

outburst

Queer Arts Festival



Belfast
12–20 November 2021

Festival Team

Ruth McCarthy **Artistic Director/ CEO**

Kathy Young **Admin & Operations Manager**

Fran Cavanagh **Festival Manager**

Beki Bateson **Interim Executive Director**

Marc Gregg **Assistant Producer**

Mícheál McCann **Assistant Producer Literature**

Laura McCabe **Assistant Producer Digital Content**

Mandy Horton **Design**

Festival Support

Accidental Theatre **Digital Partners**

Cian Smyth / Michael Staley **Film Programme Support**

Trish McTighe / Kurt Taroff **Queer@Queens**

Pea Dinneen **Transforming Stages**

Dominic Montague **Artist support**

Outburst Arts Board

David Codling *Chairperson*

Kim McAleese *Vice Chair*

Mark Eaglesham *Treasurer*

Fidelma Carolan *Secretary*

Eoin Dara

Emma Campbell

Edel Murphy

Cathy O'Kane

Outburst Arts Festival is a Limited Company (NI603571) and a Northern Ireland Registered Charity (NIC102016).

Outburst creates space for free creativity and expression. The viewpoints expressed through festival events are not necessarily shared or endorsed by funders, partners or other stakeholders.

Supported by



Belfast City Council

phf Paul Hamlyn Foundation



Heritage Fund



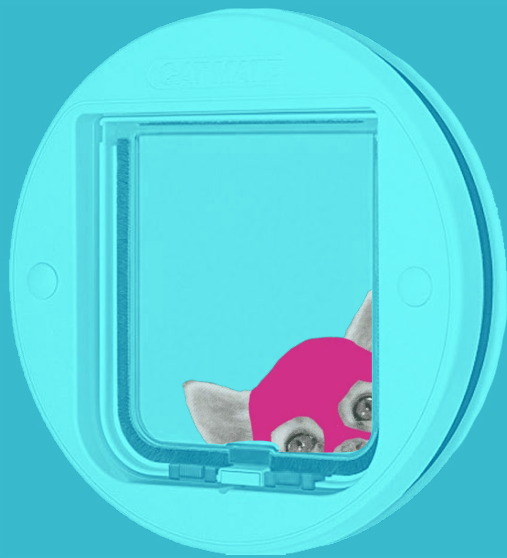
Event Partners



Thank you!

Outburst is the result of many exchanges, generous conversations and help from friends at home and around the world. For the coffees, the advice, the great constructive arguments, the connections and the practical support, we thank everyone who played even the smallest part in making Outburst 2021 events happen. Special thanks to:

Mandy *coughing up hairballs*; Colette Norwood at British Council NI; Rachael + Jacquesy and all the gang at the Black Box; Patrick McCarthy at the Ulster Orchestra; Kurt + Trish; Dino + Orla + Joe at The Telegraph Building; Sophie at The Crescent Arts Centre; Rachel at Seamus Heaney Centre; Lizzie, Anne, Gilly + Roisín at ACNI; Christine, Eimear + Marbeth at Belfast City Council; Julie + Lisa and all at The MAC; Michael at QFT; Hugh + Sara at Film Hub NI; Cian Smyth; Monica Pearl; Danielle Carragher; Marion + Jamie; Nataly Lebouleux; Regis Cochefert; Kate Tyndall; Lisa Kerner; Violeta Ulman; Natalia Mallo, Adylem De Agosto; Erich and Jonathan Wilgenbus-Lamb; Pedro at The Sunflower; Claire at Clear Project; Cathy Costain; Paramita Chaudhuri; Siobhan and Rebel Dykes everywhere.



Introduction

There's so much to say but why all the words when we could be dancing?

After what feels like forever, we are SO excited here at Outburst to have live-in-person events back. Not just because we can't wait to be in warehouses, theatres, clubs and cinemas experiencing brilliant art again but also because we've missed your faces and the amazing joyful queer community energy that buzzes around Outburst events. You forget sometimes how much we still all need that.

We've made events this year as safe as possible to attend but understand that some of you won't feel like going back into busy spaces for a while yet, or just can't. So while much of the festival is in-person, we've made an ongoing commitment to enabling everyone to experience some Outburst goodness.

Whether that's printed treats like our brilliant new in-house periodical, catflap, live streams of some talks and performances, sound experiments like Calling the Corners or podcast specials, we hope we've made it a little easier for everyone to join in.

After a period of severe creative restrictions and loss of income for artists and arts workers, new commissions and emerging works form the greater part of this year's festival programme. Artist support continues to be our driving force and we will never stop advocating for better conditions, security and resourcing for our amazing queer writers, performers and storytellers here in the North. While international travel has been disrupted, we have tried to stay connected with queer artists all over the world at a time when international and intersectional queer solidarity is more critical than ever. We welcome and thank our friends from Brazil, Syria, Jamaica, USA, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon and India, whether with us in person or through the beautiful film contributions to MASS and other events.

We dedicate this year's Outburst to the queer loved ones we've lost throughout the pandemic.

To our healing hearts and bodies.

To the joy, power and fierce beauty of queer connection as we re-emerge to fight – and dance - another day.

Ruth McCarthy
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Chairperson's Welcome

Outburst welcomes you back with a seriously queer programme for strange times.

Delight and joy are here; vital provisions for our journey. Over the last year we have all heard in the context of the pandemic that “No one is safe unless everyone is safe,” but that refrain has other meanings today which Outburst Queer Arts Festival 2021 will be exploring.

This festival is the centrepiece of a year-round programme which has thrived, despite multiple uncertainties and obstacles. To Ruth and the Outburst team I offer warm congratulations, and to all our funders, partners and supporters my deepest thanks.

David Codling

CHAIRPERSON
OUTBURST ARTS

Arts Council Of Northern Ireland Foreword

As Outburst's long-term principal funder, the Arts Council is delighted to see this year's festival return live, in-person, and stronger than ever, as social distancing restrictions are safely relaxed. Last year, those wonderful people at Outburst – innovators, activists and artists all - proved just what could be achieved with imagination and determination, connecting with people through the most challenging of times and still managing to bring us an inspirational celebration of queer arts, lifting all of our spirits when we needed it most. Now, as the arts can finally begin to ease off the brakes, we can look forward to new commissions, new showcasing opportunities for young rising talent, new collaborations, and some truly unforgettable experiences, including that much-anticipated world premiere of *MASS* by Conor Mitchell, surely one of the most original and exciting composers to emerge from Northern Ireland.

Our thanks and congratulations to Outburst and all the artists involved in this year's festival. As we look to the future, what better symbol of hope and change than one of the world's foremost LGBTQ+ arts festivals, right here on our doorstep? Like us, we know you will want to give Outburst your full support.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the principal funder of Outburst Arts and year-round programming, through its National Lottery fund. During the pandemic it provided additional support to Outburst with Emergency Funding from the Department of Communities.

