



2002 - 2023

FRESH FRUIT FESTIVAL



the Festival MAINSTAGE

2023

The Wild Project
New York City
April 24 - May 7

ALL OUT ARTS

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

- They Keep The Fruit Fresh -

*Our programs Made Possible in part with support from: Poets & Writers,
The Puffin Foundation, The New York City Dept. of Cultural Affairs,
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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Dennis Corsi

2023 FESTIVAL STAFF

Production Management: Frank Calo
Technical Direction: Reid Sullivan Designs; Christian D Roberson
Technical Stage Managers: Danielle Hauser; Megan Meschino; Sam Stafford

Front Cover: cast of 'Meet You Downstairs' photo: @kasai.nyc

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Fighting Prejudice **All
Out
Arts** *Through The Arts*

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Our return to live theatre couldn't have a more exciting lineup of new work! I'm very proud to present this diverse slate of plays that embody the wide spectrum of queer identity.

Throughout the pandemic we continued to produce virtual content and develop new plays & musicals. In fact, a few pieces in this summer festival came out of collaborations we fostered over the last few years of the shutdown. It's an honor to be a home for these artists and to work with them over a long span of time.

This year we implemented a new values agreement that detailed the values of the festival, how we will uphold them, and how we expect participating productions to uphold them. Our values are Diversity, Hospitality, Wellness, Speaking Up, and Quality Work. I believe these values were exemplified all around this year, resulting in a great experience for our artists and audiences, advancements of antiracism, and good art. Of course there is always progress to be made, and we welcome your feedback as an audience member. Don't hesitate to reach out with any comments.

Dennis Corsi
Artistic Director



**FRESH
FRUIT**
FESTIVAL



+ Full Length Plays +

All shows \$22 - Senior & Student discounts available
at The Wild Project, 195 East 3rd Street in the East Village

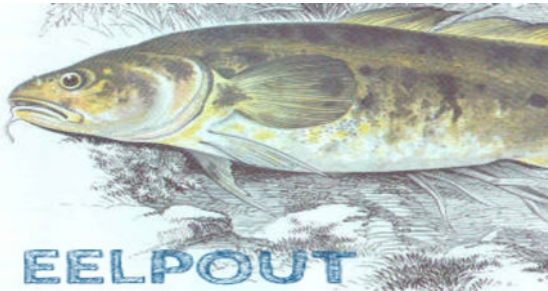
Meet You Downstairs - by Katy Copeland est 85'
directed by Louis Sallan

Monday 4/24, 8 pm / Wednesday 4/26, 8:30 pm / Sunday 4/30, 1 pm

Follow Kit, our young, queer, flailing heroine as she navigates three very different yet crucial relationships over the course of ten years. Ferociously trying to come up with any label that appropriately defines her sexuality, Kit stumbles through her 20s attempting to unpack the integral complexities of love, sex, relationships, infidelity, gender and what it means to be queer in a heteronormative world. - **note: Partial Nudity.**

Eelpout - by Paul Kruse world premiere est 90'
directed by Rachel Wolther

Tue 4/25 at 7:00; Sat 4/29 at 5:30; Sun 4/30 at 5:15



Eelpout is a fast-paced, surreal farce, where friends are lovers, fish can talk, and life's mysteries beckon from the bottom of a frozen lake. Sven Svensen and Ole Olsen have been best buds since

kindergarten, but all that changes on the morning of Ole's ice-fishing bachelor party. Could they be something more than friends, or is Sven destined for something even more wild and strange. This fantasia on Midwestern masculinity invites us to consider the limits of Queerness. Naturally, this includes a dream ballet *Eelpout Orgy!*

Queer Films! - Only on Saturday, April 29 at 8 pm!

A curated selection of LGBT and very Q films

Hosted by Jed Ryan and our very own Lady Clover Honey

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ON THESE SPECIAL SINGLE EVENTS

The 10-minute Plays Contest, Only Saturday May 6, at 1 pm

6 selected short plays seek audience votes to secure Cash prizes for popular and technical achievement.

More Festival **Special Events** on Page 7

Mr. Oatmeal - est 65'
by Matthew Kirsch
directed by Shira Milikowsky

**Wed 4/26 at 6:30; Thur 4/27 at 9
pm; Sun 4/30 at 3:15**

A queer couple's 20-year-long relationship is strained by their 20-year-old cat. Which will die first? Mr. Oatmeal is a 60-minute dark comedy about love, memory, and the ethics of feline murder. Based on a true cat.

(no kitties were hurt in the making of this production.)



