



LaGuardia
and Wagner
Archives

Community College

CURTAINS UP!

LGBTQ PERFORMING ARTS IN NYC

2020 CALENDAR



New York City Council



New York
Public
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Cover: Adina Verson and Katrina Lenk performing in *Indecent*, Original Broadway Company. Photograph by Carol Rosegg.



Corey Johnson

It is my pleasure to introduce this calendar from the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives documenting the rich history of the local LGBTQ community's role in the performing arts. This vibrant and welcoming community is one of the main reasons that I was drawn to New York City as a young gay man.

When one thinks of the magical allure of New York City throughout the nation and around the world, the performing arts immediately come to mind. These arts have shaped the city's culture and, in turn, the nation's. Performing arts typically include the dramas, comedies, and musicals of Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Off-Off Broadway theatre, as well as opera, cabaret, orchestral music, classical dance, and more. This calendar is truly unique in that it reaches beyond this standard definition by exploring the role of performing arts as political and cultural protest.

From the Latinx L'Unicorns of Staten Island, to the Brooklyn-based Ballez, to the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD!), the calendar features performing arts from all five boroughs. Dancers from all five Queens-based CUNY schools are also depicted performing in the annual Queens Pride Parade in Jackson Heights over the last two years. Manhattan, of course, is represented by the dramas and musicals of Broadway and the queer cabaret performed downtown.

Yet, the LGBTQ community's history with New York's performing arts also reveals a story of prejudice and outright prohibition. In 1927, the New York State Legislature passed the Wales Padlock Law, which allowed the police to padlock any theater showing a play that included "sex degeneracy or perversion" – language that was understood to mean homosexuality. That law was applied to close the Mae West show *Pleasure Man*, and it remained in effect until 1967. And in 1945, New York City License Commissioner Paul Moss forced the closing of the play *Trio* at the Belasco Theatre because of its lesbian theme.

This is not just the history of LGBTQ people and performative expression, but also of New York and America. And it is a complicated history – one that we can all learn from. This calendar allows you the opportunity to embrace this mini-exhibition in your own home and to glimpse the history and contemporary creative lives of LGBTQ people in this great city.

Corey Johnson, Speaker, Council of the City of New York

New York, New York, what a town. They call it The City That Never Sleeps. And it's not just because the subway never closes. It's also because of the outsize role of the performance arts in Gotham. The theater and dance scenes keep New York pulsating. Broadway is not only a force in American popular culture. It has also helped make New York the cultural capital of the Western hemisphere.

And where the performance arts have flourished, the LGBT community has found a home, as this gorgeous calendar published by LaGuardia and Wagner Archives makes abundantly clear. The images are striking, capturing the exuberance of both professional and nonprofessional stages, whether in a theater or on the street. I'm particularly delighted to see images from the Drag Queen Story Hour at the Jackson Heights library in Queens. The story hour is aimed at children between ages 3 and 8, led by a drag queen reading picture books, singing songs, and leading children in craft activity. It's the perfect blend of education and entertainment, and shows that performance art can take place in any venue.



Daniel Dromm at the Drag Queen Story Hour reading at the Jackson Heights Public Library.

Daniel Dromm, Council Member, District 25



Paul Arcario

This historical calendar is the product of research by our scholars at LaGuardia Community College. Faculty and staff in our LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, in collaboration with the staff and facilities of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, have unearthed some rarely seen photographs that tell the story of the enormous role that LGBTQ people have played in the Performing Arts in New York City.

The calendar reminds us of the hard work and time it takes for equality to be realized and the continuing struggle for all people to live their lives with dignity, pride, and respect. It has been no different for those in the performing arts LGBTQ community who have fought for over one hundred years to tell their story on stage, in dance and in every medium without fear. And though we recognize tangible progress, we understand that there is more work to be done.

My thanks to all who contributed to this great struggle, very much a part of the American story, and to our LaGuardia scholars for researching and compiling this rich and beautiful telling of our history.