Roisín McDonough

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Festival information

Box Office

Visit our website to book tickets for all events.

www.outburststarts.com

Coming to multiple Outburst shows? Most festival events are available to book all in one basket via our box office. A few events, including QFT films, require booking through the venue. These will also be linked through our website.

Live Events Are Back!

We've planned a mostly live-in-person festival for our 15th edition of Outburst, so we want to make sure you are as comfortable and safe as possible returning to indoor events. Please have a read of our Covid guidelines on our website to make sure we all stay safe.

As always, ticket holders will be entitled to a full refund if Outburst needs to reschedule or cancel any of our festival events.

Please read all of the details on your booking confirmation email, as there may be new information relating to your specific event.

Contact

General Festival queries

hello@outburststarts.com

Box Office & Ticketing queries

boxoffice@outburststarts.com

Media

media@outburststarts.com

Festival updates, pics and news



[#outburst2021](https://twitter.com/outburst2021)

Ticket Pricing: Access For All

Queer art is about opening doors. We always keep our ticket prices as low as we can at Outburst, while ensuring our artists and workers are paid fairly. We know that lack of cash can make it harder for some to experience events at Outburst. So, if you're low on funds, for whatever reason, we have a number of £5 access tickets on sale for our higher priced events. And if even that kind of ticket price makes it hard for you to attend, use our honesty box, pop in whatever you can afford and pick up a ticket if available.

If you are doing alright for money and have a few spare quid you'd like to donate to our work that would be so welcome. Outburst is a registered charity and we are always incredibly grateful for your support towards creative queer adventures, artistic risk taking and vital queer conversations, both at the festival and throughout the year. If you can, we'd love you to consider making a gift to support our work with artists and community via our website.

Access

Nearly all Outburst venues are accessible. In the instance a venue is not accessible to all, the event will also be live streamed online. Several other events will also be streamed to enable wider access.

Online events will have live transcription by otter.ai where possible for talks and discussions.

Braille programme information, audio description, and BSL/ISL translation are available on request for many events. Advance booking for these services is essential. Please contact participate@outburststarts.com to arrange and let us know as far in advance as possible.

Please contact us at boxoffice@outburststarts.com directly if you'd like to book a personal assistant ticket or if you have specific event access needs that we can support you with.

We aim to keep our shows as relaxed as possible while being safe, so you can use the loo or stretch your body as you need to. If there's a specific seating arrangement that will help you be more comfortable in terms of access, let us know and we'll do our best to help.

We work closely with our venue partners to ensure that there are gender neutral loos signposted in our festival venues.

Timings, Content Advice & Age Guidance

You'll find approximate event durations on event pages where this information is available to us. Live shows may vary by a few minutes either way this year, as most of them are brand spanking new and being performed for the first time. We have aimed to keep most performances limited to around an hour or so this year, so that you don't have to be inside for too long if you don't feel comfortable with that.

We offer content advice on event pages for shows where we've been advised by artists of violent, explicit or mental health related content, so you can make an informed decision about attending.

While many events don't have official age guidance ratings, we offer our own recommendations for most Outburst events. This is based on venue's own regulations, event content and sometimes just on whether or not the event is likely to hold the attention of a younger audience.

You'll see age guidance like this

16+

Covid Guidelines

Outburst is committed to making live in-person events as safe as possible for you and everyone involved with Outburst. We're working closely (but not too closely) with our venues and partners to ensure this happens.

It's essential that you check the information in your confirmation email for each event, as some will require different safety measures than others.

We will ask for proof of double vaccination, a negative test result or proof of natural antibodies in some venues (Black Box, The Telegraph Building). We'll work with reduced capacities and distancing in others, in line with the venue's own regulations (QFT, the MAC).

We'll provide the most up to date measures being taken by venues to stay Covid safe on the individual event ticketing pages and will keep you up to date with pre-event emails. Check your junk mail prior to events if you haven't received confirmations.

We really appreciate your co-operation in making events as comfortable as possible for ALL. THANK YOU

For more information please visit outburststarts.com/covid-19

ritual

queer gatherings
with magic notions





Image Credit: Madonna Adib

Outburst Arts and The Belfast Ensemble,
in partnership with the Ulster Orchestra present

MASS by Conor Mitchell

“We believe...”

Epic in scale and ambition, MASS is a revolutionary collaboration between Outburst Queer Arts Festival, Belfast Ensemble and the Ulster Orchestra.

Ivor Novello-nominated composer Conor Mitchell premieres his electrifying, symphonic, queer mass score, live in one of the city’s most iconic empty spaces, the Belfast Telegraph Printworks.

With specially commissioned visuals by queer film makers from across the world, the immersive world of MASS smashes sacred, profane and queer ceremony together in a seismic event that is part classical oratorio, part rave!

Also featuring international soprano Giselle Allen, Sarah Richmond (Mezzo), Christopher Cull (Baritone) and John Porter (Tenor), MASS is a stunning evolution

in the way we experience live music and queer ritual, dancing in the spirit of celebration and power in the collective.

Visual Artists

Madonna Adib (Syria), **Paulo Mendel & Vi Grunvald** (Brazil), **Mariah Garnett** (USA), **Simone Harris** (Jamaica), **Mohammad Shawky Hassan** (Egypt) and **Debalina Majumder** (India).

Production commissioned by Outburst Arts and Belfast Ensemble for Outburst Queer Arts Festival 2021.

An Ulster Orchestra/Arts Council of Northern Ireland Music Commission.

Films produced in partnership with British Council.

Supported by



Belfast
City Council



Paul Hamlyn
Foundation



when

Weds 17th - Thurs 18th Nov
7:00pm & 9:00pm

where

The Telegraph Building

tickets £20 / Access tickets £5

duration 45 mins

age guidance 18+

This work contains flashing imagery.



Calling The Corners by Dominic Montague

in collaboration with Chris W. Ryan

I'm not saying that every magpie is queer but those that aren't are definitely allies.
Cos they get it. They know.

Calling The Corners is an audio experiment; a magic-minded exploration of space and place.

Rooted in the ancient lore of the magic circle, this is a guided meditation for anyone who would never do a guided meditation, but would definitely be up for a bit of revolution.

With welcoming words both sacred and irreverent, profound and profane, we invite you to put on your headphones, go to your favourite outdoor space (or indoors if you prefer), take some time to breathe and hang out with your best mates: air, fire, water, and earth.

Commissioned by Outburst for the discombobulating times we're in, this generous and clever new collaboration between theatre maker Dominic Montague (Quartered: Belfast A Love Story) and composer Chris W. Ryan (Robocobra Quartet / SORBET) is a genre-bending audio journey through our inner and shared worlds. Any time across festival week, take an hour's break from the collective existential dread and travel the circle, apart but together, placing our bodies in the elements and the elements within our bodies.

