



presents

The **Coming Out** Play Festival



We all come out.

October 19 7:00 PM

October 20 4:30 PM and 8:00 PM

Coming February 2019:

Transluminare

A Celebration of Transgender,
Agender, Non-binary, Genderqueer,
and Genderfluid artists

February 21, 22, 23 at 8:00 PM

February 23 at 4:30 PM

Performances at The Chapel in the Wydown-Skinker
neighborhood

More info coming soon at [TheQCollective.theater/
transluminare-2019](http://TheQCollective.theater/transluminare-2019)

WELCOME TO THE COLLECTIVE!

We are so excited that you've decided to come along this journey with us. Its been wild so far and we cannot wait for more!

The eight plays you are about to see were whittled down from an initial 66 plays submitted by 50 playwrights. We were, and still are, blown away by the response the artistic community gave us. These plays range in age from 17 to 70, from dealing with sexual assault to trysts to asexuality to playing on Grindr.

You must be asking yourself why do this?

Looking around St. Louis, we have tons of theatre going on here. So why another company? We don't have theatre that explores gender and sexuality. As a gay man, I haven't seen a lot of theatre that tells my story. Seeing that kind of theatre is really powerful to me. To see me means my story matters and that I am not alone.

We are the Collective, those of us who see that gender and sexuality are not binary. We represent people, we make people feel welcome regardless of their identity. We need these stories so that we all understand each other because that's the only way we will survive as a culture.

With today's increasing hostility to differences with race, gender, and sexuality, it is vital and urgent that these stories are told.

Art cannot the change the world. Art can change people's minds and people change the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Sean Michael, Artistic Director

Vital VOICE

Proudly Supports

The Coming Out Play Festival



**Have you been missing
Vital VOICE? Stay tuned
#VV2019**

The Plays

Two Sugars

by Lisa Meyers
directed by Shualee Cook

Characters:

Max - Elon Ptah
Rose - Eleanor Humphrey

Where The Fireworks Come From

by Michael Pisaturo
directed by Sean Michael

Characters:

Tony: Maxwell Gass
Gabe: David Zimmerman

Something Old

by Elizabeth Breed Penny
directed by Carl Overly, Jr.

Characters:

Jade - Rachel Hanks
Leanna - Helen Pancella
Molly - Amanda Brasher

Grindr

by J. Joseph Cox
directed by Sean Michael

Characters:

Mr. Carew - Donald Miller
Kari - Stasia Kroeger
Steve Carew - Maxwell
Gass

Baby Black Jesus - Play Four

by Vincent Terrell Durham
directed by Carl Overly, Jr.

Characters:

Darryl - William Humphrey
Richard - Marshall Jennings

Slow Dating

by Adam Szudrich
directed by Shualee Cook

Characters:

Ester - Dorothy LaBounty

Weird

by Nicholas Vasilios Pappas
directed by Sarah Lynne
Holt

Characters:

Eric - Luke A. Steffen
Becca - Amanda Brasher
Guy - Marshall Jennings
Gal - Isabel Garcia

Cow

by Scott Mullen
directed by Sarah Lynne
Holt

Characters:

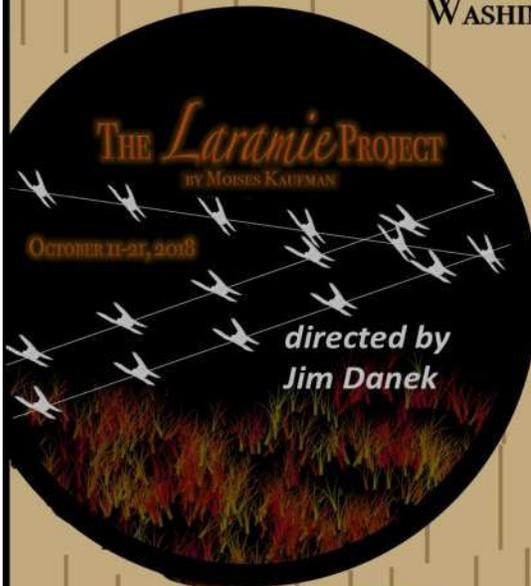
Quinn - Eleanor Humphrey
Wendy - Isabel Garcia

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CCT AT 314.721.9228 OR PLACSEVERYONE.ORG