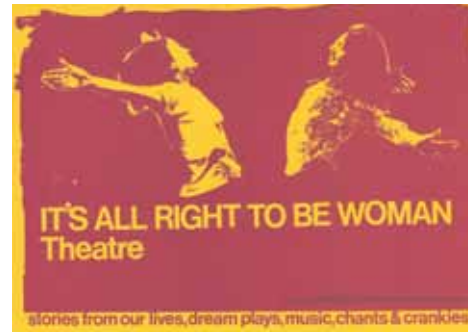
Paul Arcario, Interim President, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY



Alfred Lunt, Noël Coward, and Lynn Fontanne in the original Broadway production of Coward's *Design for Living*, 1933. (51)



Lola Lemon Queen reading to children during the Drag Queen Story Hour at the Brooklyn Children's Museum, 2018. (61)



Poster for It's All Right to Be Woman Theater, which lived, worked and performed in New York City and traveled to women's centers and college campuses across the U.S. from 1970 to 1976. (36)



Portrait of Billie Holiday performing at the Downbeat, West 52nd Street, ca. 1947. (55)



Tabloid newspaper *Brevities* exposing America's "hidden" nightlife in 1932. (17)

Milestones for CURTAINS UP! LGBTQ PERFORMING ARTS IN NYC

JUNE 22, 1868 Singer Edwin Kelly and female impersonator Francis Leon perform at the Kelly and Leon Minstrels Hall in New York.

SEPTEMBER 1868 British-born Annie Hindle begins her career as the first male impersonator to perform in the U.S., advertising herself as "the great serio-comic and impersonator of male characters."

1869 Harlem's Hamilton Lodge stages its first masquerade ball.

1870 Ella Wesner debuts as a male impersonator at Tony Pastor's Theatre.

1871 Blanche Selwyn (nee De Vere) debuts as a male impersonator and performs at the Brooklyn Opera House.

JUNE 1891 Black male impersonator Florence Hines appears as master of ceremonies with Sam T. Jack's Creole Burlesque Company at Hyde and Behman's Theatre in Brooklyn.

APRIL 22, 1895 Oscar Wilde's play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*, opens at the Empire Theatre and runs for 16 performances.

OCTOBER 12, 1896 *A Florida Enchantment* by A.C. Gunter opens in New York at Hoyt's Theatre on West 24th Street and Broadway, employing a magic African seed to change men into women and women into men. In 1914 Vitagraph Studios releases a silent movie version.

1906 Male impersonator Vesta Tilley earns a reported \$2,000 to \$3,000 per week in New York shows.

NOVEMBER 1906 Bisexual actress Alla Nazimova opens in the title

role of Hedda Gabler to start her Broadway acting career.

1910s Julian Eltinge performs as a female impersonator, upholding the feminine ideal of Victorian society, and attracts fans across the country.

1919 Female impersonator and trapeze artist Barrette makes his solo debut at the Harlem Opera House on 125th Street.

FEBRUARY 19, 1923 Sholem Asch's play, *God of Vengeance*, about a Jewish brothel-keeper whose daughter has a lesbian love affair with a prostitute opens at the Apollo Theatre on W. 42nd Street in its English-language version. On March 6, police shut down the performance and its actors and producers are prosecuted.

1925 Aaron Copland's *Symphony for Organ and Orchestra* has its premiere with the New York Symphony Orchestra.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1925 *The Green Hat*, starring Katherine Cornell and Leslie Howard opens at the Broadhurst Theatre. Paul Guilfoyle plays Cornell's closeted gay twin brother.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1925 Noël Coward writes and stars in *The Vortex*, playing a closeted gay. The play proves extremely popular.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1926 *The Captive*, a French play by Edouard Bourdet about lesbian love, starring Helen Menken and Basil Rathbone, premieres in New York and runs for 160 performances before the Manhattan District Attorney shuts it down.

APRIL 6, 1927 The New York State Legislature passes the Wales

Padlock law by which the police could padlock any theater showing a play that included "sex degeneracy or perversion," language that was understood to mean homosexuality. The law remains in effect until 1967.

1928 Ma Rainey writes, records and performs "Prove it on Me Blues," her song about lesbian love.

JANUARY 30, 1928 Eugene O'Neill introduces a gay character in his play *Strange Interlude*, based on the artist Charles Demuth. The play wins the Pulitzer Prize.