What do you think happens when a bunch of us whisper together?

when

12 - 20th November

where

Any time, anywhere in the world

tickets £7 / Access tickets £5

duration 70 mins

age guidance 14+

For the best experience we recommend using headphones.

If you are listening to the show outdoors you will require a mobile device and internet access.



Biscuit Granny

There's no ritual queerer than cabaret, no LGBTQ+ congregation complete without a grand piano.

We're delighted to have one of Belfast's finest ever purveyors of communal craic; Ross Anderson Doherty is back with a new cabaret show and a new musical caretaker, the gorgeous Matthew Reeve.

They invite you to come join them in a celebration of the confectionary and songs from the late 1990s that fortified a young person whose 'famous homosexuality' in provincial Protestant Ireland rendered them ensconced in their granny's back room for the better part of a year.

Come for the songs, stay for the survival strategies and snacks.

when

Friday 19th & Saturday 20th
November 9:30pm

where

The Black Box

tickets £12 / Access tickets £5

age guidance 18+

state

power, place,
potential





Border Fairies by Richard O'Leary

A Catholic fairy escapes from 1980's Cork to Belfast, that well known utopia of Gay Liberation.

A 1920's Protestant with a Cork accent flees the Irish Free State for the freshly bordered North.

What buried stories bring two dislocated fairies together in life and in death? Hiding out in Bandit Country, who is actually the bandit? In the 100 years since the partition of Ireland, history has never looked so queer.

Excavating personal stories that shine a light on the troubled relationship between The Fairies and The State, master storyteller Richard O'Leary (*There's a Bishop in My Bedroom; Stories for The Month of The Holy Souls*) brings us the most powerful chapter yet of his trademark poignant and insightful storytelling theatre. Using surviving love letters, personal photos, press cuttings, unofficial papers and fascinating ephemera, this intimate, funny and telling show reminds us that official histories never give the whole story and that questions (and who can ask those questions) are often more interesting than answers.

An Outburst Commission, supported by the Shared History Fund and distributed by The National Lottery Fund on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office.

when

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th
November, 7:00pm

where

The MAC (Upstairs)

tickets £15 / Access tickets £5

duration 60 mins

age guidance 14+

**Heritage
Fund**





Sarah Schulman: Let the Record Show

We're delighted to welcome one of the most influential queer writers, thinkers and activists of her generation back to Belfast.

Sarah Schulman is a novelist, playwright, screenwriter, nonfiction writer and AIDS historian. From cult classic 1980's novels *Girls*, *Visions and Everything* and *After Delores* to hugely impactful recent non-fiction titles like *The Gentrification of The Mind* and *Conflict is Not Abuse*, her writing has been synonymous with speaking truth to power and giving voice to queer experience for four decades. A co-founder of Lesbian Avengers and MIX Film Festival, she has been prolific not only in her writing but also in wider LGBT activism and culture.

Her 20th book, *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP, New York 1987-1993* was published by FSG in Spring 2021. It has been described as "a tactician's bible" and the ultimate activist handbook for making change happen together.

Highly recommended for anyone interested in how we work collectively for social change, this event sees Sarah in conversation with **Monica Pearl**, a fellow ACT UP New York veteran and Senior Lecturer at University of Manchester.

Let the Record Show is a masterpiece tome: part sociology, part oral history, part memoir, part call to arms. *New York Times*

when

Friday 19th November 6:30pm

where

The Black Box

tickets £8 / Access tickets £5

duration 60mins

age guidance 16+



Photo: David Hoyle by Lee Baxter

David Hoyle: Rebellion

Our greatest living avant guardian is back at the Black Box and it almost feels like old times...

Out of the darkness and loneliness of life in lock-down, David Hoyle returns to the stage for one of his favourite festivals, creating an opportunity for healing, a coming together in mutual love and support and an opportunity to create a rebellion. The Fireball of the cabaret apocalypse and the original performance avalanche, David is an all singing, all raging bona-fide performance legend.

He's appeared in his own Channel 4 TV series (*The Divine David*), in films and on-stages worldwide but, for one night only, Outburst is his home and you, the audience, are his family.

'Only in unity', David tells us, 'will we find strength'.

'He is raw, sometimes frightening, but also thrilling in his look-no-hands recklessness' The Guardian

'There is nothing quite like it: bold and unique, electrifying and disarmingly humane' Time Out

when

Saturday 13th November 9:00pm

where

The Black Box

tickets £15 / Access tickets £5

age guidance 18+



Ghadir al Shafie in conversation with Sarah Schulman

Queer Cinema for Palestine (QCP) is a collectively-curated 10-day global film festival celebrating queer realities and standing in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom, justice, and dignity. Outburst is honoured to work with festivals, filmmakers and activists all over the world to present this special event, in person at the Black Box in Belfast and live streamed globally.

We warmly welcome very special guests Ghadir al Shafie and Sarah Schulman, who will be in conversation after a screening of Roy Dib's award winning queer short, *Mondial 2010*.

Mondial 2010

Dir Roy Dib / 2014 / Lebanon / 19 mins / Arabic with English subtitles

Mondial 2010 is a Teddy Award winning short film on love and place.

It's a discussion of institutional borders in modern day Middle East, a travel film in a trajectory that doesn't allow travel, starring two male lovers, in a setting where homosexuality is a punishable felony. A Lebanese gay couple decides to take a road trip to Ramallah. The film is recorded with their camera as they chronicle their journey. See website for more information.

GHADIR AL SHAFIE is the Co-founder of Aswat - Palestinian Feminist Center for Sexual and Gender Freedoms. As a feminist queer activist she is dedicated to promoting greater understanding of and support for sexual and gender freedoms within Palestine and advocating for intersectional solidarity with Palestine in the global feminist and queer movements.

SARAH SCHULMAN is a New York novelist, screenwriter and activist. A distinguished Professor of the Humanities at The City University of New York, College of Staten Island, she is also a member of the Advisory Board of Jewish Voice for Peace. She coined the term "pinkwashing" in her 2011 New York Times op-ed *Israel and Pinkwashing*, which she expanded on in her 2012 book *Israel/Palestine and the Queer International* (Duke Press).

when

Saturday 20th November 4:30pm

where

The Black Box + online

tickets £7.50 / Access tickets £5

duration 70mins





Translating QUEER / KUIR: QUEIMA (SCORCH)

Translating Queer / Kuir is an ongoing collaborative project between Outburst and queer festival partners in Brazil (Risco) and Argentina (FAQ), creating solidarity through translating queer art and performance across cultures, languages and the everyday realities of our diverse queer lives. We aim to make our research and tools accessible through events that support international queer collaboration, networks and touring.

Queima is the Brazilian version of Belfast writer Stacey Gregg's award winning play *Scorch*, which premiered at Outburst in 2015. It tells the story of Kes, a gender questioning teen who lives in a world of computer games and is trying to work it all out. The pains and joys of teen first love lead to falling foul of a transphobic and homophobic system, through accusations of "gender fraud". The story is based on real events in the UK, while in Brazil, where the queer community is threatened and violated by State necropolitics, these experiences have become an increasing dystopian reality.