Transformation – the Christine Jorgensen Show

-Book and Music by Donald Steven Olson *a world premiere*
Michael Blatt, Director - Mark Nadler, Music Director

Thursday 4/27 6:30 pm; Friday 4/28 8:30 pm; Saturday 4/29 1:00 pm

Let us whisk you back to 1953 and introduce you to the world's first trans celebrity. Captivating newcomer **Nicola Gorham** stars as Bronx-born Christine Jorgensen, catapulted to international fame seventy years ago when she returned from Denmark following her sensational transformation from an ex-GI into a blonde beauty. Award-winning cabaret artist **Mark Nadler** stars as Myles Bell, the hard-boiled song-and-dance man whose own life is transformed as he helps the shy Christine overcome stage fright to become a star entertainer. *Truly a timely and tuneful musical-comedy about listening to the voice in your heart.*

Cowgirl Summer - by KJ Stewart
directed by Gianna Milici

Tuesday 5/2 at 6:30 pm; Wednesday 5/3 at 8:30 pm; Saturday 5/6 at 7:15

A play about fan fiction, living on the internet, queer awakenings, and being a horny teenage girl; the story follows twin sisters as they write and record their own Harry Styles podcast in their school library. When their story becomes popular online, they come face to face with the reality of internet anonymity- the excitement, the uncertainty, and the danger.

ANGEL

On EROS



Angel On Eros -

- by Ricardo Melendez -
directed by Steve J. Erale

**Fri 4/28 at 6:30, Sat 4/29 at
3:30, Sun 4/30 at 7:30**

A gay painter and a younger married restaurant owner develop a friendship as they search for an escape from their present circumstances. The two men are then forced to face the unexpected consequences of their wishes and desires. Angel on Eros explores the friendship between two men of differing sexual orientation and offers a view into the transactional nature of human interplay.

Framed inside the business of the arts, this play journeys into a world of human sexuality and self-discovery, as it probes into the erotic truth of a queer artist's work. - **Warning: Nudity and Mature content**

Place of Departure (or The Airport Play)

- by Josh Piper - directed by Samantha O'Neil

Monday 5/1 at 6:30 pm, Tuesday 5/2 at 8:30 pm

Man A meets Man B in an airport. They start a conversation. Talking about Asian superheroes, obsessing over K-Dramas, and over the course of several minutes, hours, days, or months they fall in love in this terminal between their separate destinations . . . A serendipitous moment where two people lose track of time talking to each other while tackling the issues of homophobia, body dysmorphia, and racism, specifically to Asian gay men. Above all it's a story about love, falling into it and falling out of it, and how taking a step forward can be the hardest thing to do.

Taking The Plunge - by Carmen!

produced by Joe Carleton

Wed 5/3 at 6:30, Thus 5/4 at 8:45, Sat 5/6 at 5:15 - 70' est

Sooner or later, we all have to. Exploring the beauty of change and growth, we follow a young person with trans-masculine identity, and get right to the heart of what 'experience' is really all about.

Cornflake Pie - by Grace Tomblin Marca - 65' est.

directed by Zach Kelley

Thur 5/4 at 6:30; Fri 5/5 at 8:45; Sun 5/7 at 3:15

At a picture-perfect California beach house, a family reunites and prepares their Thanksgiving meal. Sisters Beth and Nora host as their mother and partners catch up. But Beth has a scandalous secret, and as it is revealed, each member of the family must decide what they can tolerate, what they can forgive and how they will behave when the facades they've built around their lives get ripped away. Brutally funny, delightfully profane, *Cornflake Pie* explores the endurance of love and the fidelity of family.

Erastes - by Otto Sanchez directed by Deborah Goodwin

Fri 5/5 at 6:30; Sat 5/6 at 3:00; Sun 5/7 at 1:00 - 90' est.

A student goes missing in a patch of woods by The Lake, a known cruising spot littered with the remnants of sexual encounters, ancient rituals, and mythical beasts. As a Detective searches for answers, several young men struggle to find mentorship in teachers, therapists, friends, and Greek gods.

Festival Special Events

SUDDEN SHORTS! - Two One-Act Plays

Monday May 1 at 8:30 pm & Sunday May 7 at 5:45 pm est 70'
all tickets only \$12

DRIP - written & directed by Max Mooney

In a world of celebrity culture and body image, we sometimes forget the self-harm that comes when self-deprecating humor becomes a mode of survival, when a desexualized image of yourself becomes acceptable.

What happens when a clown's makeup becomes more familiar than his skin? Where did that skin go?

FETTUCCINE - by Queen-Tiye Akamefula. directed by Ava Novak

How do we provide nourishment and community for those in need?

Accessing health care for those at the intersection of low-income and Queer can be overwhelming. A young Lesbian and a trans woman meet in the harshness of a waiting room. **Will they learn to provide each other the comfort and validation so badly needed, or be swept away by the system?**



A vertical collage of human faces, primarily focusing on eyes and mouths, with a rainbow color gradient overlay. The colors transition from purple and blue on the left to red, orange, yellow, green, and cyan on the right. The faces are partially obscured by the grid and color bands.

April 24 - May 7, 2023

QUESTIONS?

FreshFruitFestival.Com!