OCTOBER 3, 1928 Two days after Mae West opens her play, *Pleasure Man* at the Biltmore Theatre, police raid the show and arrest all 54 actors for indecency due to the "degenerate" performances by drag queens who were flamboyantly effeminate. Yet, for decades prior to this female impersonation was seen as wholesome entertainment.

OCTOBER 8, 1928 Cole Porter has his first Broadway hit musical, *Paris*, featuring the song, "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love."

1929 Gladys Bentley entertains regularly at Harlem's Mad House and Clam House in "Jungle Alley" on W. 133rd Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenues.

NOVEMBER 12, 1929 Thomas H. Dickinson's *Winter Bound* opens at the Garrick Theatre and depicts two women living together on a farm in Connecticut; critics describe Aline MacMahon's character as acting like a "bull dyke."



Kyoung's Pacific Beat's production of *PILLOWTALK* at La Guardia Performing Arts Center, 2017. Written and directed by Kyoung H. Park. Performed by Daniel K. Isaac and Raja Feather Kelly. (45)



Leonard Bernstein and composer Aaron Copland, ca. 1940. (40)



Jazz pianist Billy Strayhorn and Secretary Jerome Rhea, ca. 1946. (22)



Jerome Robbins dancing in *Fancy Free*, 1944. (6)



Jerome Robbins directing dancers during rehearsal for the stage production of *West Side Story*, 1957. (4)



Jazz pianist Billy Strayhorn reviewing his music at the piano, c. 1946. (28)



Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) Latex Ball, 2018. (67)



Violinist and composer Caroline Shaw, a member of Roomful of Teeth, won the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 2013 for her *Partita for 8 Voices*. She is the youngest composer to win the award since its inception in 1943. (49)



Gladys Bentley performing at the Ubangi Club in Harlem, wearing her trademark white tuxedo and top hat, ca. 1940. (47)



Charles Busch's *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*. (70)

FEBRUARY 27, 1932 Pauline Koner first dances in *Chassidic Song and Dance* on Broadway in drag as a Hasidic boy.

OCTOBER 22, 1932 J.B. Priestley's first play, *Dangerous Corner*, opens on Broadway at the Empire Theatre; Cecil Holm is the first actor to play a gay man in a successful show. It runs for over 200 performances.

DECEMBER 30, 1932 *Girls in Uniform*, a lesbian love drama, opens on Broadway for a very brief run, quickly eclipsed by the movie version, *Mädchen in Uniform*.

JANUARY 24, 1933 Noël Coward's *Design for Living* opens at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre to wide acclaim, starring housemates Coward, Lynn Fontanne, and Alfred Lunt.

OCTOBER 20, 1933 Mordaunt Shairp's play, *The Green Bay Tree*, opens at the Cort Theatre, starring Laurence Olivier as one character in "a half-suggested homosexual drama."

1934 Lincoln Kirstein opens the School of American Ballet in New York City.

FEBRUARY 20, 1934 The opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* premieres on Broadway, created by gay composer Virgil Thomson, lesbian librettist Gertrude Stein, and Thomson's lover, scenario author Maurice Grosser, featuring an all-black cast.

NOVEMBER 20, 1934 Lillian Hellman's play, *The Children's Hour*, opens on Broadway and openly discusses the intolerance shown lesbians.

1935 Bisexual entertainer Frances Faye becomes a fixture in the jazz clubs on West 52nd Street.

JANUARY 1935 Openly gay playwright J.R. Ackerley's drama, *The Prisoners of War*, opens at the Ritz Theatre, twelve years after its London premiere, but lasts only eight performances after being rejected by American critics.

1937 Billy Strayhorn composes *Lush Life* and the following year joins the Duke Ellington Band.

MAY 19, 1937 New York State Governor Herbert Lehman vetoes the Dunnigan Bill, which would have enabled New York City's Commissioner of Licenses to close any play he deemed "immoral." Nonetheless, the prohibition of gay roles continues until 1967.