This innovative adaptation was directed and translated into Portuguese by Natalia Mallo, who also adapted it to the behaviours and cultural references of middle class urban queer teens in São Paulo. Starring non-binary actor / dancer Florydo, it was produced in response to the pandemic, taking the form of Zoom support groups, Instagram stories, WhatsApp conversations, emojis and selfies, adding another layer of translation: digital translation.

Natalia will introduce the screening, sharing her experiences making this Belfast to Brazil cultural translation and offering insight into how we adapt work for international audiences.

Translating Queer/ Kuir is supported
by British Council through the Digital
Collaboration Fund



when

Sunday 14th November 2:00pm

where

The Black Box Green Room

tickets £5

age guidance 14+

words

sublime rhymes and
lyrical playgrounds



Artist in Residence: Colette Bryce

**There were walls, bells, passers-by;
a rope, thrown, caught by the sky
and me, young, up and away,
goodbye**

Colette Bryce is an award-winning poet from Derry and now based in England.

She has written five collections of poetry with Picador Poetry, most recently *The M Pages* (2020). Her poems have been described as reinventing her “relationship as a woman to both poetry and history” and her work has been recognised in many prestigious lists and prizes such as the National Poetry Prize, the Pigott Prize for Irish Poetry and the Christopher Ewart-Biggs Award in memory of Seamus Heaney.

We're massive fans of Colette's poetry here at Outburst and we know you will be too.

We're so thrilled to welcome her as our resident artist for 2021 for a series of in-person events, along with creative responses to her work from local artists.

Photo: Colette Bryce by Sophie Davidson



In Conversation with The Seamus Heaney Centre

Join us in the stunning surroundings of The Great Hall at Queen's for an in conversation event in partnership with The Seamus Heaney Centre.

when

Thursday 18th November 6.30pm

where

The Great Hall, Queen's University Belfast

tickets £8 / Access tickets £5

The Full Indian Rope Trick

A specially commissioned mural of one of Colette's most powerful poems by illustrator Isabella Anna Koban will be unveiled in Sunflower Bar at the start of the festival.

[See website for full details.](#)

Poetry Masterclass

We're excited that Colette is facilitating a poetry masterclass for emerging poets during the festival. Colette is the current editor of Poetry Ireland Review and an inveterate editor, so this is a rare opportunity to have your work read and appraised by one of our leading Irish poets.

Places for the masterclass are strictly limited and will be allocated by application. To apply, send no more than 3x poems (and indicate which one you would like to workshop) to micheal@outburststarts.com.

**Closing date for applications is
Monday 1st November.**

when

Friday 19th November 2pm - 4pm

where

Crescent Arts Centre

tickets FREE / By Application

age guidance 18+

catflap launch:

Look What the Cat Dragged In

What better way to kick off the festival this year than with the launch of Outburst's hot new in-house magazine: **catflap**!

Featuring essays, reviews and critical musings by local and international queer writers, **catflap** aims to be an ongoing printed platform for sharing queer notions, bold thinking, big dreams and utopian queer visions.

Our first issue of **catflap**, edited by poet Mícheál McCann, takes queer joy as its inspiration. And that's our cue for *Look What the Cat Dragged In*, a launch night of performance, words and, FINALLY....dancing!

With music 'til late from DJ Kate Brennan Harding

catflap is a print-only publication and is available for £10 throughout the festival and via our website.

when

Friday 12th November
Doors 8:30pm

where

The Black Box

tickets Admission includes
magazine £12 / Access tickets £5

age guidance 18+





Sam's Eden 1.2 Queer Creatures

Dear Sam, it has been some time since I last wrote. I am writing this whilst sitting in a gallery in Köln, I have been here for a week now and whilst I have been walking the streets I can't help but think about the similarities of home. On one of my walks around the Belgisches Viertel I noticed a sign for Gay Sex, it instantly alerted my interest. I have included a picture for you! It struck me, that I dont think I have ever seen the words GAY SEX so openly displayed on the streets before.

An Outburst commission, *Sam's Eden 1.2: Queer Creatures* is an introductory pamphlet by Belfast based artist Thomas Wells (Array Collective) exploring the the residue of queerness in Belfast architecture. The pubs, clubs, centres, halls, alleyways, toilets and parks in Belfast that hold our history and the stories of the bodies that inhabited them.

where

Pamphlet available
throughout festival
£5 / free with catflap magazine



Joelle Taylor Spoken Word Masterclass

One of the most exciting and fearless spoken word performers in the English language today, Joelle Taylor has published four poetry collections and performed all over the world, from Holloway Prison to Botswana. A former UK slam champion, she founded the national youth slam championships SLAMBassadors in 2001 for the Poetry Society and was its Artistic Director and National Coach until 2018. Her latest collection, *Cunto* (The Westbourne Press 2021) explores butch identity, a subject on which she also presented a show for BBC Radio 4.

Joelle is a passionate advocate for the power of performance poetry and we're thrilled she's joining us for an intimate masterclass for emerging and established queer performance poets.

This is a great opportunity to get development support from one of the best.

Places are FREE but limited, so apply by sending a couple of your poems along with a short introduction to your work and a few lines on why you'd like to take part.

Email participate@outburstarts.com by Wednesday 3rd November to secure your place.

when

Saturday 13th November 1:00pm

where

Crescent Arts Centre

tickets FREE / By application

duration 2 hours

age guidance 16+



Lifeboat: Queering the Green

Queering the Green is a landmark anthology from The Lifeboat Press, surveying queer Irish poetry since the year 2000. Edited and introduced by Paul Maddern, the poets in this book showcase the variety and vibrancy of the literary culture on the island.

The collection includes eminent poets alongside new and emerging voices.

This reading event features three contributors: Rosamund Taylor, William Keohane and Outburst's 2021 Artist in Residence, Colette Bryce.

The event will also be livestreamed, see website for details.

WILLIAM KEOHANE is a writer and poet from Limerick. His work has appeared in Hennessy New Irish Writing and has been broadcast on RTÉ's Sunday Miscellany programme. He holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Limerick. In 2021, he was selected for the Poetry Ireland Introductions series and was shortlisted for the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award.

ROSAMUND TAYLOR lives in Dublin with her wife Milena. She has recently published work in Banshee, Channel, Poetry Ireland Review and Poetry Salzburg. In 2020 her poem *The Proof* won The London Magazine Poetry Prize. Her debut collection is forthcoming from Banshee Press in 2022.