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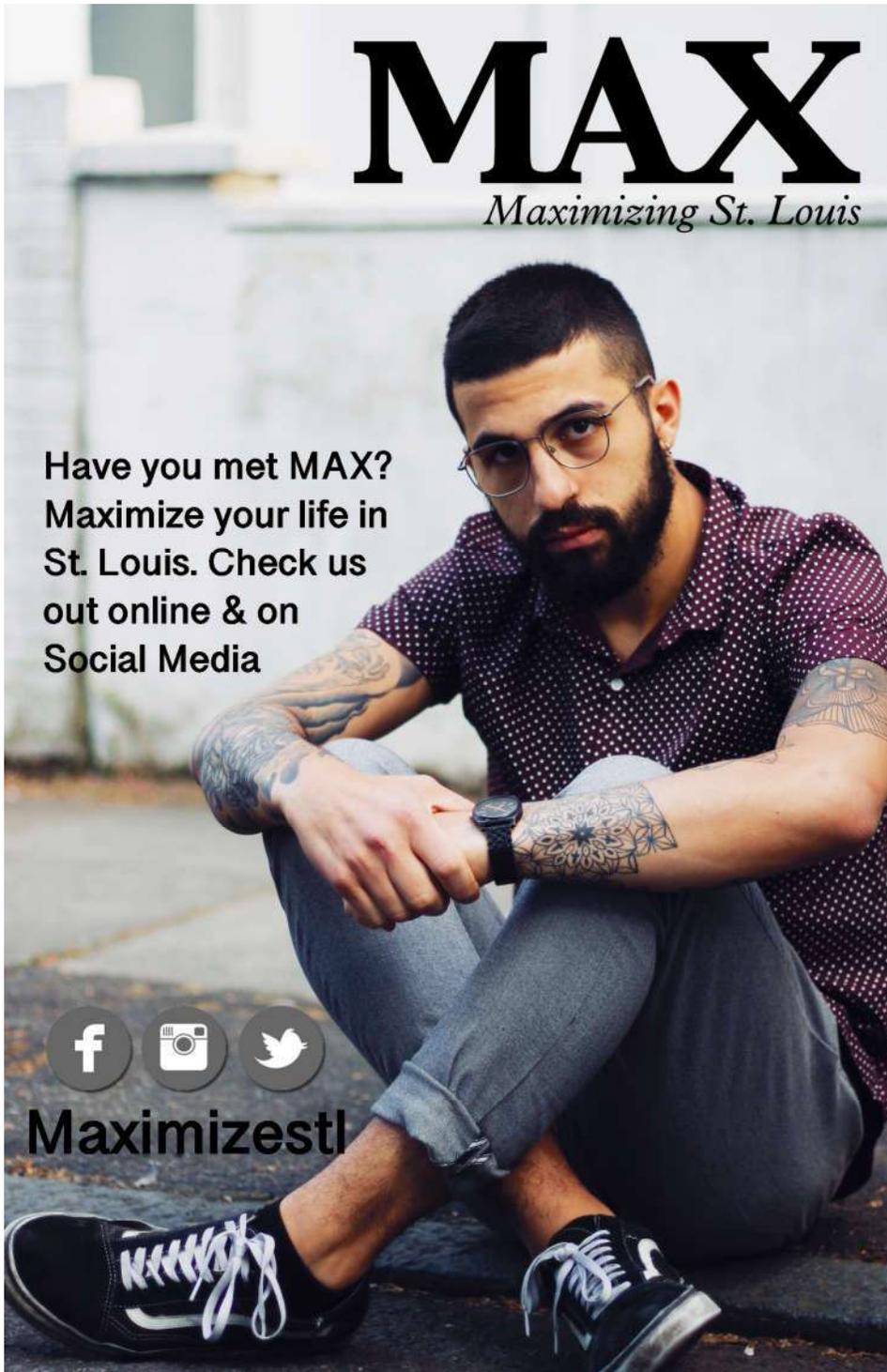
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Who's Who?

Amanda Brasher is thrilled to be a part of this production of The Coming Out Play Festival with The Q Collective. Previous credits include: *Coupler* (Tesseract Theatre); *Birds Nest* (First Run Theatre); *Blithe Spirit* (Act Inc). She is a graduate of the William Jewell College Theatre Program with an emphasis in costume design. She would like to thank the production team for being so welcoming and her family and friends for all of their support. She hopes everyone enjoys the show.