JUNE 16, 1937 Gay composer Marc Blitzstein's *The Cradle Will Rock*, a labor musical, opens at the Venice Theatre after the WPA abandons its sponsorship. Blitzstein performs the score on the piano and the actors sing their parts from seats in the audience without wearing costumes or makeup.

OCTOBER 15, 1937 *Wise Tomorrow*, written by Guy Bolton, a lesbian drama, opens on Broadway, but plays only three performances after receiving negative reviews.

DECEMBER 13, 1937 Aimee and Philip Stuart's drama about two women, *Love of Women*, opens at the John Golden Theatre and plays eight performances.

1939 Tallulah Bankhead, self-identified bisexual, stars as Regina Giddens in Lillian Hellman's play, *The Little Foxes*.

1939 Danny Brown and Doc Benner form *The Jewel Box Review*, consisting of drag queens and one drag king. *The Review* moves to New York in 1955 and stars Storme DeLarverie as the male impersonator. DeLarverie plays a key role in the Stonewall Riots in 1969.

MAY 18, 1939 The one act ballet, *Filling Station*, is presented by Ballet Caravan, with music by Virgil Thomson, scenario by Lincoln Kirstein, and costumes by Paul Cadmus at the Martin Beck Theatre.

1940s Mabel Mercer performs at Tony's on West 52nd Street for many years.

DECEMBER 25, 1940 Gay lyricist Lorenz Hart and composer Richard Rodgers premiere *Pal Joey* at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

DECEMBER 25, 1942 Allen Kenward's play, *Proof Through the Night*, starring Carol Channing as a lesbian nurse, opens at the Morosco Theatre. The play later becomes the movie, *Cry 'Havoc'* about women serving in the Pacific during World War II.

NOVEMBER 3, 1943 Rose Franken's play, *Outrageous Fortune*, opens at the 48th Street Theatre. This play protests anti-Semitism and homophobia.

NOVEMBER 14, 1943 Leonard Bernstein conducts the New York Philharmonic for the first time as an emergency replacement for Bruno Walter.

APRIL 18, 1944 Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins collaborate for the first time on the ballet *Fancy Free*, which inspires the musical comedy *On the Town*.

1945 Composer John Cage moves to New York and begins touring with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Cage and Cunningham become longtime partners.

FEBRUARY 24, 1945 New York City License Commissioner Paul Moss forces the closing of the play *Trio* at the Belasco Theatre because of its lesbian theme. Moss threatens to reject the renewal of the theater's license if the play proceeds. The play had been scheduled to open the previous November at the Cort Theatre, but theater owner Lee Shubert refused to rent the space. In actuality, the play condemns the lesbian relationship between a faculty member and her graduate student.

1946 Eva Le Gallienne, Margaret Webster and Cheryl Crawford found the American Repertory Theatre, which remains open until 1948.



Members of The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS). (69)



Christopher Reeve, Jeff Daniels & Swoosie Kurtz in a scene from the Broadway play *Fifth of July*, 1980. (10)



Jugglers in Circus Amok, 2006. (59)



Jazz pianist Cecil Taylor, who pioneered free jazz. (14)



Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) Latex Ball, 2019. (72)



Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) Latex Ball, 2018. (64)



Francis Leon, nineteenth century female impersonator, performed as part of Leon and Kelly's Minstrels in New York City. (35)



Judy Grahn, lesbian feminist, poet, activist, scholar and founder of the Women's Press Collective, speaking to students at LaGuardia Community College, 2019. (73)



Heartbeat Opera presents *Dragus Maximus*, a homosexual opera odyssey as its Fifth Annual Halloween Drag Extravaganza at Roulette, Brooklyn, 2018. (27)

NOVEMBER 26, 1946 Jean Paul Sartre's play, *No Exit*, opens at the Biltmore Theatre and involves the relationship of two women (one, a lesbian) and a man in Hell.

MAY 7, 1947 Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson combine to write their second opera, *The Mother of Us All*, about the life of Susan B. Anthony, which premieres at Columbia University.

MAY 17, 1947 John Cage and Merce Cunningham collaborate on *The Seasons*, a ballet with music at the Ziegfeld Theatre.

DECEMBER 3, 1947 Tennessee Williams's drama, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, opens at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. Williams earns the Pulitzer Prize.