COLETTE BRYCE is an award-winning poet from Derry. She lives in Newcastle upon Tyne where she works as a freelance writer and editor. Much of her work takes her back and forth to Ireland, where she's the current editor of Poetry Ireland Review. Her five collections are published by Picador and many of her poems are gathered in *Selected Poems* (2017).



when

Friday 19th November, 8:00pm

where

Upstairs in The Sunflower

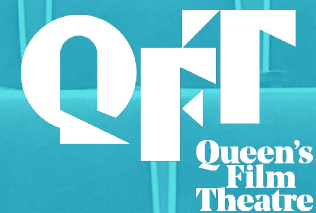
tickets £6

duration 60mins

age guidance 18+

screen

new queer flicks fix
in partnership with



supported by





Rebel Dykes

(Dir. Harri Shanahan & Sian Williams / 2021 / UK / 92 mins)

The rabble-rousing Rebel Dykes are finally in Belfast in all their ass-kicking, leather-wearing glory! One of the most fun and exhilarating films you'll see this year, *Rebel Dykes* follows a tight-knit group of friends who met at Greenham Common peace camp in the 1980s and went on to become artists, performers, musicians and activists in London. This fast-paced, hot and punky mash-up of animation, brilliant archive footage and interviews tells the story of a radical scene: squatters, BDSM nightclubs, anti-Thatcher rallies, protests demanding action around AIDS and the fierce ties of chosen family.

We're excited to be joined by the film's directors Harri Shanahan and Sian Williams and producer / contributor Siobhan Fahy who will introduce the film and create a special gathering this weekend at the accompanying *Rebel Dykes* exhibition (see [Other Treats](#) section for details)

when

Sunday 14th November, 6:15pm

where

QFT

tickets

£6.95 / £5.50

age guidance 18+

Contains explicit content



Homebird

(Dir. Caleb J Roberts / 2021 / Northern Ireland / 12 mins)

We are so excited to present the world premiere of a brand new queer short film from Belfast based trans director Caleb J. Roberts.

Dermot and Conor Brady have a troubled relationship.

Having left home without warning, Conor (Peter Young) returns home to his NI seaside town after dropping out of university across the water. Struggling to navigate the situation with his gay son, Dermot (James Doran) takes him for a night out at the amusements. Conor assumes his father's frustrated inability to communicate lies with his sexuality, meanwhile Dermot struggles to articulate how he feels he has failed as a father.

Supported by Northern Ireland Screen and Outburst Arts and produced by Out of Orbit, this is a poignant, funny and beautifully realised short film that many will relate to, revealing an exciting new local directing talent in Roberts.

Caleb and his team will join us to introduce the film.



OUTBURST
QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL



when

Monday 15th November, 6:00pm

where

QFT

tickets FREE, booking essential



North By Current

(Dir. Angelo Madsen Minax / 2021 / USA / 86 mins)

After the inconclusive death of his young niece, a filmmaker returns to his rural Michigan hometown, preparing to make a film about a broken criminal justice system. Instead, he pivots to excavate the depths of generational addiction, Christian fervor, and trans embodiment.

Lyrical assembled images, decades of home movies, and ethereal narration form a poetic undertow that guide us through lifetimes and relationships. Like the relentless Michigan seasons, the meaning of family shifts, as Madsen, his sister, and his parents strive tirelessly to accept each other. Poised to incite more searching than provide easy answers, *North By Current* dives head first into the challenges of creating identity, the agony of growing up, and the ever-fickle nuances of family.

We're delighted to be joined in person by the filmmaker Angelo Madsen Minax at this special screening of one of the most moving (and one of our favourite) queer films of 2021.



when

Monday 15th November, 6:45pm

where

QFT

tickets

£6.95 / £5.50

age guidance 16+



Cured

(Dir. Bennett Singer, Patrick Sammon
/ 2020 / USA / 92 mins)

Astonishing. One of the best documentaries of this or any year - BFI

Cured is an incredible new film that illuminates a pivotal yet largely unknown chapter in the struggle for LGBT equality: the campaign that led the American Psychiatric Association in the US to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses in 1973.

Illustrated by the shocking personal testimonies of LGBT people who were forced into psychiatric and medical treatment, *Cured* takes audiences behind the scenes of an absolutely riveting narrative to chronicle the strategy and tactics that led to a crucial victory in the movement for LGBT rights.

One of the most powerful queer history films you're likely to see this decade.

when

Tuesday 16th November,
6:45pm

where

QFT

tickets

£6.95 / £5.50

age guidance 16+

My First Summer

(Dir. Katie Found / 2020 / Australia / 80 mins)

16-year-old Claudia has grown up in isolation from the outside world. Stranded on a remote property after her mother's death, she is shocked when Grace, a spirited local teen, appears in the garden like a mirage, a breath of fresh, colourful, sugary air. The pair find in each other the support, love and intimacy they need, learning the restorative power of human connection. But their idyllic peace is a fragile one as the adult world closes in and threatens their secret summer love.

Showcasing some of Australia's brightest young talent (Markella Kavanaugh and Maiah Stewardson are a revelation) *My First Summer* is a gorgeous debut from director Katie Found that takes teenage girls seriously and sensitively, offering the kind of queer beauty and tenderness that we all too rarely see on screen.

when

Wednesday 17th November,
6:45pm

where

QFT

tickets

£6.95 / £5.50

age guidance 14+

Wojnarowicz: F**k You F*ggot F**ker

(Dir. Chris McKim / 2021 / USA / 104 mins)

We've been holding out for this stunning new doc on one of our favourite queer artists and are so excited for you to see it.

*Wojnarowicz: i F**k You F*ggot F**ker* is a fiery and urgent documentary portrait of downtown New York City artist, writer, photographer, and activist David Wojnarowicz. As New York City became the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, Wojnarowicz weaponized his work and waged war against the establishment's indifference to the plague until his death from it in 1992 at the age of 37.

Exclusive access to his breathtaking body of work – including paintings, journals, and films – reveals how Wojnarowicz emptied his life into his art and activism. Rediscovered answering machine tape recordings and intimate recollections from Fran Lebowitz, Gracie Mansion, Peter Hujar, and other friends and family help present a stirring portrait of this fiercely political, visionary and unapologetically queer artist.

One of the best films of the year. Deeply moving

[The New Yorker](#)

A stirring requiem of rage and resistance.

