SUNFLOWER

PUBLIC HOUSE AND LIVE MUSIC



OUTBURST

QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

BELFAST 9-18 NOVEMBER 2023

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

Outburst creates vital space for risk taking creativity and free expression for artists. The ideas and viewpoints expressed through festival events are not necessarily shared or endorsed by funders and partners.



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EVENT & VENUE PARTNERS





































THANK YOU!

Outburst Queer Arts Festival is made possible through the open and generous support of so many partners, friends, allies, supporters and co-conspirators. A huge heartfelt thanks to all who have tagged along with us throughout the year, whether for a one-off exchange of brilliant ideas over coffee, helping us make connections to new folks around the world, a bit of practical help with something, or ongoing encouragement to have big bold notions. Special thanks to:

Colette Norwood at British Council NI, Kurt Taroff, Trish McTighe, Pedro Donald, Rachel & Glenn at SHC, Cian Smyth at UU, Chris at Bullitt Hotel, all at Black Box, Caroline at Beannchor, Bullhouse Brewery, Mary, Brona, Maeve, Sarah & all the team at Arts & Business NI, Chris, Erika, Christine & all in BCC Arts & Culture, Michael at QFT, Heather & Ivens at Nebula, Jon Opie, Lilli Geissendorfer, Üla Tornau, Sonia Mehta at Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Siobhan & all at Arts Council NI, Monica Pearl, Ren & Fern at PaperxClips, Erich and Jonathan Wilgenbus-Lamb & friends, Li Kerner & Violeta Uman at FAQ, Helena & Jvoti in Kathmandu. Deputy Lord Mayor Aine Groogan.

Extra special thanks and big love to our brilliant Volunteer Team, we couldn't do it without you being fierce and lovely in your kitty tees.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

BOX OFFICE

Visit our website to book tickets for all events.

www.outburstarts.com

Coming to multiple Outburst shows?

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

After you book, you will receive an email ticket. Please read all of the details on your confirmation email, as there may be important access information relating to your specific event.

CONTACT US

General Festival, Box Office & Ticketing queries

hello@outburstarts.com

For festival updates and news, join us on socials. Share your thoughts and images from events and tag us!

#outburst23







TICKET PRICING

Arts is for everyone and all are welcome at Outburst.

We have lots of free events and always keep our ticket prices as low as we can, while ensuring artists and workers are paid fairly. We understand that a lack of cash can sometimes make it hard to experience as much of the festival as you'd like to. So, if your kitty bank isn't as full as you need it to be, we have a number of £5 access tickets you can book. If that's still a stretch for you, there are some free tickets you can get hold of. If you need one of these, use promo code **catnip** to access these on the booking links.

ACCESS

All Outburst venues have access for wheelchair users.

Free tickets are available for personal assistants accompanying those with access needs.

Braille programme information, audio description, and BSL/ISL translation are available on request for some events, with advance booking for these services essential at least two weeks before the events.

Please contact hello@outburstarts.com to make arrangements 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, 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 partners to ensure that there are all-gender toilets 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, as many of them are brand new and being performed for the first time, so allow for small changes.

We offer content information on event pages on our website for shows where we've been advised by artists of content that some folks may find upsetting or sensitive, so you can make an informed decision about attending before booking.

While some events don't have official age guidance ratings, we offer recommendations for most Outburst events. This is based on venue's own regulations (for example, after 8pm for venues serving alcohol), suitability of 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



FESTIVAL VENUES

BLACK BOX

18-22 Hill St. BT1 2LA Tel: 028 9024 4400

QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE (QFT) & BRIAN FRIEL THEATRE

20 University Square, BT7 1PA Tel: 028 9097 1097 (QFT only)

SUNFLOWER BAR

65 Union Street, Belfast, BT1 2JG Tel: 028 9023 2474

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

9 Princes Dock Street, BT1 3AA

LYRIC THEATRE

55 Ridgeway St, Belfast BT9 5FB

PAPERXCLIPS

Blackstaff Mill, 81 Springfield Rd, BT12 7AE

AN CULTÚRLANN

216 Falls Rd, Belfast BT12 6AH

PORTVIEW TRADE CENTRE

310 Newtownards Rd. Belfast BT4 1HE

THE SONIC LAB, SARC

Cloreen Park, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5HN

QUB GRADUATE SCHOOL

(Upstairs, Room TR7) University Road, Belfast BT7 1NN

ULSTER UNIVERSITY

York St, Belfast BT15 1ED

ARTCETERA

43B Rosemary St, Belfast BT1 1QB



Each year when we programme the Outburst Queer Arts Festival, we always try to leave plenty of space around events for people to just talk to each other. Whether it's in a giddy queue for a cabaret, or tipsily packed around the ashtray outside the Black Box, or at an intense panel discussion, the act of talking to each other, beyond screens and preconceptions, is one of the most important and radical things we can do right now. In a political and cultural climate that is increasingly polarised and fuelled by disinformation, it is our artists, writers and dreamers who can get us talking and thinking together in new ways that will shift the tide.

Our 17th edition of Outburst feels like the most vital and urgent yet. From challenging new works like *The Headless Soldier* that refocuses the queer gaze, to the audacious hope of a project like Juntes that dares us to change the conversation, we are excited to welcome artists and visitors from across the planet who are making brave moves to share some truths at a time when it feels like truth has lost its currency.

This Outburst, we invite you to talk. Go to something at the festival you might not usually consider going to and then talk about it. Talk about it with someone you know and with someone you don't know. Talk about what seems impossible and find someone to talk to who suddenly makes it seem totally possible.

Art can do that.

love and solidarity

Ruth McCarthy

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
OUTBURST ARTS

Chairperson's Welcome

The energy, enchantment and arguments of queer arts are needed now more than ever, and the seventeenth Outburst Queer Arts Festival shows us why. The Festival is the centrepiece of a year-round programme of exchange, research and creation deeply rooted here in Belfast but with lively and intense connections around the world. Queer expression is thrillingly ablaze and is enriching life way beyond queer communities, whilst in so many places (the list gets longer and longer) queer people are in more danger and queer perspectives are under attack. The arts more widely are under explicit attack in some places, or their long-term viability is being undermined by short-term political expediency in others.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I congratulate the whole Outburst Arts team on a 2023 Festival programme which confronts these challenges and nourishes new creation and debate. I thank all the partners, funders and allies who make our work throughout the year and our fabulous Festival possible. To the artists who are at its core I offer deepest respect and gratitude.

Warmest thanks and many welcomes to the audiences from Belfast and beyond who can be relied on to bring energy, enchantment and arguments all their own.

David Codling

CHAIRPERSON OUTBURST ARTS





Thirst trappy queer performances & happenings



The Belfast Ensemble & Outburst Arts present

The Headless SoldierBy Conor Mitchell & Mark Ravenhill

I want us - you, me - Zachary - to build a wall against the world.

Far away, a war rages. Here, everything is perfect. Or is it? In this world premiere, two of our most vital and influential creative queer voices join forces for a three-part operatic first. Mark Ravenhill (*Shopping and F*cking*) and Conor Mitchell's (*Abomination, a DUP opera*) piercing new work looks beneath the perfect lives of Helen, her husband, Thomas and their haunted son. Zach – finding a hidden, much closer war.

The latest collaboration between the award-winning Belfast Ensemble and Outburst Queer Arts Festival, this powerful triptych of short operas is performed in one night, blending multi-media with live performance, international soloists and chamber orchestra.

All performances will be captioned.

Content Information: Flashing images or strobe lighting; strong language and slurs.

Music | Conor Mitchell Libretto | Mark Ravenhill

A co-production between The Belfast Ensemble & Outburst Arts for Outburst Queer Arts Festival.

Supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council & The Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

WHEN Thurs 9 - Sat 11 Nov 19:30
WHERE Lyric Theatre
TICKETS £15 - £32
DURATION 90 mins
AGE GUIDANCE 16+



Dóchas Na Caillí

The Witches' Hope

The far right has infiltrated the mainstream, hard won rights are being snatched and we're waiting on a revolution that seems both inevitable and impossible. But how do you change the world when you can't trust the people around you?