1948 Lincoln Kirstein combines with George Balanchine to stage Stravinsky's *Orpheus*, a landmark in modern dance.

FEBRUARY 12, 1948 Benjamin Britten's opera *Peter Grimes* premieres at the Metropolitan Opera House. It is later reprised in 1967 starring Jon Vickers.

1950 Dmitri Mitropoulos becomes music director of the New York Philharmonic.

FEBRUARY 13, 1953 William Inge's play, *Picnic*, opens at the Music Box Theatre.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1953 *Tea and Sympathy*, written by Robert Anderson, premieres at the Ethel Barrymore Theater to rave reviews and becomes a big hit. It depicts a male private school student who faces accusations of homosexuality.

1954 Paul Taylor founds the Paul Taylor Dance Company in New York City and works closely with artist Robert Rauschenberg.

1954 Robert Joffrey forms his own dance ensemble to present his own

work and that of his partner Gerald Arpino.

FEBRUARY 1, 1954 *The Immoralist* opens on Broadway at the Royale Theatre in an adaptation of the Andre Gide novel by August and Ruth Goetz.

1957 Pianist Cecil Taylor, creator of free jazz, performs at the Five Spot Cafe at 5 Cooper Square.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1957 *West Side Story* opens at the Winter Garden Theatre, with a gay, lesbian and bisexual creative team including Arthur Laurents, Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Oliver Smith, Jean Rosenthal, Irene Sharaff and the first actor to play Tony, Larry Kert.

1958 Joseph Cino opens the Caffe Cino at 31 Cornelia Street in Greenwich Village. It is known as the birthplace of Off-Off Broadway Theatre and a site for gay theater at a time when it was illegal to stage gay performances.

MARCH 30, 1958 The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre presents its first show, including the dance *Blues Suite*.

MAY 21, 1959 The musical *Gypsy*, with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by Arthur Laurents, opens at the Broadway Theatre and eventually runs for 702 performances.

1960 Reverend Al Carmines joins the Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village and founds the Judson Poets' Theatre. In 1966 he wins his first of five Obie Award for his musical, *Home Movies*.

JANUARY 14, 1960 Edward Albee's first play, *The Zoo Story*, opens at the Provincetown Playhouse.

1961 LaMaMa Experimental Theatre is founded by Ellen Stewart.

1961 Doric Wilson's play, *Now She Dances!* premieres at the Caffe Cino.

APRIL 23, 1961 Judy Garland performs in concert at Carnegie Hall in what has been called "the greatest night in show business history."

1963 The Open Theatre is founded by a group including prolific playwright Megan Terry, Peter Feldman and Joseph Chaikin.

1964 Robert Patrick's play, *The Haunted Host*, opens at the Caffe Cino on Cornelia Street.

APRIL 23, 1964 James Baldwin's play, *Blues for Mister Charlie*, opens at the ANTA Theatre.

OCTOBER 12, 1965 Joe Orton's play, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, opens at the Lyceum Theatre. Orton wins an Obie Award for Best Foreign Play posthumously.

1966 Truman Capote hosts the first black and white masked ball at the Plaza Hotel.

1967 Charles Ludlam founds the Ridiculous Theatrical Company and writes, directs, produces, and stars in the company's plays.

1967 Playwright George Birimisa's Off-Off Broadway show *Daddy Violet* opens to acclaim.

1967 John Giorno, poet and performance artist creates Dial-A-Poem, featuring readings by John Cage, Anne Waldman, Allen Ginsburg and others.

FEBRUARY 23, 1967 John Herbert's play about a youth reformatory, *Fortune and Men's Eyes*, opens Off-Broadway at the Actors Playhouse.

MAY 23, 1967 Valerie Solanos performs *Scummy Thing* at the Directors Theatre on E. 14th Street, part of her *Scum Manifesto* (Society for Cutting Up Men).