[The Hollywood Reporter](#)

when

Thursday 18th November,
8:45pm

where

QFT

tickets

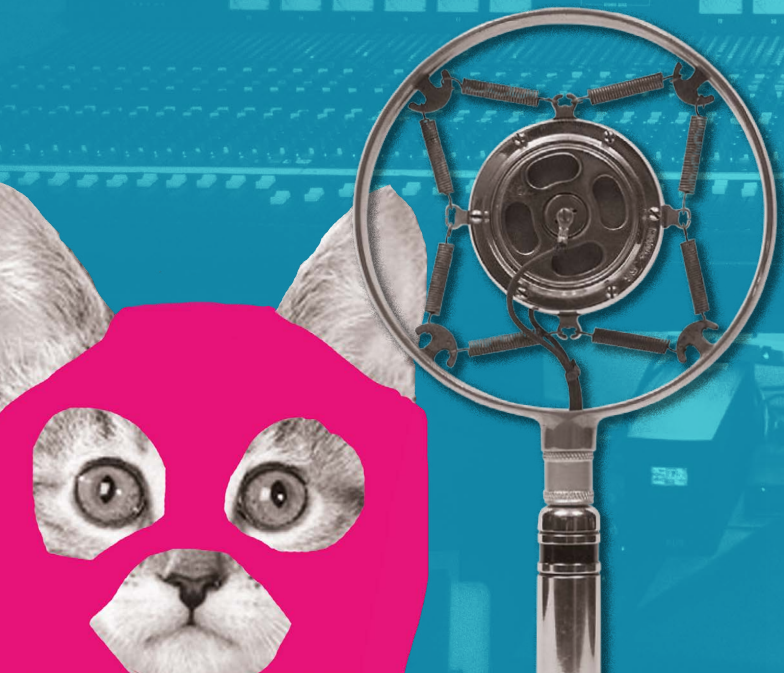
£6.95 /£5.50

age guidance 18+



sounds

queers in
your ears





The Kate Brennan Harding Music Podcast

Since its first episode in 2020 The Kate Brennan Harding Music Podcast has championed new music from north and south of the border and has quickly developed a following with Kate's warm and welcoming chat and stellar tuneage.

We're delighted the podcast is making its live debut at Outburst this year, with a live and intimate recording at Accidental Theatre. Featuring queer musicians and LGBTQI+ folk who work within the music industry, expect craic, great interviews and some of the best new queer music around.

Kate Brennan Harding is an award winning radio producer and broadcaster (Today FM, RTE) now working as a freelance producer. A queer activist since coming out at 17, she is also a live DJ, playing festivals and clubs for over 14 years. Kate will join us as our DJ on opening night at the Black Box.

when

Friday 12th November 6:00pm

where

Accidental Theatre + Online

duration

60mins

tickets

£5 limited in-person tickets

age guidance All Ages

POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE
POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE POZ VIBE



Poz Vibe Live

Poz Vibe is one of the most vital new podcasts to have emerged in recent years.

Join your hosts - Dublin cabaret icon Veda Lady and HIV activist and academic Robbie Lawlor for an intimate live recording of their radical new platform for HIV positive people, our friends, families & allies. This is only the duo's second ever live show, so they're cooking it up fresh but there'll be laughter and song, with just a little T spilt along the way.

By T we mean trauma.

Veda and Robbie like to think of their podcast as a HIV Kiki - a fun and frank, open chat about their experiences and the journey to acceptance and empowerment.

Positive vibrations only.

when

Thursday 18th November 6pm

where

Accidental Theatre + Online

tickets

£5 limited in-person tickets



Artwork: Isabella Anna Koban

Fist City Live

Country music is often side-lined one of the most heteronormative genres of music but we're going to turn that notion on its stetsoned head...

A regular Belfast-based Saturday night podcast on The 343 Radio, Fist City is made by folks who want to subvert the usual country music narrative by championing queer country artists and queering up tunes from past and present.

In this Outburst special live edition of the podcast at the Black Box, you'll be taken on a musical history tour of Queer Country from Wilma Burgess to Orville Peck and everywhere in between, with very special live performances by Irish Queer Country Duo, Cryan, and friends.

Think part Sunday matinee record club, part live performance, part TED talk, but with rhinestones.

Open to cowfolk of all ages, western wear is positively encouraged, as is dancing.

So get your fringed stetsons and pink cowqueer boots on and form a line....

when

Sunday 14th November, 3:30pm

where

The Black Box

tickets £5

age guidance All Ages

fourteen poems

Poems Over Scrolling with Fourteen Poems

Like Sylvia Plath reading Butt Magazine.

Outburst is thrilled to host a podcast with one of the most exciting queer poetry publications in the world. Based in London, Fourteen Poems is published three times a year, with the aim of bringing contemporary poetry into our everyday queer lives. It presents 14 of the best poets in the world each issue, with work on sex, love, race, gender and life in the global LGBTQI+ community.

Featuring the *Fourteen Poems* editor Ben Townley-Canning and three of the publication's recent contributors, Mícheál McCann, Rosamund Taylor and Padraig Regan, the podcast will feature readings as well as discussion on the importance of the places emerging for queer writing.

where

Online

when

From Saturday 20th November

tickets FREE (no booking required)



Artwork: Ruth McCarthy

The State of Us:

Art, Queers and the State Podcast

In this Outburst podcast special, we explore the role of queer art and artists in addressing issues of power, control, censorship and social change.

We'll be pre-recording a conversation between some of the artists appearing in this year's festival and we invite you to submit your questions and comments in advance. We will also create opportunities for additional artists to contribute throughout the week.

Details via our website www.outburstarts.com

where & when
Podcast available on our website from Saturday 20th November.

brewin'

tasters from treats
still cookin' in the pot





An Cailín Dalba

We're excited to support our first bilingual Irish / English commission, presented as a work in development by one of our alumni from last year's Transforming Stages programme.

Maoilfosa is updating the first piece of writing they did when they were 7.

They're thinking about a school blazer that didn't fit right, a run-in on a bus pilgrimage to Medjugorje and what it meant to be "an cailín dalba": the bold girl. Chaotic rhymes and playful rants explore gender identity, social class, the Irish language and REALLY hating being told what to wear.

Maoilfosa NicÉadaoin is a gender fluid performance poet and writer from rural mid-Antrim, now living in Belfast. This is their first solo show and will be further developed in 2021.

when

Tuesday 16th November, 7:00pm

where

The Black Box

tickets £5

age guidance 16+

TRANSFORMING STAGES



Transforming Stages: the new trans playbook

Transforming Stages is an initiative that started last year in partnership with Transgender NI, with the aim of supporting trans theatre writers and performers and working for better trans and non binary representation on our stages.

Facilitated by playwright Pea Dineen, we're excited to continue the project this year with a new group of young and emerging trans and non binary stage writers. Building on workshops, and mentorship sessions from established theatre and performance practitioners, the focus this year is on new writing.

Join us for a reading of four 10 minute works in development. All are welcome but we particularly welcome attendance from trans folks and artists and writers who can offer constructive feedback to help the writers to develop the works further.

Featuring New Writing From:

Rose Coogan
Aoife O'Connor
Isaac Quinn
Kit Rees

Part of Outburst Development Day, in partnership with Queen's University Belfast School of Arts, English and Languages / Queer at Queen's

The Transforming Stages development project is supported by the Public Health Agency through the Clear Project



when

Saturday 20th November,
1:30pm

where

Brian Friel Theatre (QFT Building)

tickets £5 (for full access to Development Day)

age guidance 14+



Q@Q

New Queer Works

Each year Outburst issues an open call as part of our programme, encouraging artists and performers working at all levels of experience to share work or pitch for a festival commission. This year we had an unprecedented number of submissions, which is telling of the amount of passion and number queer talents now emerging from this small place.