You're sleeping in a bookshop. Toying with anarchy. Having a cosy relationship with psychedelics. And you're fed up with the wait for late stage capitalism to come crumbling down.

Elsewhere, in a mythological past, a bitter old druid has embarked on a twisted quest to get himself some new trinkets, and it's going to take some magic to stop him.

Dúirt bean liom go ndúirt bean lei... What do you believe? What's in a story?

A non-binary storyteller who writes in Irish and English, Maoilíosa NicÉadaoin performs a candid, timely and poetic new work of re-imagined folklore, delivered as gaeilge, with spoken word storytelling and some good old fashioned ranting delivered in the language of the oppressor.

Dóchas na Caillí will be performed part in English and part in Irish. To avoid compromising the original meaning, the Irish elements won't be directly translated but a summary will be provided to audiences in advance to assist understanding.

Content Information: Contains strong language and references to drug use

Maoilíosa will join members of Aerach Aiteach Gaelach after their Outburst show on Tuesday 14th November at Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, to discuss making queer work in the Irish language. For details, see page 18.

WHEN Fri 10 Nov 19:30
WHERE Black Box
TICKETS £10
DURATION 70 mins
AGE GUIDANCE Strictly 18+

Dóchas na Caillí was developed through the Outburst / Jerwood Arts Tongue + Heart Artist Development Programme, supported by Jerwood Arts, with additional support from Arts Council of NI.

JERWOOD ARTS





Catflap #3

We invite you to worship at the altar of poets and performers, as we congregate by candlelight once again to celebrate the launch of catflap #3 in the beautiful environs of St. Joseph's Church in Sailortown.

Packed full of queer ideas, poetry and essays and with stunning design by Other Office, catflap is Outburst's annual periodical of new queer writing from around the world.

Our third issue features contributions from Lauren John Joseph, Richard O'Leary, Zara Meadows, taking in cybersex, storytelling, Derek Jarman and, as always, a bit of disco heart.

To lead us in queer prayer, we're excited to welcome poets featured in the issue, Zara Meadows, Laima Kreivyte, Bebe Ashley and Anna Loughran, followed by hot queer music and performances from artists, including South African singer Umlilo.

Umlilo is presented in partnership with British Council

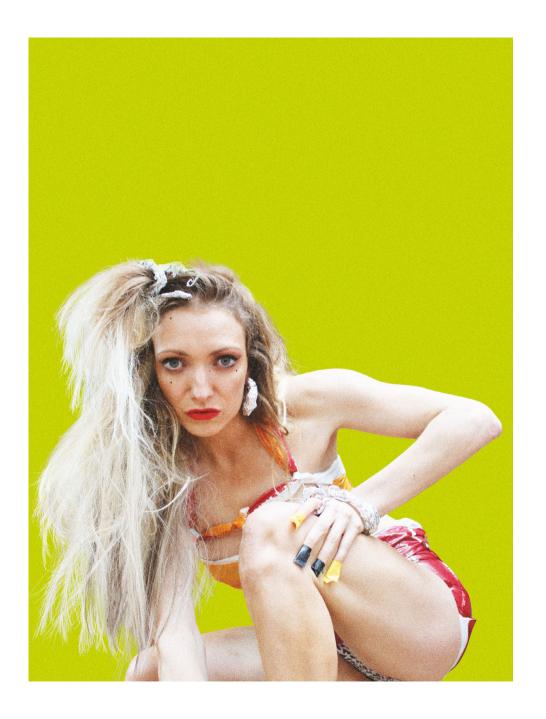


WHEN Sat 11 Nov 19:30 **WHERE** St. Joseph's Church

TICKETS £18 with Catflap publication / £10 event only

DURATION 120 mins

AGE RECOMMENDATION Strictly 18+



Lucy & Friends

Fresh from a glorious run at Edinburgh Fringe, Lucy McCormick is back with her most ambitious medium-concept catastrophic show yet.

Join Lucy as she unveils her new ensemble cabaret tent spectacular... unfortunately, she has no friends, no money, and no tent. Still, there'll be pole dancing, variety acts, strip routines, and some quick reworking of social policy. In a despairing world, Lucy attempts to create community, connection, and conversation the only way she knows how.

Content Information: Contains strong language, adult content and nudity.

CREATOR AND PERFORMER Lucy McCormick
DIRECTOR Ursula Martinez PRODUCER Philippa Barr
LIGHTING DESIGNER & TECHNICAL OPERATOR Sorcha Mae Stott-Strzala
PRODUCTION SUPPORT Stef Felton DRAMATURG Claudia Palazzo

McCormick is a master of this uncomfortable uncertainty... The way she plays with power and authenticity is part of what makes her shows so addictive.

The Guardian



All hail the queen of alt gay cabaret – shameless, unhinged, and quite brilliant. The Skinny



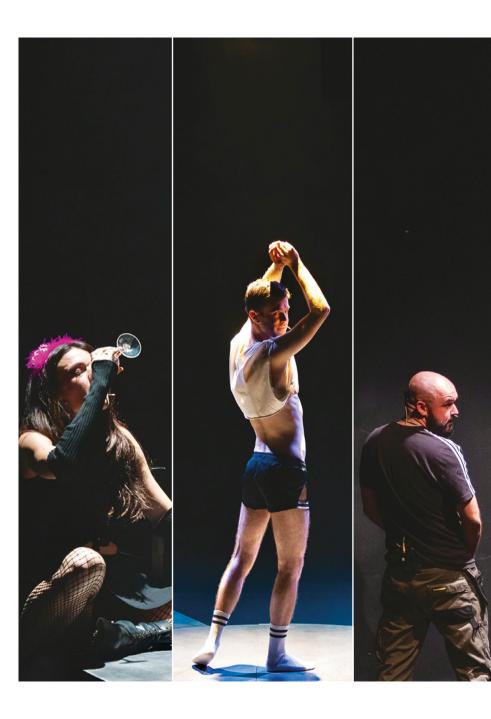


Reviews Hub

Lost in Theatreland

WHEN Sun 12 Nov 20:00
WHERE Black Box
TICKETS £16
DURATION 60 mins
AGE GUIDANCE Strictly 18+

Commissioned by The Yard Theatre. Supported by Soho Theatre, The Pleasance, Cambridge Junction, Colchester Arts Centre & Norwich Arts Centre.



Grindr Saghdar Agus Cher

Three interwoven monologues. Three LGBTQ+ characters. One fateful night in a queer bar.

Tarraingíonn fear tuaithe anáil dhomhain agus tógann sé a chéad chéim riamh thar an tairseach isteach i mbeár aerach. Fulaingíonn leispiach imeacht 'Build-a-Willy' ag cóisir cearc le scata ban díreach. Tugann fear aiteach atá sa tóir ar an gcraiceann bearradh gruaige dó féin nach bhfeicfidh ach fear amháin eile...

A country man breathes deep and takes his first step across the threshold of the city's gay bar. A lesbian woman grimaces her way through a Build-a-Willy event at her straight friend's hen party. A scene queen gives himself a haircut that only one other man will see...

Outburst is delighted to partner with AerachAiteachGaelach and Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, to present a funny, sexy, reflective and dangerous play, written and performed in Irish, with English surtitles.

Ciara Ní É, Eoin Mc Evoy agus Sam Ó Fearraigh a scríobh. Dráma i nGaeilge le fortheidil Bhéarla

QUEER ARTS AS GAEILGE

Beidh comhrá ag grúpa cruthaitheoirí tar éis an léirithe Dé Máirt ina bpléifidh siad an borradh atá tagtha faoin bpobal ealaíontóirí aiteacha atá ag saothrú i nGaeilge. Daoine iad seo atá tagtha le chéile chun saothair nua chorraitheacha a chruthú i nGaeilge, chun ár bpobal dátheangach a neartú agus chun cur i gcoinne aon réamhchlaontaí atá foghlamtha ag daoine faoi céard is cainteoir Gaeilge ann sna 2020idí.

The Tuesday evening performance will be followed by a post-show conversation in Irish about the growing movement of queer artists coming together to create exciting new work in the Irish language, to strengthen our bilingual community and to show that the Irish speakers of the 2020s are not what you might have been taught to expect...