Hector Xtravaganza at the Paradise Garage, 2017. (58)



Ms. Colombia (Oswaldo Gomez) at the first Queens Pride Parade, 1993. (13)



Coney Island Mermaid participants. (31)



Cherry Jones in a scene from the Broadway play *Stepping Out*, 1986. (9)



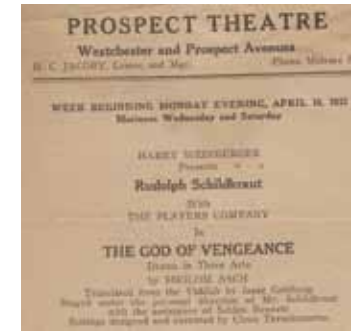
Marian Seldes and Frances Conroy in a scene from the New York Shakespeare Festival production of Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*, 1991. (8)



The Children's Hour, Lillian Hellman's play about lesbian lovers, 1934. (50)



Heartbeat Opera presents *Dragus Maximus*, a homosexual opera odyssey as its Fifth Annual Halloween Drag Extravaganza at Roulette, Brooklyn, 2018. (26)



Program of the Bronx English-language production of Sholem Asch's Yiddish play *The God of Vengeance*, 1923. (12)



Arrest of Drag Queens from Mae West's Broadway show, *Pleasure Man*, 1928. (33)



Ella Wesner, nineteenth century male impersonator. (65a)

MARCH 13, 1968 Laura Nyro releases her second album, *Eli and the Thirteenth Confession*.

APRIL 14, 1968 *Boys in the Band* premieres off-Broadway at Theatre Four on W. 55th Street. It doesn't open on Broadway until 2018.

1969 New Feminist Repertory Theatre is founded by Rita Mae Brown, Jacqueline Ceballos, Susan Vannucci, and Anselma Dell'Olio.

1969 Eleven women form the It's All Right to Be Woman Theatre, which produces plays based on their own personal experiences.

JANUARY 12, 1969 Gus Weill's erotic gay play *Geese* opens at the Players Theatre.

FEBRUARY 15, 1969 Radical Feminists known as the Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell (WITCH) zap the first annual Bridal Fair, held at Madison Square Garden.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1969 The Feminists, led by Ti-Grace Atkinson, Marcia Winslow, Pam Kearon, Sheila Cronan, and Linda Feldman, stage a guerilla theater performance at the New York City Marriage License Bureau protesting heterosexual love.

1970 Megan Terry wins an Obie Award for Best Play with *Approaching Simone: A Drama in Two Acts*.

APRIL 26, 1970 The musical *Company*, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, opens at the Alvin Theatre, where it runs for 705 performances.

MAY 1, 1970 Lavender Menace performs its first zap at the Second Congress to Unite Women, sponsored by NOW, protesting the exclusion of lesbians from the feminist movement.

1971 Composer Roberta Kosse founds the musical ensemble *Women Like*

Me. LoveTapesCollective Group members Betty Brown, Doris Lunden, Barbara Jabaily and Tracy Fitz were all part of the singing group.

1971 Bette Midler sings and Barry Manilow accompanies her on the piano at the Continental Baths, a gay bathhouse located in the basement of the Ansonia Hotel on Broadway and W. 73rd Street.

JANUARY 20, 1971 Lynne Carter becomes the first female impersonator to star in a concert at Carnegie Hall.

NOVEMBER 7, 1971 San Francisco hippie drag performance art troupe The Cockettes have their New York debut at the Anderson Theater. New York was not impressed with the rag tag group.

1972 Hot Peaches, a drag theater company, is founded by Jimmy Camicia.

1972 Black drag queens Crystal LaBeija and Lotte LaBeija form the family House of LaBeija to present alternative house balls in Harlem.

APRIL 2, 1972 Tennessee Williams's play *Small Craft Warnings* opens at the Off-Broadway Truck and Warehouse Theatre. It is his first play that features men living an open gay lifestyle.

AUGUST 1972 Lou Reed releases his song "Walk on the Wild Side," which references trans people.

1973 Alix Dobkin forms the all-lesbian group *Lavender Jane*, which releases their first album, "Lavender Jane Loves Women," on the label Women Wax Works.

1973 Hester Brown forms the Victoria Woodhull All-Women's Marching Band.

1973 Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane form the American Dance Asylum.