In response to the loss of time, space and resources for making work that many artists have had to endure over the last two years, this year we offered micro commissions to seven artists to support the early stage development of new works in stage and screen:

[Neil Keery](#), [Electra La Cnt](#), [Anthony Ferguson](#), [Colm McCready](#) & [Fergus W Kelly](#), [Conor Cupples](#) and [Colum McElwee](#).

The aim is to develop the work further beyond the festival, so come join us for short excerpts from some of the works as part of our works-in-progress sharing day for queer artists.

Part of Outburst Development Day, in partnership with Queen's University Belfast School of Arts, English and Languages / Queer at Queen's

when

Saturday 20th November,
12:00pm

where

Brian Friel Theatre (QFT Building)

tickets £5 (for full access to
Development Day)

duration 60mins

age guidance 14+



Q@Q

The Gospel of National Virility

by Stefan Fae

One of our favorite sparking faeries, Stephen Quinn (aka Stefan Fae) has been listening to Bad Gays, the brilliant podcast on evil and complicated gays in history. Researching for his project at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, he's also been reading up on General Eoin O'Duffy, a prominent figure from the Irish Civil War/War of Independence. After establishing the short-lived, Irish fascist "Blueshirt" party in 1932, O'Duffy went on to found Fine Gael, the centre-right political party in government in the Republic today. According to his alleged lover and co-founder of Dublin's Gate Theatre, Micheál Mac Liammóir, O'Duffy also experienced same-sex desire, something he deeply repressed during a lifetime of being obsessed with "clean masculinity". Fast forward to 2017 and Fine Gael's Leo Varadkar becomes Ireland's first openly gay Taoiseach (Prime Minister) with deeply conservative views and policies...

Part TED talk, part cabaret, this early stage sharing is part of a process of posing difficult questions about difficult gays. What can we learn from "bad" historical figures who also happen to experience same-sex desire? What happens when nuanced and complicated queer narratives are side-lined by moves to the centre - or even the right - through assimilation or political conservatism? Let Stefan Fae grab you by the pearls and help you unpick knotted chains of sex, power and masculinity.

Part of Outburst Development Day, in partnership with Queen's University Belfast School of Arts, English and Languages / Queer at Queen's

Project funded by
the Abbey Theatre
/ Amharclann na Mainistreach.



when

Saturday 20 November
3pm

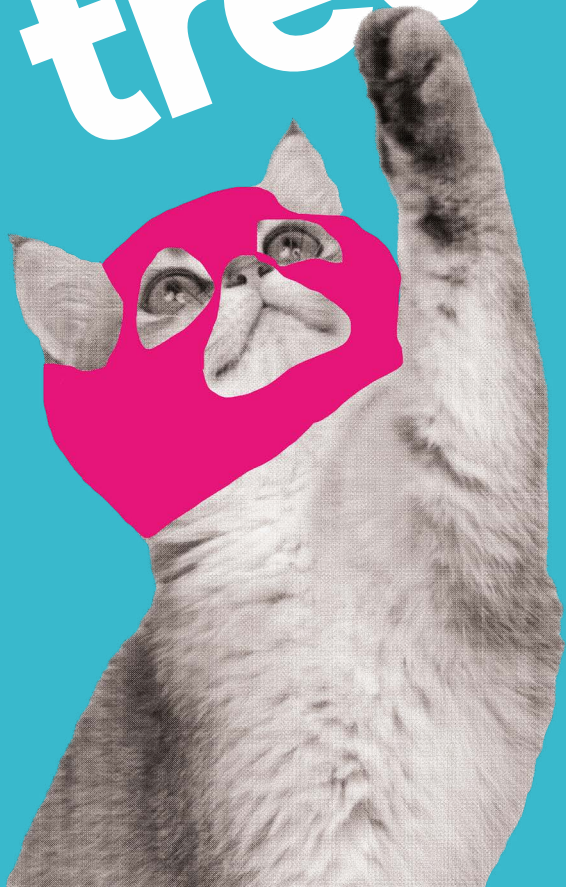
where

Brian Friel Theatre

tickets £5 (full day admittance)

duration 45 mins

other treats



Queer Art Market



What do you buy for the queer who has everything (besides a badge saying "I have everything")? Some lovingly made artisan queer treasures of course!

Queer photographers, designers, knitters, painters, and crafters of all kinds set their stalls out for one day only in the Sunflower Bar garden. Come support local queer artists and makers and getcha alternative Chr*stm*s and solstice shopping done early.

The market will be outside and cash only, so smash open that piggy bank, hoke out that tenner you found in your coat pocket and make sure to wrap up warm.

when

Saturday 13th November,
9:00am - 2:00pm

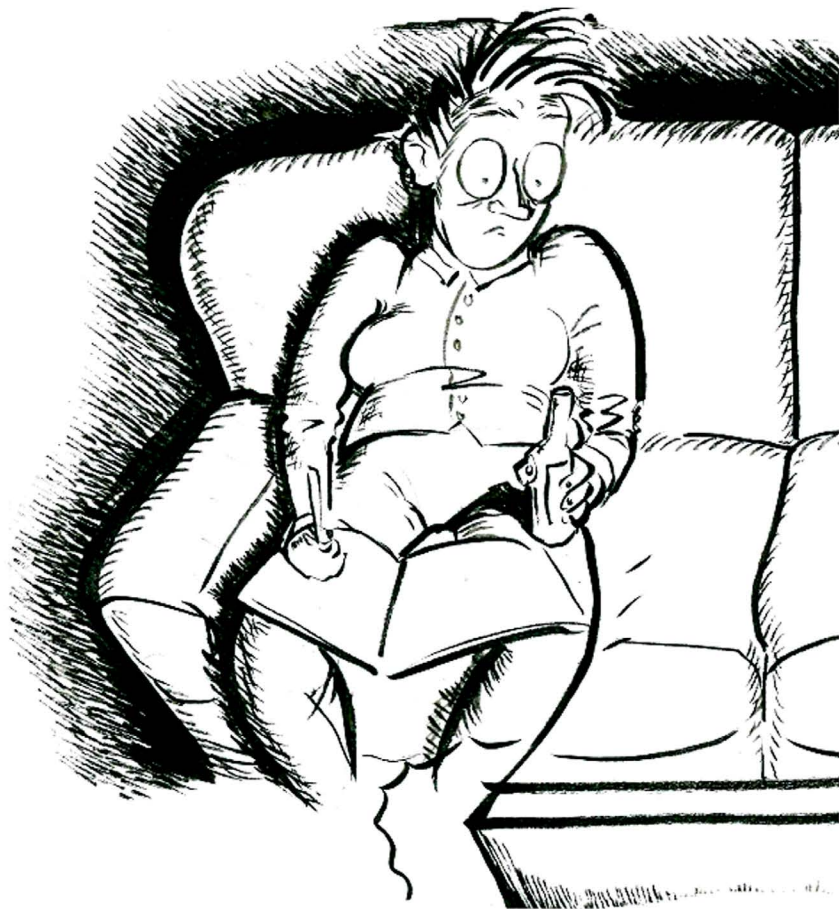
where

The Sunflower

Tickets FREE (no booking required)

age guidance All ages

Helen Gomez Cartoons



Helen Gomez is a Belfast-based LGBT+ cartoonist, zine-maker and multidisciplinary artist. Commissioned by Outburst, this series of large scale cartoon works responds not only to the themes of this year's festival, but also to Helen's recent experiences of adapting their art practice after becoming disabled, having contracted long Covid in March 2020.