WHEN Mon 13 / Tues 14 Nov 19:30
WHERE Cultúrlann McAdam
Ó Fiaich
TICKETS £12
DURATION 65 min

AGE GUIDANCE 16+

Arna mhaoiniú ag Foras na Gaeilge | Funded by Foras na Gaeilge









wet HEAT sweats without scent

We are delighted to present **Phillip McCrilly**'s *wet HEAT sweats without scent*, a Platform Commission originally presented as part of the 40th edition of EVA International, Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art.

Existing in a space somewhere between an undercover massage parlour the British Army set up in North Belfast in the 1970s, and a high camp adaptation of Nicolas Roeg's *Full Body Massage* (1995), *wet HEAT sweats without scent* is a series of scripted one-on-one massage treatments with accompanying refreshments.

Originally presented for EVA in a boutique hotel spa in Limerick City, the performance is reimagined within the context of a Belfast hotel room. Tapping into the associations of hotels as transitory spaces of fleeting connection, the work maps a history of intimacy and vulnerability against the backdrop of sectarian conflict, awkwardly meandering the North's Murder Triangle through horny hedgerows, and bespoke Orange Halls to speculate on potential forms of promiscuous care in the aftermath of 'The Troubles'.

Taking the shape of a scripted massage treatment, there will be a limited number of spaces available. Participants will be chosen from an open call and will experience a consultation, back and shoulder massage and refreshments during the 45 minute experience.

To register your interest, fill out the consultation form at wet-heat.com/register by 29 October. You must be over 18 to take part.

Performed by Janie Doherty.
Photography and Video by Eslam Abd El Salam.
Art Direction & Design by Dee Morgan.

WHEN Fri 10 & Sat 11 Nov Various Times WHERE Belfast location, details available on registration TICKETS Free (registration required) DURATION 45 min AGE GUIDANCE Strictly 18+

Phillip McCrilly is supported in this presentation of the work through the Outburst / Jerwood Arts Tongue + Heart Artist Development Programme, supported by Jerwood Arts.







Povilas Bastys

Resident Artist

We are delighted to welcome Lithuanian multidisciplinary artist Povilas Bastys as a guest artist in residence at Outburst this year.

With a background in contemporary dance, Povilas explores movement through the concept of transformation. Trained in classical ballet at the M. K. Čiurlionis National art school, he worked with acclaimed choreographers such as Mia Habib, and Yvonne Rainer before shifting his focus at the cabaret Mademoiselle in Brussels, where he established his alter ego, Miss Plastica.

Having explored Miss Plastica's performances in non theatre spaces such as music festivals and galleries, he found a pop culture-centred freedom for expression and possibilities and in those spaces and possibilities of. He is currently organising cabaret events in Lithuania, somewhere without its own history of cabaret, establishing spaces for alternative short performances.

His creative work for Outburst will respond to the city, its spaces and its energies.

We'll share details of his final performance on our socials as the work unfolds.

In partnership with the Lithuanian Cultural Attache in London and Lithuanian Culture Institute.





Brewing

We love Outburst to be a place for artists to try out new ideas, or to rework something they've been playing with for a while. Our Brewing showcase is just that, with five piping hot local artists showcasing short extracts of their work, each only 15 minutes to 30 mins, across performance, sound, and storytelling.

The emphasis is on support and queer critique and you are a vital part of that, creating space together for artists to find out how something feels with an audience, or feeding back to the artists informally after the event. A relaxed and popular event at the festival, Brewing is always full of surprises and brilliant new ideas, highlighting the depth and creativity of new and established queer talent in the North and seeding what may become a full work over the next year.

This year, we are delighted to share works from:

Calum McElwee

Gemma Hutton

Isaac Quinn

Nathan Martin

rit. & Peter O'Doherty.

A full schedule of time slots and details of works in development will be available on the Outburst website. There will be short breaks between works.

WHEN Sun 12 Nov 15:00
WHERE Brian Friel Theatre
TICKETS £10
AGE GUIDANCE 16+



Neverlandz

Welcome to Neverlandz, a new performance work by Thomas Wells.

This 'deconstructed trifle' is served alongside a journey of self-discovery and reflection in the heart of East Belfast's historic linen mill, weaving themes of industrial labour, sexual awakening, and dreamed decadence in this 'work in progress' piece.

The performance will start at 6pm and end at 8pm.

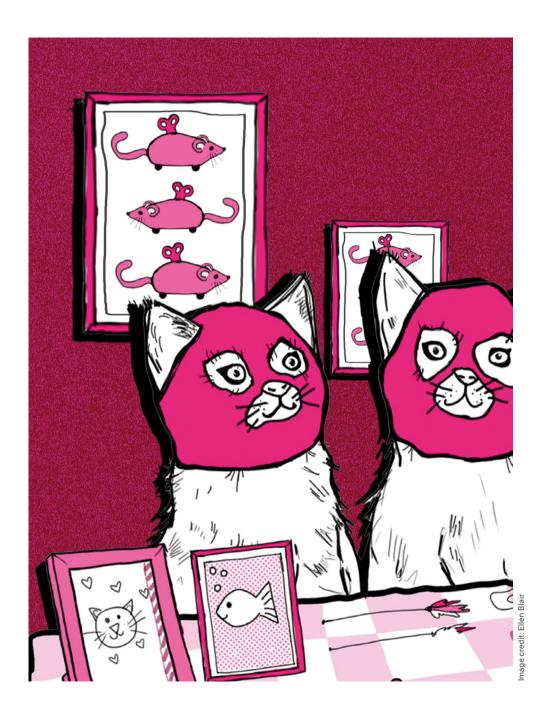
The audience is invited to join at any point in the evening as the performance will not follow any linear narrative. Please note that the mill has no heating, so wrap up warm!

Neverlandz was developed through the Outburst / Jerwood Arts Tongue + Heart Artist Development Programme, supported by Jerwood Arts.



JERWOOD ARTS

WHEN Tues 14 Nov 18:00
WHERE Portview Trade Centre
TICKETS Free (No booking required)
DURATION 120 mins
AGE GUIDANCE 18+



Queer Art Market

We had an amazing response to the Queer Art Market over the last two years, so we thought why not make it a trilogy, like The Matrix before they made the fourth one.

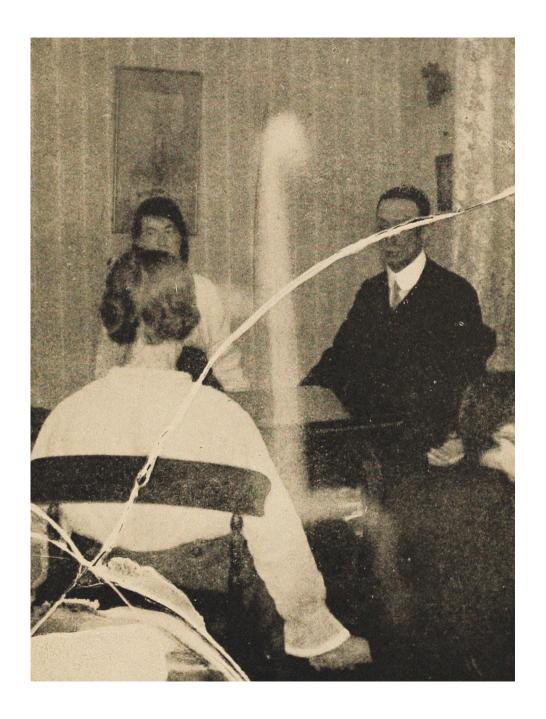
The third Outburst Queer Art Market at the Sunflower Bar showcases makers of all kinds, including photographers, painters, sculptors, knitters, t-shirt makers, crafters and printers.

You name it, they're setting up shop with it at this year's festival!

The market takes place across both Saturdays of the festival, with a total of 30 artists selling hot queer goodness. Whether you're treating yourself or stockpiling for the winter festivities, make sure to shake out your jeans for loose change as this is mostly a "cash only" event.

The market is outdoors, so wrap up warm and wear that lovely scarf!

WHEN Sat 11 & 18 Nov
WHERE Sunflower Bar
TIME 10:00 - 14:30
TICKETS Free (No booking required)



THE SONIC SÉANCE



Queer folks have always been more tuned into other dimensions than most, but did you know that there was a circle of queers in the early 20th century in Ulster who were involved in actual other-worldly research?