1973 Radical Lesbian members of the Furies and Radicalesbians, including Cris Williamson, Meg Christian, Judy Dlugacz and others found

Olivia Records, a label run totally by women.

1973 The Onyx Women's Theatre is founded by African-American women in South Ozone Park, Queens.

MARCH 18, 1973 Dancer and choreographer Tommy Tune plays David, a gay choreographer in *Seesaw*, and wins the Tony Award for his performance.

1974 Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo is formed by past members of the Trockadero Gloxinia Ballet Company who sought less focus on drag ballerinas.

1974 The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS) opens the first professional gay theater company. Doric Wilson, Billy Blackwell and Peter Del Valle lead the company.

1974 Self-identified as a "big, loud, Jewish butch lesbian," singer Maxine Feldman performs with Yoko Ono at Town Hall. In 1973, Max had earlier released her song, "Angry Atthis."

OCTOBER 31, 1974 *Tubstrip*, a risqué comedy written and directed by Jerry Douglas and set in a gay bathhouse, opens Off-Broadway.

1975 Spiderwoman Theatre is founded by Muriel Miguel and members Lisa Mayo, Gloria Miguel, Lois Weaver, and Pam Verge.

1975 Olivia Records releases its first album, *I Know You Know*, by Meg Christian.

1975 LaDuchess Wong and Nicole Wong establish the House of Wong; Paris Dupree and Burger Dupree establish the House of Dupree, in order to compete in drag queen balls.

JULY 25, 1975 *A Chorus Line* opens on Broadway; Michael Bennet serves as director, co-producer, co-author, and co-choreographer. The show runs for fifteen years at the Shubert Theatre.



Club Kids in party clothes, 2005. (19)



Runway Effect at Ballroom event, 2009. (18)



Wigstock Festival, 2001. (71)



Robert Dahdah, Ron Link, Charles Stanley, and Candace Scott performing *All Day for a Dollar or: Crumpled Christmas* show by H.M. Koutoukas at Caffè Cino, 1965. (7)



Jerreme Rodriguez and Brandi Bravo in *I Like to Be Here: Jackson Heights Revisited, Or, This is a Mango* (Theatre 167). (24)



Brochure advertising *The God of Vengeance on Broadway*, 1923. The play is about a brothel keeper and her daughter and a lesbian relationship. (16)



Gay bullfighter from Brooklyn, Sidney Franklin, performing at the 1939 New York World's Fair. (1)



Rockland Palace at 8th Avenue and 155th Street in Harlem, scene of the annual Masquerade and Civic Ball and other drag performances in the 1920s and 1930s. (15)



Dramatic protest against ICE detentions, Queens Pride Parade, 2019. (96)



Jean Smart and Carolyn Cope in the original production of *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, at the Actors Playhouse, 1980. (44)

SEPTEMBER 17, 1975 Bill Solly's *Boy Meets Boy* opens Off-Broadway at the Actor's Playhouse, featuring a love affair between two men and a same-sex marriage.

1976 Medusa's Revenge, the first lesbian performance space, opens at 10 Bleecker Street by two Cuban exiles, Ana Maria Simo and Magaly Alabau. The company maintains a women-only policy on most nights.

1976 The Glines is founded to develop and promote gay artists.

1977 Conductor Donald Rock forms the Gotham Male Chorus; it adds women in 1980 and becomes the Stonewall Chorale.

1977 The Village People, a disco-era singing group, is formed and becomes an enduring part of gay male popular culture.

1977 The Flamboyant Ladies Company, an alternative arts space, is founded in Brooklyn by Alexis De Veaux and Gwendolen Hardwick.

MAY 5, 1977 *Fefu and Her Friends*, a play by lesbian playwright Maria Irene Fornes opens.

MAY 21, 1977 Albert Innaurato's play, *Gemini*, moves to the Little Theatre after an Off-Broadway run.

1978 Singer songwriter Holly Near records "Imagine My Surprise" with Meg Christian.

FEBRUARY 2, 1978 Harvey Fierstein's play, *International Stud*, a comedy-drama about a drag queen, opens Off-Off Broadway at La MaMa, E.T.C. On May 22 it opens Off-Broadway at the Players Theatre.