Elizabeth Breed Penny is a native of Iowa City, IA, and graduated with a BFA from Nebraska Wesleyan University, emphasis in playwriting and acting. Some of her original works include *Reluctance*, *Good Night, Bed-side*, *Lovely*, *Wonderful Thoughts*, and *Higher Education*. Her play *Dates* will have it's world premiere in May with Tesseract Theatre as part of their New Play Festival. Much love and thanks to Steve and her family. She is so thrilled to be a part of the Coming Out Play Festival, and her piece is very close to her heart. #metoo

Shualee Cook is very excited to be working with Q Collective on their inaugural season. Previous directing credits include *First Lady Suite* (R-S Theatrics); *Goodnight Desdemona (Good morning Juliet)* (Clayton Community Theatre); readings of *Orra* and *The Siege* (Florissant Valley Community College); *Osgood Rex* (Saint Lou Fringe); *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *Lady in the Dark* (Overdue Theatre Company).

J. Joseph Cox's full-length plays include *Koalas* (16th Street Theater), *St. Paulie's Delight* (Great Plains Theatre Conference, Dayton Playhouse FutureFest), and *Thirst* (Cold Basement Dramatics). His short-form plays have garnered numerous awards and have been produced internationally. His work has been developed by the Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, The Blank Theatre, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Chicago Dramatists, Something Marvelous, and Portland Stage Company among others. He has been a finalist for the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Princess Grace Award, and the Playwrights First Award. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and an alumnus of Lawrence University and the Second City Writing Program. He is originally from Iowa.

Vincent Terrell Durham was born and raised in Binghamton, New York. He is the first of his family to be born in the city after his grandparents and their children migrated from Richmond, VA in the early 60's. As a child Vincent often felt that he had missed out on not being born in Richmond, VA. His childish mind often attributed the big personalities of his relatives to the fact they were all born in Richmond. His relatives seemed so much more talented than he could ever be. They were able to sing, dance, tell stories and light up any room they entered. Vincent mainly sat quietly and watched the wonderment of his fascinating relatives. In hindsight, Vincent realizes this is how he became a writer. Watching, listening and absorbing these powerful personalities and the stories they told would serve him well much later in life. In 2012, Vincent wrote his first stage play and hasn't stopped writing. His plays have received over 100 productions and have entertained audiences from Los Angeles to the Catskills. Vincent strives to create thought-provoking and character driven narratives, but his stories are always delivered with unexpected humor for the situations his characters are living in. He is a founding member of Eclipse Ensemble and belongs to the Dramatist Guild of America as well as The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights. Vincent writes to pay honor to the Johnson family, the best storytellers a little Black boy could ever have.

Isabel Garcia is honored to be in The Q Collective's inaugural season. A senior in high school, Isabel loves all things theatre - on and off stage. Previous credits: *Luchadora!* (Theatre Nuevo and Mustard Seed Theatre); *The 25th...Spelling Bee*; *West Side Story* (SLU High's Dauphine Players). She also enjoys her time as an Assistant Stage Manager working with R-S Theatrics and New Jewish Theatre. Many thanks to her family and friends for their love and support. TQMM

Maxwell Gass is from the St. Louis Metro East Area and has been performing all his life. He recently graduated with an Associates of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, from Kaskaskia College in southern Illinois. He hopes you enjoy our festival of coming-out stories. Max is honored to be portraying males who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Sit back, relax, and enjoy!

Rachel Hanks is thrilled to be working The Q-Collective on their inaugural production. She's worked with companies such as Stray Dog Theatre, SATE, West End Players Guild, and R-S Theatrics. She received the St. Louis Theatre Circle Award in 2017 for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy (*As You Like It*, SATE) and in 2018 for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama (*A Doll's House*, Stray Dog). When not on stage, Rachel is a social worker and child therapist who specializes in brain development and trauma. Merde y'all!

Sarah Lynne Holt is thrilled to be joining The Q Collective for this inaugural production. Locally, she has also directed *The Ruby Sunrise* (Kirkwood Theatre Guild), *boom* (R-S Theatrics), *The Rocky Horror Show* (The Non-Prophet Theater Company), *Eavesdropping* (Blue Lemon Theatre Collective) and short pieces for Briefs: A Festival of Short LGBT Plays (That Uppity Theatre Company), four years of the WiseWrite Young Playwrights Festival (The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), After Orlando (That Uppity Theatre Company & R-S Theatrics), two years of 7/24 (The Tin Ceiling), Grand Center Theatre Crawl, KIDaret, An Evening of French Theatre and Song, and FUNraiser (all R-S Theatrics) and four 24-hour play festivals with PRIME. Sarah is President of the Board at R-S Theatrics and a Producing Director at The Arcon Radio Players where she has directed *The Screwfly Solution* (twice), *Gypsy*, and *Major Spacer* in the 21st Century. She holds a BFA in Theatre Directing from Millikin University.

