, and video games. From feature films like *Working Man*, starring Oscar-Nominee Talia Shire, Peter Gerety (*The Wire*), and Billy Brown, to short films like *Birdwatching*, starring Amanda Seyfried, and Emmy Winning web series *Break A Hip*, David's music enriches and enlivens the pictures on the screen. His work can also be heard on *Switched at Birth* and *How I Met Your Mother*, helping to bring these popular small-screen stories to life.

(for Roger's piece) JAMES A. PIERCE III (they/them/jimmy, performer) AUDELCO Award Winner (*The Dark Star From Harlem*; La MaMa) 9 Year BROADWAY Veteran: *Anastasia* (Original Broadway Cast), *The Lion King* NYTHEATRE: 여종업원과 남자도적 (PS21/Dixon Place), Jubilee for a New Vision (MCC Theatre), *Members of the Choir* (Chain Theatre), *Kinky Choreopoems* and *Waafrika 123* (National Queer Theater) *VIRTUAL: Powerhouse* (Manhattan Repertory Theatre), *Veterans' Voices Playwrighting Presentation* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Training Tips with Jacoby Black* (24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues), *A Year in Space* (Arts on Site/Dixon Place) REGIONAL: *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center), *On The Town* (Papermill Playhouse) DANCE COMPANIES: Martha Graham, Ballet Met Columbus, Ballet Hispanico, Ailey 2, Complexions Contemporary Ballet. (for Roger's piece) GAVEN D. TRINIDAD (they/he/siya, director) is a Filipinx American playwright-director-dramaturg and arts administrator. Their work examines the intersections of social justice, race, queerness, and mental health. They've worked at 2nd Stage, The Juilliard Drama Division, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and National Queer Theater. Bay Area Playwrights Festival Finalist 2021; TCG 2021 Rising Leaders of Color; Orchard Project Greenhouse Lab 2022-23; UMass Amherst MFA Dramaturgy 2018; New York Theatre Workshop's Community Engagement Associate. gaventrinidadtheatre.com

**GARA** (they/them) is a performance artist, writer and comedian based in NYC. They started performing in the New York City nightlife scene at 19 and now, 5 years later have shared their stories on many different iconic stages like MoMa PS1, Union Hall, Dixon Place, The Bell House and more!

**LINDA LA** is an international, multidisciplinary performer, recording artist, writer, teacher, curator, host, and model from the Boogie Down Bronx, New York. Her work infuses elements of music and movement with spoken word and experimental theater. Born out of the NYC Mainstream/Kiki Vogue Ballroom Scene, her experimental sound has been articled in both AFROPUNK and The Fader. Last year, she made her television film debut in the role of Swan on the finale of the hit series *POSE* on FX. Currently she resides on Munsee-Lenape land, finalizing her first studio recording project set to include original music and poetry. Her work can be found on all streaming platforms and archived at the Brooklyn Museum in the "Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Art 50 Years After Stonewall" exhibit. Find out more at Lindala.world. Accepting tips and donations via Cash App or Venmo @LindaLaFM.

**TAHTIANNA FERMIN** is an inspiring model, an Ordained Minister; the founder and CEO of Bridges4Life, @tgncbridges4life, www. Bridges4Life.org which works to help teens and young adults on the street and in foster care become responsible, self-sufficient, confident and educated adults. Bridges4Life provides housing, preparation for adulthood involved in the SexTrade specifically Black Trans Sex Workers and Sex Trafficking survivors. Tahtianna

prevention services, and assists young people provides in negotiating aging-out services within the foster care system. Bridges4Life's works within existing programs and resources to leverage new opportunities for the teens and young adults involved in the program, empowering social change agencies to develop local strategies for urban service, Tatiana is also CEO and chair president of The National LGBTQ Workers Center's NYC chapter, serving on the Center's National Board as its New York Liaison. A community activist since 2008, Tahtianna has been a Community Follow-Up Worker (CFW) at Housing Works Inc., a recovery coach and patient navigator at The Alliance For Positive Change, amongst other initiatives, as well as speaking at the Presidential debate in 2008 for Barack Obama, Tahtianna was a key element, in the implementation of hormonal therapy through Medicaid. Tahtianna is a WIFE, a Mother, a daughter and most importantly a sibling of our community.