Queen's University Belfast (QUB) historian Maurice J. Casey, a researcher on the project *Queer Northern Ireland: Sexuality before Liberation*, recently uncovered a fascinating interlinked queer circle who explored the sounds of psychical research and attempted to scientifically prove connections between the earthly and spiritual worlds through séances.

Playing with new ways to excavate and share our hidden queer histories, Dr. Casey invites you into the Sonic Lab (a specialist acoustic space at SARC - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Sound and Music at Queen's), featuring 48 speakers which project and move sound 360 degrees around the space, providing a 'cinema for the ear'. Developed in collaboration with researchers at SARC, *The Sonic Séance* will recreate the voices, sounds and imagery of a lost queer world, creating a unique event and exciting new approach to storytelling.

Get ready for an out-of-the-ordinary encounter with Irish queer history!

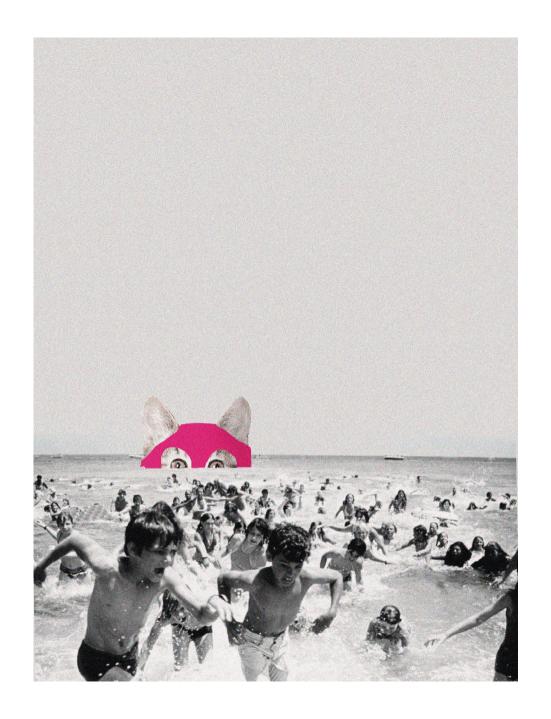
Please note that this event deals with adult themes and is not suitable for younger audiences.

Admission free but booking is essential, with a maximum of two tickets per booking.

Queer Northern Ireland is an AHRC-funded research project based at Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.

This event is based on research funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and organised in partnership with the Being Human Festival, the UK national festival of the humanities, led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, with support from Research England, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy.

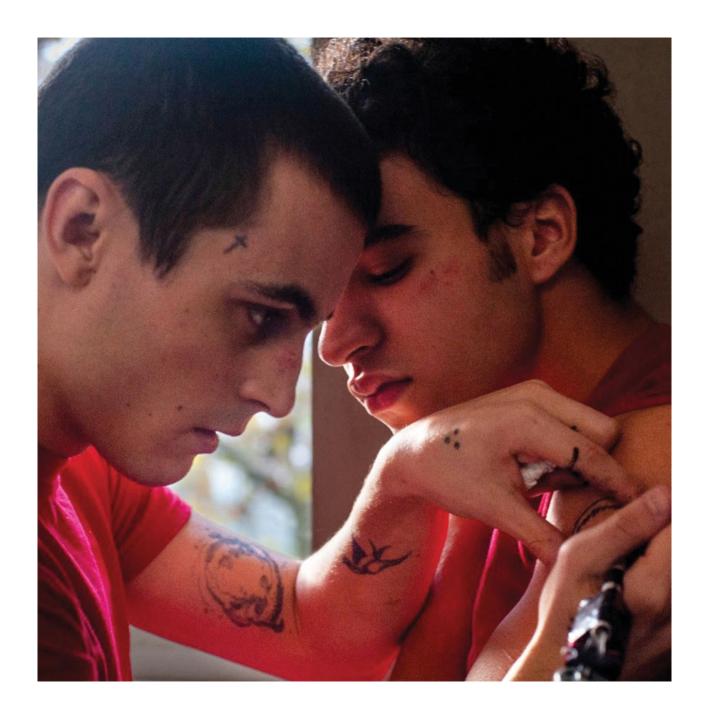
WHEN Thurs 16 Nov Multiple performances
16:30-17:00 | 17:30 - 18:00 | 18:30 - 19:00 | 19:30 - 20:00
WHERE The Sonic Lab, SARC TICKETS Free (Booking required)
DURATION 30 mins AGE GUIDANCE 18+





Shared in-the-dark pleasures, with the best in new queer cinema from around the world





The Lost Boys (Les Paradis)

Dir. Zeno Graton / 2023 / Belgium, France / 88 mins

Arab teenager Joe is about to be released from a youth detention centre. If the judge approves his discharge, he'll be allowed to live on his own. But when a new detainee, William, arrives in his facility, Joe starts to question his desire for freedom.

Featuring graceful performances from Khalil Gharbia and Julien de Saint Jean as the unexpectedly smitten young lovers, Zeno Graton's debut feature goes beyond the established tropes of prison dramas to bring us a deeply humane portrayal of the freedom and vulnerability that comes with intimacy. With nods to Jean Genet and *The 400 Blows*, *The Lost Boys* offers a fresh, tender and powerful take on youthful gay romance.

WHEN Sun 12 Nov 18:00
WHERE QFT
TICKETS £8.40 / £7 seniors / £4.50 concession
DURATION 88 mins
AGE GUIDANCE 15+





Rivière

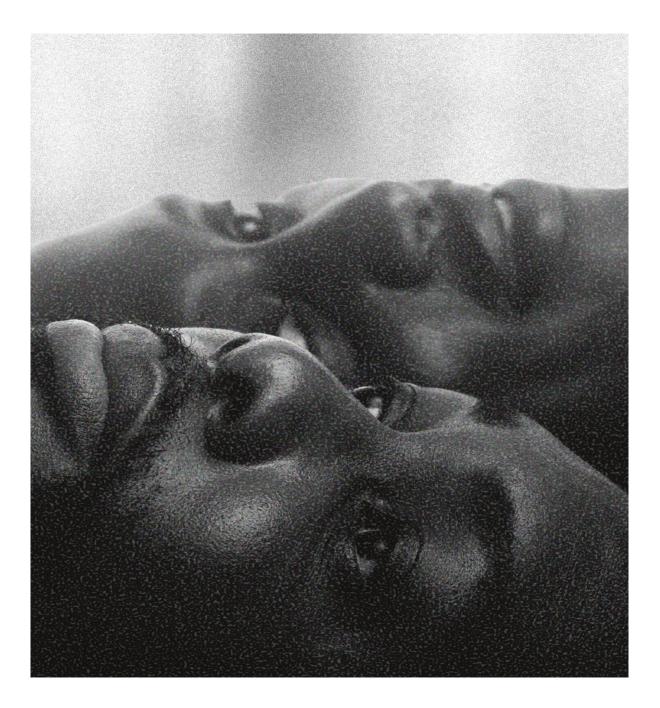
Dir. Hugues Hariche / 2023 / Switzerland, France / 105 mins

Seventeen-year-old Manon (Flavie Delangle) leaves the Swiss mountains determined to find her dad, who she hasn't seen in a long time. Willful and determined, she forms new bonds along the way and encounters her first love, all the while tenacious in following the path she has set herself on the ice: to become a professional hockey player.

Hariche's debut coming-of-age drama highlights the turbulence of adolescence, focusing on a queer sense of placelessness in a world that is simultaneously accessible and closed off to the opportunities you desire. *Rivière* centres that great sense of invincibility and teenage carefreeness brilliantly, allowing it's protagonist to push boundaries without fear of consequences.