Eleanor Humphrey is humbled and honored to be a part of The Q Collective's inaugural work: The Coming Out Play Festival. Her most recent work onstage includes *Crowns* (The Black Rep); *Yeast Nation* (New Line Theatre); *This Random World* (West End Players Guild); *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Godspell* (Over Due Theatre Co). Offstage she directs choir for Marian Middle School, sings with Songs of Africa Ensemble, and works for the Kranzberg Arts Foundation. Thank you to every cast, crew, and audience member for supporting these important and special stories.

William Humphrey is excited to be a part of the Coming Out Play Festival. After graduating from Southeast Missouri State University's Conservatory of Theatre & Dance in 2014, William lived in Tulsa, OK for a year and then moved to St. Louis in late 2015. Since then, he has been in *Ragtime*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Stray Dog Theatre); the staged readings of *In the Blood*, *Tape*, *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* (Solid Lines Productions); and just recently in *The Gringo* with Fly North Music for the St. Louis Fringe Festival. Thank you for coming out tonight and supporting new theatre!!!

Marshall Jennings makes his debut with The Q Collective in The Coming Out Play Festival. Some of his favorite theater credits include *Altar Boyz*, *Parade*, *Rent*, *Jerry Springer The Opera* and The St. Louis Repertory Theater's WiseWrite Program. Marshall is honored to be a part of an artistic collection where the spectrum of LGBTQI representation is dignified and respectful, honestly and genuinely displayed. He is continuously humbled by those who support and encourage him and would like to thank his friends and family for always having his back and giving him clarity. Faith over fear. ALWAYS. Follow Marshall: @TheHeartyFellow

Stasia Kroeger is thrilled to be part of the Q Collective's Coming Out Play Festival. Some of her favorite past roles include Lily/Lilith in *She Kills Monsters* and Essie in *You Can't Take It With You*. Stasia would like to thank Sean for giving her the opportunity to be part of this important production.

Dorothy LaBounty is delighted to be joining Q Collective for this show. Previous credits: Sarah Jane Moore in *Assasins*, Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*, *The Musical*, Abigail Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, and "Give 'em Hell" Harriet in *To The New Girl*. In recent years, she's been dazzled by the growing array of new, vibrant theater that has been springing up in the STL area. She is deeply grateful to the theater-goers who support and encourage producers, directors and performers to explore new works and new spaces. We couldn't do it without you.

Lisa Meyers is a non-binary playwright, comedian, and wanderer recently transplanted to the St. Louis area. They completed an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Iowa in 2014, after completing a BA in Theatre from Smith College in 2011. Some of their notable *productions and readings include the plays and I will hold you/when you are broken, Dreams I Have About Killing My Sister, Dust & Ash, and Respect for the Electric Field of Horses*. They are devoted to telling queer stories with magical and poetic touches, exploring love, death, identity, and philosophy. Professionally, they are passionate about arts and education nonprofits, with a strong belief in the power of art to change and uplift communities.

Sean Michael is a long-term transplant to the St. Louis area whose love for the stage developed during video store runs for *Annie* and *The Sound of Music* at a young age. Previous direction credits: *The Man of Your Dreams, The Motherfuckin' Wind* (PRIME); *A Second Serving of Salt, Open* (Theatre Guild of Webster Groves); *Pride of Dummies, Most Real, Fartocalypse, Reunion* (First Run Theatre)

Donald Miller has a Master's degree in Media Communications from Webster University. His first media textbook is being published in October and focuses on teens and media from 1950-2010. As a local playwright-actor, He's been blessed to work with some incredible local talent here in Saint Louis over the past four years. He's acted in productions for That Uppity Theater Company and because why not? theater company and has had two short plays produced through That Uppity Theater Company and The Theatre Guild of Webster Groves. He is currently working on several one-act pieces and a full-length play that he hopes to finish within the next 3-6 months. He is thrilled to be part of The Q Collective and its inaugural production and is so excited that Sean is able to share his vision with the Saint Louis community. Big thanks as always to Morrie and Bob for support and love!