MTHR TRSA, also known as Dylan Thomas is a queer visual artist, photographer and performance artist based in New York City. Dylan is a curator and produces a live series called *HOLE PICS*, a performance art series that showcases diverse queer performers in Brooklyn, New York. Dylan uses their curation and photography practice as a way to bring visibility and funding back into queer spaces. She loves watching sunsets, unhinged theatre, and orange wine.

## JUNE 11: THE PRESENT Joanie Drago June Buck Synead Qween Jean Crackhead Barney

**JUNE BUCK** is a drag performer and theatre artist. She performs most frequently as her drag persona JUST JUNE. She is a producer of *In Living Color*, a Brooklyn-based drag show presented by Junior Mintt. Inspired by a production of *Barney Live* she saw when she was 4 and her layman's study of historical materialism, Buck plays with spectacle in an attempt to expand our understanding of what could be possible.

JOANIE DRAGO is a transgender writer, comedian, and clown based in Brooklyn. Before the pandemic she was a house performer at Upright Citizens Brigade, now she makes memes and runs her mouth. Joanie teaches satire and comedy writing for the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive and for the Dramatists Guild of America, and her plays have been seen at Pig Iron, Ars Nova, Dixon Place, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and the Edinburgh Fringe. Follow her on instagram at @joaniedrago\_unofficial.

**CRACKHEADBARNEY** is an anomaly, a coward, a harlot, a whore, and a sidepiece! She or he doesn't know what the fuck she is doing half the fucking time and you know it and I know it! Shit writing this right here just proves it! But who Gives a FUCK! You don't give a fuck! I don't give a FUCK and neither do you! I just flailing my Ass, pUSSY, and Tits around because they are big enough to be in everybody's faces? Crackheadbarney is not a performer, not a loud mouth, not a provocateur, is bad with words and has no business performing in the streets of NYC!

**SYNEAD CIDNEY NICHOLS** is a queer poly-disciplinary performance artist & expressionist based in New York City. Her inspiration is deeply rooted in her quest for community healing, self-awareness, and the freedom and creative advancement of

queer, black and indigenous people of color. Synead is not bound by genre or stereotype, but bound to the varied experiences we all share as humans. She has appeared in a number of works including award winning independent film *Poets Are The Destroyers* directed by Nancy Pop, *Mercy Mistress* executive produced by Maragret Cho, *The Shed's Open Call Series* as part of Nia Witherspoon's *Dark Girl Chronicles* as well as Drama Desk nominated jazz opera, *The Hang*.

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."— Angela Y. Davis. This is what inspires her to create.

The Revelator **QWEEN JEAN** is a New York City based Costume Designer who has designed over 50 shows and counting. She has fully committed her voice to the advocacy of marginalized communities, emphasizing Black Trans people. She is currently among few costuming professionals in the NYC theatre who live their trans identities out loud- while making an effort to ensure she is not the last. Qween founded the Black Trans Liberation in 2020. The organization aims to provide access and employment resources for the TGNC community. Through this work, she has organized community events, protests, and mutual aid drives to denounce the actions of a disenfranchised system and call for an end to racism and white supremacy. She is a firm believer in the preservation and support of Black Trans people and a testament to how one can thrive when adequately paid, supported, and loved. "Hire the girls" is her motto. JUNE 12: THE FUTURE Linda Simpson Kevin Aviance Claywoman STEFA\* Klondyke

**LINDA SIMPSON**, Since the late 1980s, Linda Simpson has been a multi-faceted drag queen as a nightlife promoter, journalist, playwright, actress and game-show hostess. Her photos of NYC's drag scene in the 1980s and '90s are featured in her photo book *The Drag Explosion*, which is also title of her touring slideshow.

WESLEY OLIVIER GRAHAM GARLINGTON (KLONDYKE) graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, Theatre, and Film. An experimental singer, musical theatre composer, and drag performer Wes performs gender non conforming drag as Klondyke in Brooklyn whiles working toward recording their second musical, *Scarecrow*. A bit about Klondyke from their personal bio: "Klondyke is an extraterrestrial tragg<sup>\*</sup>t, spawn of a black hole and a supernova, raised by a 4th dimensional rockstar. They hail from a small T4T queer punk rave planet and has (crash) landed on Earth to give SHOOOWS!"