WHEN Tues 14 Nov 18:00
WHERE QFT
TICKETS £8.40 / £7 seniors / £4.50 concession
DURATION 105 mins
AGE GUIDANCE 15+





All the Colours of the World are Between Black and White

Dir. Babatunde Apalawo / 2023 / Nigeria / 92 mins

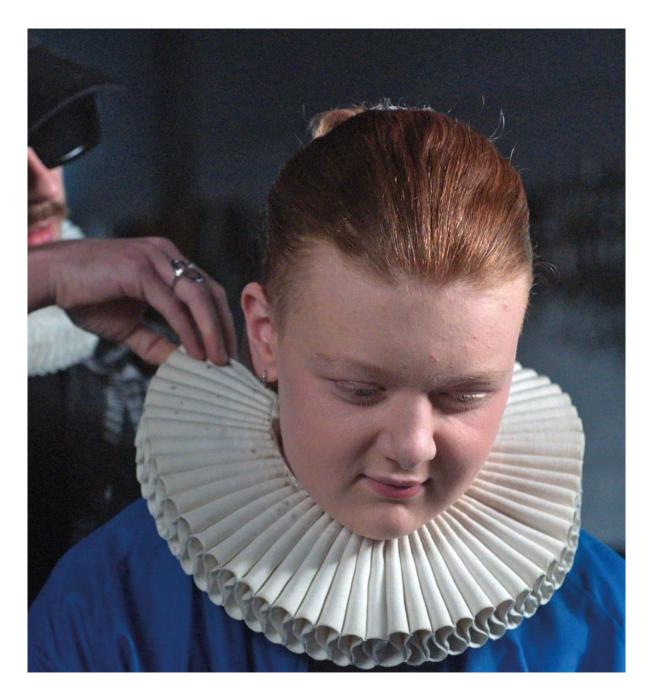
Bambino (Tope Tedela) is a delivery driver in the sprawling Nigerian metropolis of Lagos.

Quiet and generous, he's appreciated by the neighbourhood but keeps to himself. His neighbour Ifeyinwa's advances leave him cold, but when he meets the charismatic photographer Bawa (Riyo David), the two immediately make a connection. Their friendship grows as Bawa looks at Bambino through his camera lens, and it soon becomes clear that his feelings for Bambino are more than platonic. Their dance around each other unfolds slowly, as Bawa tries to make sense of a new kind of intimacy, beyond spoken identity or name.

Originally intended as a love-letter to Lagos itself, director Babatunde Apalowo reframed his debut feature as a gay love story after witnessing a homophobic attack on a friend. This beautifully shot, sensual yet restrained film deservedly won the 2023 Teddy Award for Best Feature Film, one of the most prestigious queer cinema prizes in the world. Nigeria is a country where homosexuality is illegal and punishable by prison (or death, in Shari'a states), making this a politically important film as well a deeply affecting story about finding love and connection where you least expect it.

WHEN Wed 15 Nov 18:00
WHERE QFT
TICKETS £8.40 / £7 seniors / £4.50 concession
AGE GUIDANCE 15+





junt*e*s

Orlando, my political biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique)

Dir. Paul B. Preciado / 2023 / France / 98 mins

Outburst is so excited to present a preview of one of the most hotly anticipated queer films of the year, as part of our Juntes programme.

In 1928, Virginia Woolf wrote *Orlando*, the first novel in which the main character changes sex in the middle of the story. A century later, trans writer, philosopher and activist Paul B. Preciado decides to send a film letter to Virginia Woolf: her Orlando has come out of her fiction and is living a life she could have never imagined...

With a cast made up entirely of 26 contemporary trans and non-binary people from ages 8 to 70, all of whom embody Woolf's Orlando, *Orlando, my political biography* is a confident and shamelessly clever blast of fresh air in contemporary queer cinema and a gamechanger in trans representation on screen. Winner of the prestigious Teddy Award for Best Documentary at the 2023 Berlinale, it's simultaneously punk and profound, poetic and hilarious, recognising the complexities of identity and the joys of seeing oneself, as well as reflecting, with beautiful utopian vision and hope, on the challenges we have to overcome to build a better world for Orlandos everywhere.

With thanks to Picturehouse.

WHEN Sat 18 Nov 18:00
WHERE QFT
TICKETS £8.40 / £7 seniors / £4.50 concession
DURATION 98 mins
AGE GUIDANCE 15+



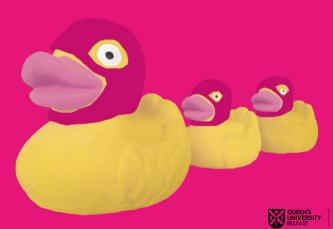


Outburst has been working in partnership with our friends and allies at Queen's University Belfast since the very start of the festival 17 years ago.

Queer at Queens (Q@Q) connects queer ideas and great art, with our co-presentations and partnership events opening up new worlds of knowledge sharing and generous opportunities to learn from each other.

This year we're delighted to work with more departments than ever, including The School of Arts, English and Languages Drama, The Seamus Heaney Centre and The School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy And Politics.

Check out our co-presentations wherever you see the Q@Q logo.



SUPPORTUS SOROTHY...

Outburst is a safe space for brilliantly dangerous ideas in art and we need that now more than ever.

Last year we supported over 150 artists, writers and crew members to share work across the festival and more than 100 local artists throughout the year in our development programmes. Outburst is a registered charity and we can only keep doing what we do thanks to the generous support of donors, funders and you, our audiences and community. So if you have something to spare...

- Feed the Kitty when you see her over the festival
- Click the Support Us button on our website and make a donation
- Scan the Support Us QR code at festival events
- When you buy tickets online, consider adding an extra pound or two when prompted

THANK YOU!

We love to build new support relationships with partners and businesses. Let's have a chat!

Email: hello@outburstarts.com





Making exhibitions of our selves



Alice O'Malley

Community of Elsewheres

Outburst is delighted to welcome one of the most vital contemporary queer photographers to Belfast for the first time, in partnership with Ulster University.

Alice O'Malley is known for her portraits of New York's most notorious downtown personalities. *Community of Elsewheres* is a queer intersectional space; a circle of celestial elders and underground angels that speak across generations. O'Malley's subjects are the artists, poets, eccentrics, and visionaries that inhabit the vibrant 21st century demi-monde of lower Manhattan.

The collection presents a new ecology, infused with ambiguous portrayals of gender and sexuality, and traces community as an elusive concept, defined not by bloodlines or institutions but by what friends do and make together.

O'Malley's use of an antique view camera, black-and-white film, natural light studios, and makeshift sets creates a dialogue with the historical conventions of portraiture. She cites E.J. Bellocq's portraits of prostitutes in New Orleans, c. 1917, as the starting point for her own body of work. Her first subjects were performers she knew from legendary New York nightclubs, including *Jackie 60, Clit Club, Squeezebox*, and *Club Casenova* and along with this stunning portrait collection, O'Malley presents a digital installation of 90's new york gay nightlife and activism in the smaller gallery as part of the show.

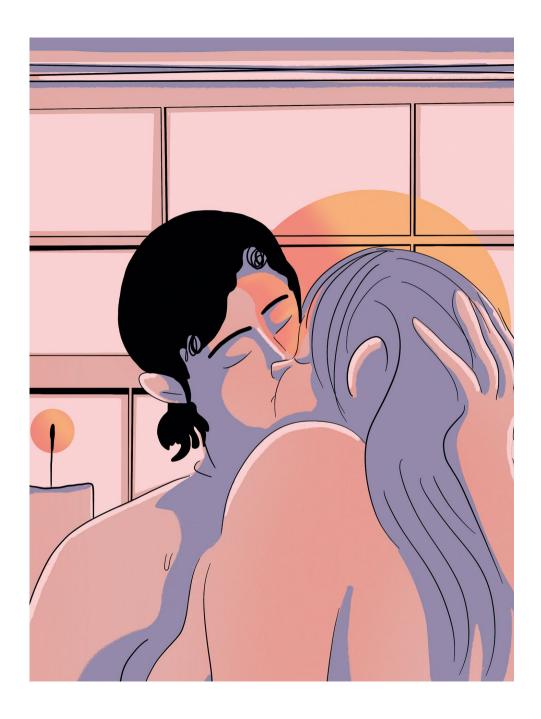
Alice O'Malley's photographs have been exhibited internationally and published widely, including The New York Times, Vogue and POP. She teaches at the International Center of Photography in Manhattan and is represented by John Marchant Gallery in Brighton.

Alice O'Malley in Conversation

Join Outburst and Alice O'Malley for a conversation about her work on Friday 10 November at 6.00pm, in Ulster University's main gallery

WHEN Mon 23 Oct - Thurs 30 Nov OPEN Mon - Fri 09:30 - 17:30 WHERE Ulster Presents Art Gallery, Ulster University.