Scott Mullen is a longtime Hollywood screenplay analyst and screenwriter, a two-time winner of Amazon Studios' screenwriting contest, whose thriller *The Summoning* aired on TV One. His short plays have been performed around the world.

Carl Overly, Jr. is thrilled to be a part of The Q Collective. Directing credits include *Night, Mother* and Prime's 24 Hour Play Festival. Some of his favorite roles include Lennie in SATE Ensemble's *Of Mice and Men*, Henry in The Black Rep's *Torn Asunder*, MacDuff in ERA's *Trash Macbeth* and Tiresias in West End Players *Oedipus Apparatus*. He was last seen as Matthew in Union Avenue Opera's *Lost in the Stars*. Mr. Overly has worked locally with numerous companies, including Metro Theater Co., Shakespeare Festival STL, Upstream Theatre, Actor's Studio, Unity Theater Ensemble, YoungLiars, St. Louis Shakespeare, Solid Line Production, Magic Smoking Monkey, That Uppity Theater Co., and is also a teaching artist with Prison Performing Arts. #RepresentationMATTERS

Helen Pancella is honored to be part of the inaugural Q Collective production. Her recent focus seems to be on new play development with Tesseract Theatre, PRIME, and because why not? theatre company. She has also recently appeared in such classics as *You Can't Take It With You* with Over Due Theatre Company and *Fifth of July* with Meramec Community College. Thanks to my growing creative family for taking a chance on casting me and providing the encouragement needed to keep on auditioning even when not cast.

Nicholas Vasilios Pappas is an NYC based playwright. In May of 2018, he produced and directed his play *The Place* in Brooklyn at this place in Brooklyn that his friend let him use for free. Recent productions of his short plays include *Youth* (also directed; Slingshot Theater Company) and *Disorder: A Night of Short Plays – The Huntsville Huntsman, Lease, and Roulette* (University Players). He wrote *The Game* for Bia Theatre Ensemble's 24-Hour play festival. *Huntsman, Roulette*, and another play, *Weird*, have also received readings with the Barrington Collective in the past couple years. His full-length plays include *The Line, Acceptance: the mandy cooke play* (semifinalist 2017 Fratti-Newman Political Play Contest), *Four out of Five* (finalist 2015 Equity Library Theatre Chicago Reading Series), and *Food for Thought* (University Players, 2014). Pappas is also a director, an actor, a composer, and a one-time choreographer.

Michael Pisaturo is a Boston-based playwright and actor currently pursuing his M.Ed. at Boston College. His work has been produced at the Northern Arizona Playwriting Showcase, Emerging Artists Theatre New Works Series, Manhattan Repertory Theatre Short Play Competition, Acadia University MiniFest, Towne Street Theatre Ten Minute Play Festival, Lafayette College's Ten-Minute Play Festival and KNOW Theatre. His play *Paper Planes* was presented at Region 1 of the 2017 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and was selected as one of four national finalists for the Gary Garrison Ten Minute Play Award. He has also had his work showcased at the 2018 Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference as part of the New Play Development Workshop and has participated in the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive (2017) as well as the Kennedy Center Dramaturgy Intensive (2017) in conjunction with the MFA Playwriting Workshop.

Elon Ptah is excited to return to the stage in the role of Max in *Two Sugars*. Elon is a St. Louis native, a student of English at SLU, and a bookseller. He has a lifelong love of theater, as a patron, writer, & performer. Currently, his favorite production is Deaf West's *Spring Awakening*.

Luke Steffen is a 2016 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University (BA Theatre and Geography). Since moving to St Louis for a government job, he has performed in two of the plays in First Run Theatre's Spectrum One Acts Show and in The Weiss Family Christmas Show with the Arnold Community Theatre Troupe. He is excited to be in another new play with a brand new company! Enjoy the show!

Adam Szudrich is a 'Bartie' award-winning writer whose work has been selected for 51 festivals and received 28 awards.

David Zimmerman is excited to be working with the Q Collective. He is a senior at SIUE with a double major in Theatre Performance and English Education. Past credits include the *Drowsy Chaperone*, *Radium Girls*, and *The Gringo*. David would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support.

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Thank you so much to Laura, Jim, and the rest of The Monocle team for featuring The Coming Out Play Festival!

Check out all their upcoming events online at themonoclestl.com!

And tip your bartender!

We want to send a special shout-out to our queer family at St. Paul United Church of Christ for hosting auditions and rehearsals for The Coming Out Play Festival.



Join the congregation for worship every
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