Influenced by queer and indie autobiographical comics, punk zines and animation, and focusing on post-capitalism, trans rights, crip theory, housing and welfare rights and projects to support the local artist economy, Helen is one of the most vital queer cartoonist emerging from the burgeoning scene in Belfast.

They are supported in this project by production assistant Sam Mulrine.

where

The Black Box Green Room

when

12th-20th November

REBEL DYKES

Selections from The Rebel Dykes Art & Archive Show + Gathering

The Rebel Dykes History Project collects, preserves and explores the history of the Rebel Dykes LGBTQ social justice and liberation movement. We use the Rebel Dykes archive to: stimulate intergenerational debate and community; inspire lesbian and bisexual women (cis/trans/nb); work with academics to ensure the Rebel Dykes are included in history; work with artists, musicians, filmmakers and performers to create artworks; reignite and reinvent Rebel Dykes community in order to fight isolation amongst younger and older dykes and allies.

We are so thrilled to work with Siobhan Fahey and others from the Rebel Dykes History Project to bring a selection of creative works from this incredible collection - mostly housed at the Bishopsgate Institute - to Belfast for Outburst. Featuring photographs, stunning crafts and radical art videos from the 80's and 90's, this show is a punk dyke time machine that confirms how the DIY and collective ideals of radical dyke culture reverberate and are as relevant today.

See website for details of participating artists.

Join folks from the Rebel Dykes project and film for a fun, relaxed dyke gathering and sharing on intergenerational creative archiving : Saturday 13th Nov, 3-5pm at the gallery.

The award winning Rebel Dykes film screens at QFT at 6.15 Sunday 14th Nov. See SCREEN section for details.

Original exhibition Curated by Atalanta Kernick and Kat Hudson
Produced by Siobhan Fahey from REBEL DYKES HISTORY PROJECT CIC



when

Friday 12th - Saturday 20th November

where

Golden Thread Gallery
Gallery opening times: Tuesday to Friday 11am – 5pm,
Saturday 11am – 4pm

tickets FREE (No booking required)

Image: from Dyke Tales,
footage from Michele Hickson



Q@Q

Queer at Queen's 2021

Queer at Queen's is your annual festival fix of new and emerging scholarship from NI in gender and queer studies.

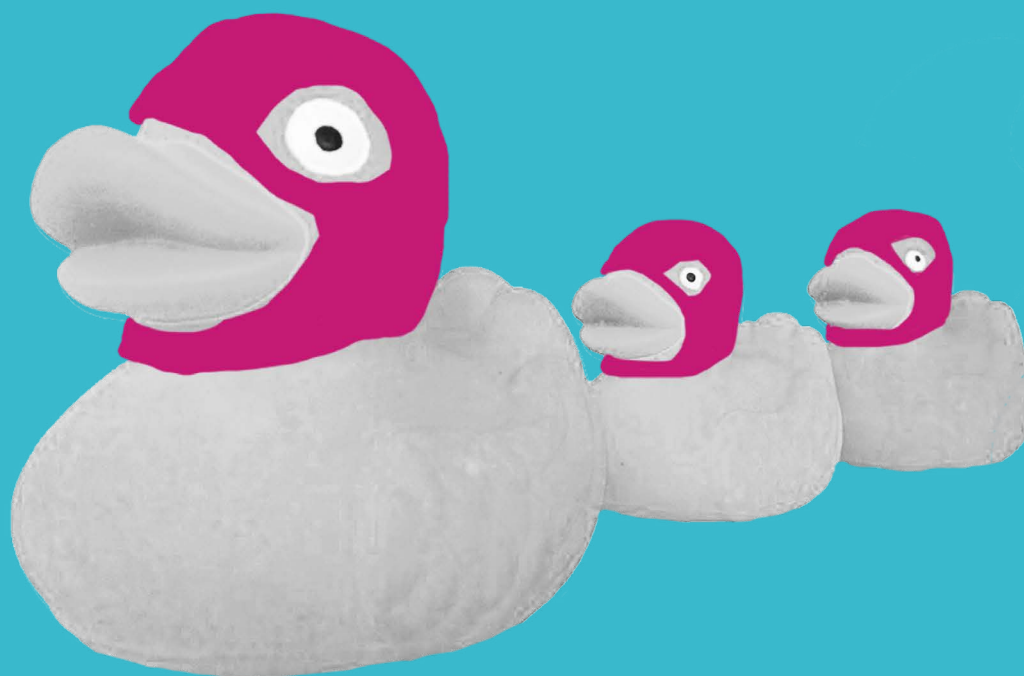
Focusing on work from Queen's University Belfast, these sharings are geared towards students, teachers, academics and anyone interested in the field of new queer thinking.

The session will include a New Work in Gender Studies panel, Wednesday 17th 4-6pm, happening simultaneously via Microsoft Teams and in person.

This year's Q@Q will also include a very special in-person talk from writer and activist Sarah Schulman exclusively for students, along with a screening of the film ACT UP United in Anger, which Sarah co-produced with Jim Hubbard.

For registration and further details of speakers and events, please email t.mctighe@qub.ac.uk

Queer at Queen's is delivered in partnership with Queen's University Belfast Drama Studies at the School of Arts, English and Languages



Give a little something...



For 15 years Outburst has been commissioning and supporting vital new work by local and international queer artists; plays, performances and ideas that open up conversations, explode stale notions and sparkle with new possibilities. We want to keep doing that and we'd love your help.

Outburst is a registered charity and donations of any size are amazing to get, not only the cash but knowing that our work matters to you. You can give something as a one-off or you can support us regularly through monthly / annual donations, or through any charitable schemes your workplace might offer.

The Cat's Pyjamas

If you don't have spare cash your support might be sharing posts on socials, encouraging friends to attend our shows and events. To find out more about volunteering, contact hello@outburststarts.com - we'd love to hear from you.

Adopt a Kitty

Adopt a Kitty is our new friends scheme and one of the best ways to give a boost to our work Outburst.

Along with the warm furry feeling of being part of something vital, you can get special one-off tote and /or early access to and occasional discounts and exclusives on tickets and events. You know it's going to involve cat merch.

Find out about different ways to support at

outburststarts.com/support/

outburststarts.com