TICKETS Free (No booking required) AGE GUIDANCE 18+



F/F: Fragments / Freeform

Elly Makem / EllyMakes

Outburst is excited to support this debut solo show by Elly Makem/ Elly Makes, vividly exploring sapphic intimacy, expression and desire.

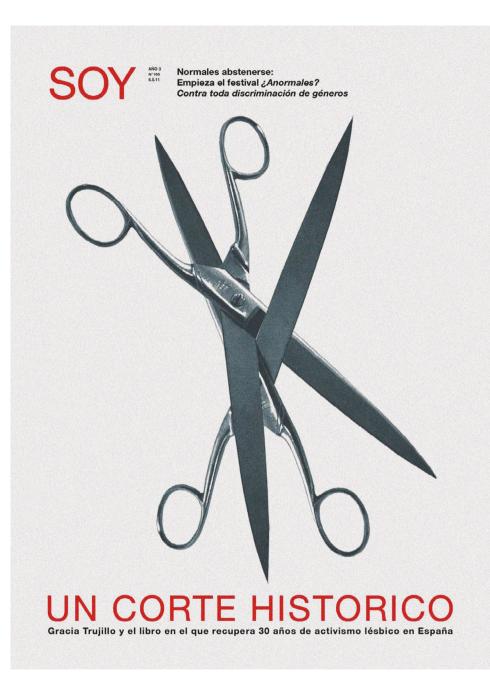
Femslash, commonly abbreviated as F/F, is lesbian or sapphic erotic fiction usually found online. Generally created by non professional writers and artists, or fans of fictional TV/ book/ film couples, for millennials and following generations, slash fiction is often the first portal to exploring queer sexuality and sex. Unlike mainstream porn, where images of women and non-binary people are constructed in most instances through a consumerist cisgender and heteropatricarchal male gaze, femslash offers a space for sapphics to create and own a self made, more empowering and hotter kind of sexuality.

Riffing on both F/F and early 1950s and 60s pulp and comicbook-esque dyke experience, transmasc artist Elly Makem presents a new body of works that depict lesbian and transmasculine sex in all its playful and transformative vulnerability. The illustrated love scenes are singular moments in time, fragments of experience that bring our real queer bodies and pleasures to life, beyond hetero fetisation and the "gal pal"ness of erased sexual histories.

F/F: Fragments / Freeform elevates DIY queer cultures, unedited and unrepentant in the vital spaces they create for our desires.

Content Information: Please note that this exhibition contains strong sexual references. Minors will not be admitted.

WHEN Fri 10 - Sat 18 Nov | Opening Thurs 9 Nov 18:00
OPEN Mon to Fri 11:00 - 17:00 | Sat 12:00 - 17:00
WHERE Artcetera Gallery
TICKETS Free (No booking required)
AGE GUIDANCE 18+



Between the SheetsThe Art of SOY

On 14 March 2008, the first edition of a newspaper supplement called SOY was published in Argentina as part of Página/12, one of the most important and widely read daily papers in the country. Dedicated to queer issues and ideas and distributed every Friday, SOY (meaning I am) became a sexual and political bombshell; irreverent, reflective and activist, featuring philosophical journalism and quality interrogative writing.

Since that first Friday, SOY has remained the only publication in the world written for and dedicated to a queer/cuir population and distributed free in a national newspaper. More than 700 issues have been published to date and the covers, by designer Alejandro Ros and SOY's founding editor Liliana Viola and always thought of as a kind of manifesto, are already a part of queer Argentina's history of struggle and joy.

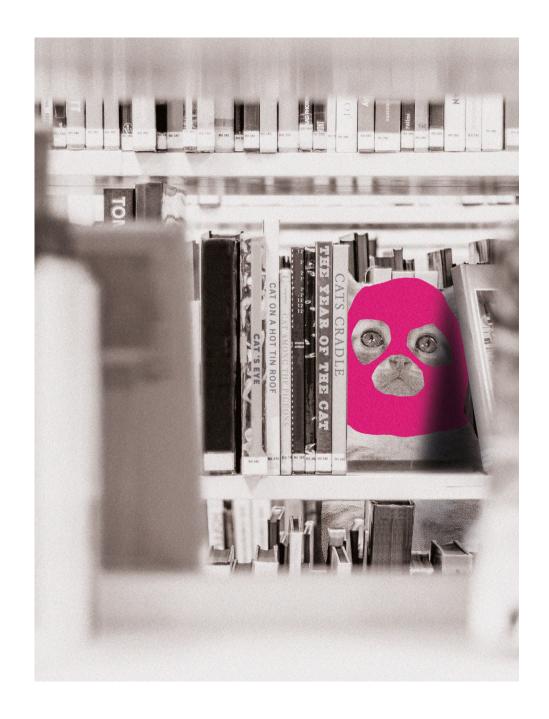
Outburst presents an exhibition of specially selected SOY covers by Liliana Viola and curator Natalia Mallo, that includes provocations on vital queer questions and ideas.

Presented in collaboration with Risco Festival, Brazil.

With thanks to FAQ Brandon, Buenos Aires.



WHEN Fri 10 - Sat 18 Nov | Opening Thurs 9 Nov 18:00
OPEN Mon to Fri 11:00 - 17:00 | Sat 12:00 - 17:00
WHERE Artcetera Gallery
TICKETS Free (No booking required)
AGE GUIDANCE 18+





Queer books and big ideas



Soula Emmanuel

One of our favourite books this year is *Wild Geese*, the beautifully studied debut novel by Irish writer Soula Emmanuel. Published by Footnote Press in 2023 and by the Feminist Press in the US and Canada, *Wild Geese* introduces us to Phoebe Forde, a 30 year old Irish emigrant to Copenhagen who's still settling into a new life and a new name. Almost three years into her gender transition, an unexpected visit from Grace, her first love, brings memories of Dublin and a life she thought she'd left behind. Over the course of a single weekend, their old romance kindles something sweet and radically unfamiliar, helping Phoebe navigate the jagged edges of migration, nostalgia and hope.

Funny, smart and full of tender observations around place, memory and belonging, *Wild Geese* marks the arrival of an exciting new queer talent in Ireland.

We're delighted to welcome Soula to the festival, in partnership with Paperxclips and Small Trans Library.

Soula will be in conversation with Limerick-born Belfast based poet William Keohane.

Small Trans Library is a combined lending library of over 600 trans and queerauthored books, with branches in Dublin, Belfast and Glasgow. They operate a mutual aid fund for trans people, and facilitate a host of community events, including book clubs, workshops and dance parties.

WHEN Sat 11 Nov 14:00
WHERE Paperxclips Bookshop
TICKETS £7
DURATION 60mins
AGE GUIDANCE 15+







Seán Hewitt

Queer Pasts

We're thrilled to welcome internationally acclaimed poet and memoirist Seán Hewitt to Outburst. A tender and luminous poet who won the Laurel Prize for his first collection of poetry, and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 2022 for his memoir *All Down Darkness Wide*, Hewitt's work finds light in the darkest and most unseeming places.

To be a queer artist is to have one eye on the past, an idea that connects two of Hewitt's most recent books, the heart-wrenching and Gothic *All Down Darkness Wide*, and his collaboration with Luke Edward Hall, 300,000 Kisses: Tales of Queer Love from the Ancient World. Hewitt's work considers the ghosts and friends and artists at his back and how we might find shelter in them.

Seán Hewitt will be in conversation with poet Mícheál McCann.

WHEN Mon 13 Nov 19:30 WHERE Black Box TICKETS £7 DURATION 60mins AGE GUIDANCE 18+



Orla Egan

Comix, histories and activism: Diary of an Activist talk and workshop

Diary of an Activist is a gorgeous graphic intergenerational collaboration between Cork activist and archivist Orla Egan and artist Megan Luddy. An illustrated memoir of social activism that takes in lesbian parties, CND protests and Greenham Common, coming out and being a parent, the book vividly brings to life the realities of activism in Ireland before mobile phone and social media through often hilarious and deeply recognisable queer stories and experiences.