**CLAYWOMAN** is a 500 year old extra-terrestrial from the Mirillion Galaxy. She frequently visits Earth, her favorite planet, giving lectures at various events and engaging in public conversation with prominent human artists and intellectuals. MICHAEL CAVADIUS is an actor/writer and performer. Film and TV credits include *Wonder Boys, All We Had, I Remember Nothing, Girls, and Difficult People.* Theatre credits include Ahohni's *She Who Saw Beautiful Things* at The Kitchen and *Star Odessey - The Pilot* at MoMA PS1. Claywoman was originally created at Blackips Performance Cult in the 90s and developed at Mabou Mines with Ruth Maleczech. More recently, *The Mystery of Claywoman* was presented at The New Museum, The Wild Project, Town Hall, Abrons Art Center and Howl Festival. *Conversations with Claywoman* was featured at The Meltdown Festival in London and continues regularly at Pangea in New York City. IG: @claywomanhello

KEVIN AVIANCE, Performance. Art. Music. Politics. Fashion. The Undergound all come together in the body and sound of legendary NYC Drag performance artist AND DJ Kevin Aviance. With four #1 Billboard Dance hits, over 10 groundbreaking music videos and a fan base stretching from New York to Tokyo, Kevin Aviance is aa bonafide living legend. A style icon for his gender bending avant-garde fashions, a dance and music icon in the international dance music scene, and his proud presence, political activism and command of the Queens English has made him an LGBT icon. Kevin Aviance was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia along with his seven siblings, where he honed his skills at grabbing attention through music, dance and theater in the basement of his parent's house. Citing influences from Grace Jones, Boy George and David Bowie. Determined to conquer New York, Aviance set his sights on Washington DC where he was indoctrinated into the legendary House of Aviance, a community of DJs, singers, actors, drag queens, visual and performing artists. Kevin caught the attention of several venues in Miami and after a successful run in both Miami and South Beach LGBTQ scenes, he got his chance to take a bite out of the Big Apple moving to the epicenter of the club and music scene of 1990s New York City. There Kevin set the performance bar so high that he not only achieved the undisputed title of NYC Queen of nightlife, that included residencies at legendary nightclubs like the original Sound Factory, Arena, Twilo and the Roxy, he spawned a sea of imitators and did something no other drag queen had managed to achieve before to such an extent: He crossed over. Both gay and straight were attending the music themed events Kevin hosted, two scenes that had not necessarily crossed paths were now arm in arm. This is pre Glee. This is pre RuPaul's Drag Race. Kevin Aviance is a more than a drag icon. He is a pioneer.

**STEFA**\* (stefa marin alarcon) is a vocalist, composer and multimedia performance artist born and raised in Queens, NY. Using an amalgamation of punk, choral pop and classical minimalism with maximalist ethereal aesthetics and video collages, stefa builds worlds that offer a somatic decolonial respite for the misfits & displaced who are yearning for a sense of home. Their debut EP *Sepalina* was released on Figure & Ground Records in 2018. Their forthcoming multi-media record *Born With An Extra Rib* will be released independently Summer 2022. stefalives.com IG:@stefalives A full program with information on this production can be found on the La MaMa's Squirts: Past // Present // Future page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.





Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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Mia Yoo Artistic Director La MaMa is deeply grateful to all our funders who have stayed with us through this difficult time. Our community of friends and supporters provides vital resources to our artists and diverse programming to our audiences.

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New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor, and the New York State Legislature, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, with special thanks to City Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Members Margaret Chin, Daniel Dromm, and Carlina Rivera; Office of the Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer.





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La MaMa, 66 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10003

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## NOW PLAYING

La MaMa's Squirts June 10 - 12, 2022 The Downstairs

**God's Fool** June 11 - July 2, 2022 Ellen Stewart Theatre

## Look Out Shithead Episode 3 June 17 - 26, 2022 The Downstairs

## **COMING SOON**

La MaMa Kids Don Quixote Takes New York July 9 - 10, 2022 The Downstairs

Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville July 14 - 31, 2022 Ellen Stewart Theatre