Orla will join Outburst and PaperXClips to talk about how she created the book and the importance of capturing our queer stories.

And why not bring some of your own queer history to life?

After the chat with Orla, the brilliant Belfast Comic Jam will hold a festival special edition drawing session where you can create some of your own stories for a special edition zine that we'll produce afterwards! Just come along and we'll supply the materials if you don't have your own.





WHEN Wed 15 Nov 18:00
WHERE Paperxclips Bookshop
TICKETS £7
AGE GUIDANCE 18+



Everyone's a Critic!

Festival Salon Special: Let's do Queer Critique

One of the most supportive things we can do for artists, along with making sure they have resources to create, is to talk about their work. Critique is not all about shade and sass, it's about using your instincts, experiences and insights to give artists' ideas a life beyond the stage or page. Critical response is a vital part of the the arts ecosystem and here at Outburst we love to see you getting excited about the ideas that artists encourage us to explore.

In a special festival Outburst Salon, we invite you to join us for a masterclass with two experienced arts writers and critics, Liliana Viola and Seçil Epik, who will share some of their thoughts around queer art criticism and lead a group discussion on how we might do that at Outburst. You will be provided with a free ticket to one festival event that you will be invited to review. All reviews will be published following the festival.

Tickets are free but spaces are strictly limited to keep the group intimate, so registration is essential.

If you would like to be an Outburst critic and attend the Salon, please email hello@outburstarts.com to secure a place. Deadline for applications is Monday 30th October.

Hot Presses and Everyone's a Critic in partnership with Seamus Heanev Centre



AGE GUIDANCE 18+

THE SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE

WHEN Sat 11 Nov 11:00
WHERE Room TR7, QUB Graduate School
TICKETS Free (Registration required)
DURATION 120 Mins

Hot Presses:Queer Publishing Now

The last decade has seen an exciting eruption of queer writing, poetry, novels and memoirs.

What does it take to bring new queer writing into the world in different social and political contexts? Do publishers who are queer make different choices than mainstream publishers and how does it impact on queer culture?

Join us for a fascinating conversation with three unique voices in queer publishing from around the world, Ben Townley-Canning (UK), Seçil Epik (Turkey) and Liliana Viola (Argentina), as they discuss the challenges and joys of their work past and present and how it is both transforming and responding to a changing world for queer people.

Seçil Epik runs Umami, an independent publishing house in Istanbul that translates queer classics and new works into Turkish. Umami is adapting to publish more work by local queer writers in an increasingly hostile climate. Seçil also co-publishes Argonotlar, one of the main arts websites in Turkey.

Liliana Viola is a feminist writer, journalist, curator and publisher based in Buenos Aires. She was the founder and editor for 15 years of SOY, the only queer writing and culture supplement to a national newspaper in the world, and now focuses on writing and publishing.

Ben Townley-Canning is the London-based founder and editor of fourteen publishing (est. 2020). Its key title is fourteen poems, a queer poetry anthology published three times a year and featuring award-winning poets alongside emerging talent.

Seçil Epik participation is in partnership with the British Council.

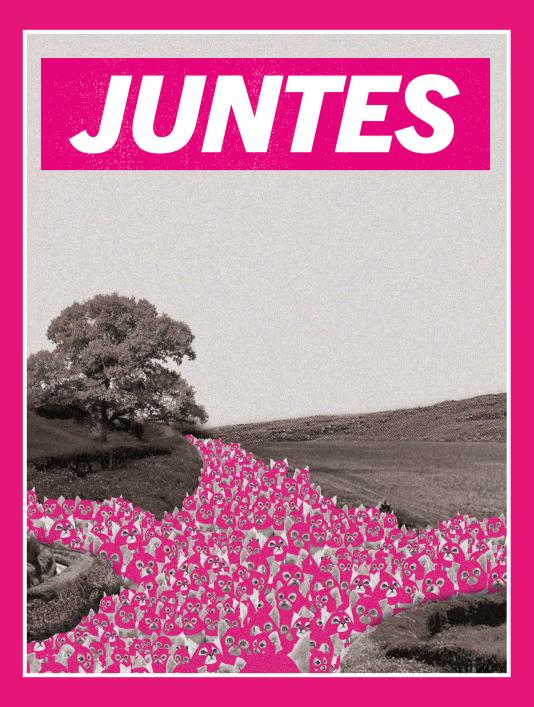
WHEN Sun 12 Nov 13:00 WHERE Queen's University Room TR7, QUB Graduate School TICKETS £5

DURATION 70 Mins AGE GUIDANCE 16+











Art has always created space for us to explore challenging and complex issues and ideas, helping us to develop a better understanding of each other and the world we live in. At a time of growing disinformation and dangerous anti-democracy movements, we've seen deeply troubling division and violent rhetoric, even within our own community, particularly around gender issues and trans rights. If we're to effectively address the bigger underlying causes of violence and inequity, we need to build a movement together to change the stories and conditions that are causing harm.

How can art support us to have more generous conversations with each other and build the fierce and effective feminist and trans coalitons and solidarity that are needed now?

Over the last year, Outburst Arts has been working in partnership with ILGA and the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP) on JUNTES, a project that brings together artists, activists, writers and policy makers to explore new approaches to changing the narratives around gender. Following a global conference and arts events Festival in São Paulo, Brazil in September 2023, the conversation will continue across a three day programme in Outburst Queer Arts Festival, making a space to learn, share, create and dream together to activate change.

We invite you to join us.

THE JUNTES CORE TEAM IS

Denn Ix (ILGA), Ruth McCarthy (Outburst Arts), Damjan Denkovski (CFFP) Natalia Mallo (Risco), Lolo Silva (Comms), Indra Haretrava (Artist/ Curator) Liliana Viola (Writer), Raphael Khouri (Writer/ Artist)

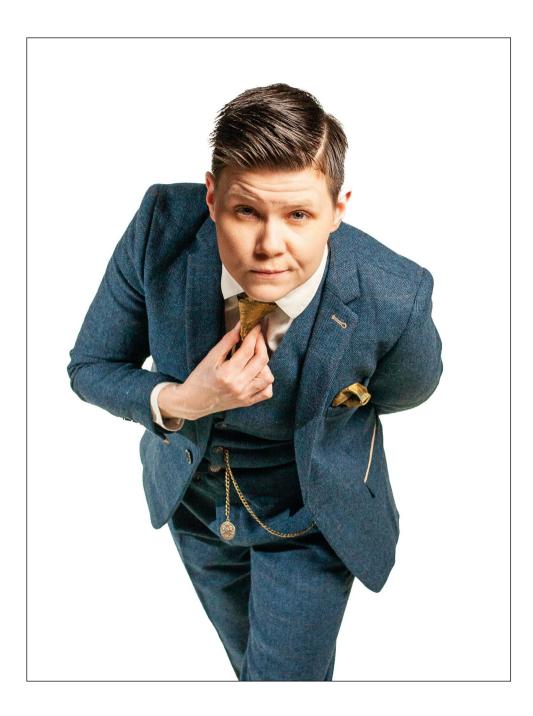






Juntes is supported by the Nebula Fund

nebula fund



juntes

Little Wander presents

Grace Petrie

Butch Ado About Nothing

Folk singer, lesbian and checked-shirt-collector Grace Petrie has been incorrectly called Sir every day of her adult life, and, having finally run out of things to write whiny songs about, she's putting down the guitar to try and work out why.

Finding herself at 35 in an age of incessantly and increasingly fraught gender politics, Grace feels both more exposed and less seen than ever. Join her as she explores what butch identity means in a world moving beyond labels, and tries to work out where it, and she, belong in the new frontline of queer liberation. Sounds funny, right?

No stranger to comedy, Grace has appeared on BBC Radio 4's *The Now Show* and smash hit podcast *The Guilty Feminist*. Her eagerly-awaited standup debut has been a long time coming - and was a runaway success at 2022's Edinburgh Festival.



Borderline miraculous

The Scotsman

JUNTES PANEL

This event is presented in Outburst as part of Juntes, a global experiment with queer artists, feminist, trans and LGBTQ activists and policy makers exploring, imagining and building solidarity to change anti-gender narratives and address how they spread.

The show will be followed by a discussion with Grace Petrie and international LGBTQ+ activists, asking what is going on with the stories being told about us and how do we start to turn it around.

WHEN Thursday 16 November 19:30 WHERE Black Box TICKETS £14 SHOW DURATION 70mins AGE GUIDANCE 18+



Schedule of Events

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

19:30 Black Box

Grace Petrie: Butch Ado About Nothing (see page 64)

20:30 Black Box

What the Hell is Going On and How Do We Turn It Around?

Grace's performance will be followed by a panel discussion about the ideas behind Juntes and why we need to build feminist and trans solidarity, with insights from experts, artists and activists, including Grace and ILGA.

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

13:30 Black Box

WORKSHOP Telling Stories: The Power of Narrative Change

Stories can be vital in helping to break through conversations where we feel polarised and stuck, allowing us to rehumanise the 'other' and tell more complex stories about who we are and our experiences. In this session from the Narratives Network, we'll look at how stories have helped change our minds on social and political issues and what that process of change looks like. We'll collectively look at how storytelling techniques can shift us from a space of scarcity and fear to one of connection and empathy.

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

12:00 Black Box

PANEL & DISCUSSION The Dramaturgy of Politics

Can art really make a difference when it comes to changing hearts and minds? We ask artists and writers from very different geographical and social contexts who make work that engages with political and social themes.

Conor Mitchell (NI), Natalia Mallo (Brazil), Raphael Khouri (Jordan/ Germany) and Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi (Ghana)

14:00 Black Box

WORKSHOP: DESIGNING CHANGE How Visual Design Can Change Everything

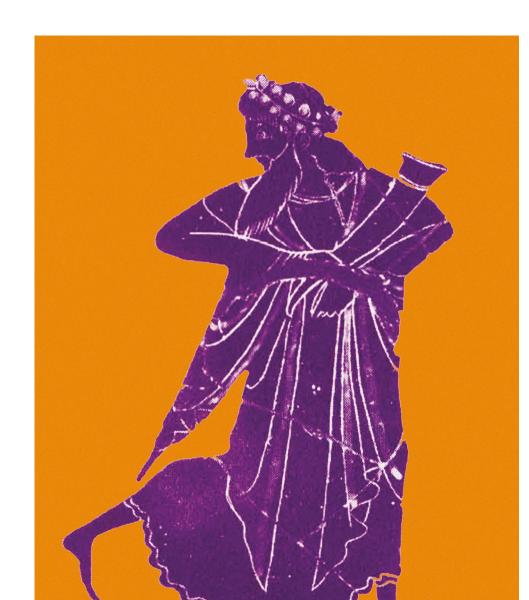
Visual design can often be an afterthought in queer and feminist campaigning but great design can capture global imagination and support powerful new ideas to spread.

Join us for this very special workshop that explores the design ideas that changed the world and helps us to visualise what that might look like to support the work we need to do now.

CLOSING NIGHT CONCERT AND PERFORMANCES in

St. Joseph's Church at 8pm.
Stay tuned for details of a very special closing night, to close out the Juntes Programme and the Outburst Queer Arts Festival 2023





juntes

It Was Paradise, Unfortunately

(No such thing as theatre)

Where does the idea of theatre begin in the Western World, and why there?

Can theatre change the world? Did it ever?

As we officially exit the Holocene and enter the Anthropocene, the pressure mounts on queers (as ultra supreme beings) to imagine new utopias in response to the increasingly dystopic world we find ourselves in. Jordanian-born Berlin-based trans playwright Raphael Khouri turns to history, where one utopia already existed.

Several times a year, the entire Hellenistic world and beyond, from Penzance to Pakistan, worshipped a queer, transgender God as part of what was likely the most politically radical intervention into society the Western World has ever known. And everyone had to worship. At its very core was theatre, but also plants.

Commissioned by Outburst especially for the Juntes project, *It was Paradise, Unfortunately (No Such Thing as Theatre)* is performed research into the fascinating potential that 'the past' might have for us to address the current state of our world.

Raphael's initial research was part funded by Goethe Institute London, with the commission supported by Nebula Fund through the Juntes programme.

With thanks to Ulster University.

WHEN Sat 11 Nov 18:30 | Fri 17 Nov & Sat 18 Nov 19:30 WHERE Orpheus Theatre, Ulster University TICKETS £8
AGE GUIDANCE 16+



Q@Q juntes

Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi crazinisT artisT

The Juntes project is excited to welcome Ghanaian trans artist Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi (aka crazinisT artisT) to Belfast, to participate in conversations and share a very special new work.

crazinisT has performed and exhibited across the globe and is the founding artistic director of crazinisT artisT studiO (TTO) in Ghana, which aims to radicalise the arts and promote exchange between international and local artists, activists, researchers, curators, and critical thinkers.

As a performer and installation artist, she investigates gender stereotypes, prejudices, queerness, identity politics and conflicts, sexual stigma and their consequences for marginalized people. With rituals and a gender-fluid persona, she employs her own body as a thought-provoking tool in performances, photography, video, and installations, 'life-and-live-art' confronting issues such as disenfranchisement, internalized oppression, anti blacknes and systemic indoctrination.

As crazinisT's work is sometimes outdoors and usually responsive to space, we will share details of location close to the event, see our website for updates.

WHEN Sat 18 Nov 16:15
WHERE See website
TICKETS Free (Booking required)



junt*e*s

Fluids

Fluids is a new project from TJ Tytler; a space for trans women, trans men, intersex people, dykes, femmes, fags, sapphics, a-gender, marginalised genders, non-binary folks and everyone who can sometimes feel alien or invisible in other club spaces.

Fluids is a sweaty, filthy, hot and sticky club night built with the concept of radical togetherness at its core, informed by all that has gone before and what we can bring together to the future of these spaces at at time when many of our queer social outlets are disappearing.

With a brilliant line up of up and coming Irish dyke, trans and nonbinary djs and performers, visuals and so much more!

Please note that all tickets must be purchased in advance.

Fluids was developed through the Outburst / Jerwood Arts Tongue + Heart Artist Development Programme, supported by Jerwood Arts. With additional support through the Juntes project.

JERWOOD ARTS

WHEN Fri 17 Nov 20:30
WHERE Black Box
TICKETS £10
DURATION Party til 1am
AGE GUIDANCE Strictly 18+

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Thursday 9 Nov	The Headless Solider	19:30	p10
Friday 10 Nov	wet HEAT sweats without scent The Headless Solider Dóchas Na Caillí The Witches Hope	Various 19:30 19:30	p20 p10 p12
Saturday 11 Nov	Queer Art Market Everyone's a Critic! Soula Emmanuel It Was Paradise,Unfortunately The Headless Solider wet HEAT sweats without scent Catflap #3	10-14:30 11:00 14:00 18:30 19:30 Various 19:30	p28 p59 p54 p68 p10 p20 p14
Sunday 12 Nov	Hot Presses: Queer Publishing Now Brewing FILM: The Lost Boys Lucy & Friends	13:00 15:00 18:00 20:00	p60 p24 p34 p16
Monday 13 Nov	Grindr Saghdar Agus Cher Seán Hewitt: Queer Pasts	19:30 19:30	p18 p56
Tuesday 14 Nov	Neverlandz FILM: Rivière Grindr Saghdar Agus Cher	18:00 18:00 19:30	p26 p36 p18
Wednesday 15 Nov	FILM: All the Colours of the World are Between Black and White Orla Egan Diary of an Activist	18:00 18:00	p38 p58
Thursday 16 Nov	The Sonic Séance Grace Petrie: Butch Ado About Nothing	Various 19:30	p30 p64
Friday 17 Nov	It Was Paradise,Unfortunately FLUIDS	19:30 20:30	p68 p72
Saturday 18 Nov	Queer Art Market PANEL & DISCUSSION: The Dramaturgy of Politics WORKSHOP: Designing Change FILM: Orlando, my political biography It Was Paradise,Unfortunately CLOSING NIGHT CONCERT and PERFORMANCES	10-14:30 12:00 14:00 18:00 19:30 20:00	p28 p66 p66 p40 p68 p66
Throughout Festival	Alice O'Malley Exhibition F/F : Fragments / Freeform Between the Sheets: The Art of SOY		p46 p48 p50