APRIL 27, 1978 Lanford Wilson's play, *The Fifth of July*, about a gay disabled Vietnam War veteran, opens at the Circle Repertory Company.

1979 Mother Avis and Father Kirk establish the House of Pendavis to

compete at drag balls.

1979 Playwright Sarah Schulman presents her first show at the Pyramid Club.

DECEMBER 2, 1979 Martin Sherman's play, *Bent*, starring Richard Gere and David Dukes, about the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis, opens at the Apollo Theatre on W. 43rd Street.

DECEMBER 14, 1979 Christopher Durang's play, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, opens at the Ensemble Studio Theatre.

1980 The Allied Farces consisting of Split Britches, Jordy Mark, Pamela Cambe, Alina Troyano (Carmelita Tropicana), Holly Hughes, Reno, and the Five Lesbian Brothers, create an international women's theater festival that led to the Women's One World Theatre (WOW).

1980 Women's One World (WOW) Café Theatre is formed in the East Village by Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver along with Pamela Cambe and Jordy Mark as a center for lesbian, women's and transgender theater in New York.

1980 Premiere of *Oh, What A Life* at WOW Café Theatre by Spider-women Theatre.

1980 The First Gay American Arts Festival in New York opens, presented by The Glines.

1980 Assotto Saint and Jan Holmgren found the Metamorphosis Theater and stage *Risin' to the Love We Need*.

1980 More Fire! Productions, a women's theater collective, is founded by Robin Epstein and Dorothy Cantwell. Sarah Schulman joins the company in 1983 and collaborates with Epstein on writing and performing *Art Failures* (1983), *Whining and Dining* (1984), and *Epstein on the Beach*

(1985).

FEBRUARY 13, 1980 Jane Chambers's lesbian drama *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* opens Off-Off Broadway at the Shandol Theatre, starring Jean Smart. It opens Off-Broadway at the Actors Playhouse on December 22 that same year.

OCTOBER 1980 *Split Britches*, a lesbian theater group is formed by Peggy Shaw, Lois Weaver, and Deb Margolin. The group performs the eponymous show at the WOW Festival.

DECEMBER 1980 The Metropolitan Opera presents the first full performance of Alban Berg's opera *Lulu* in New York.

1981 Premiere of *Sun, Moon, and Feather* and *Split Britches* at Newfoundland Theatre.

1981 Willi Ninja founds the House of Ninja and brings Asian aesthetics into the ball world.

MAY 18, 1981 Caryl Churchill's comedy about sexual identity, *Cloud Nine*, opens at the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

1982 Lyricist Howard Ashman writes the book and works with Alan Menken on the score of the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*.

1982 Father Hector Val founds the House of Xtravaganza, the first Latin family house. The House makes its first appearance the following year at the House of Omni.

1982 Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane form the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. In 1984 they stage *Secret Pastures*, featuring settings by Keith Haring.

1982 Joan Jett releases her second album, *I Love Rock 'n' Roll*, which makes her a star.



Leonard Bernstein and composer Aaron Copland at Bernardsville, New Jersey, 1945. (39)



Performance by the Jewel Box Review, billed as 25 men and one woman, at the Loew's State Theater on Broadway, 1958. All the men worked in drag and Storme Delarverie dressed as a man. (37)



Ella Wesner, nineteenth century male impersonator. (65)



Cecil Taylor performing in concert. (29)



Joe Cino and playwright Edward Albee at a benefit for the Caffé Cino. (52)



Actor, director, choreographer Andre De Shields wearing a costume as the Wizard in *The Wiz*, designed by Geoffrey Holder, 1975. (53)



Justin Vivien Bond in performance. (23)



Charles Busch starring in *Theodora, She-Bitch of Byzantium* at the Limbo Lounge, 1984. (30)



Poets, authors, and activists Pat Parker and Audre Lorde at a poetry reading in 1981. (57c)



Glen Anders as Edward Darrell, Lynn Fontanne as Nina, and Tom Powers as Charles Madsen in *Strange Interlude* by Eugene O'Neill, 1928. (48)

1983 Holly Hughes premieres *The Well of Horniness*, a lesbian play, at several different clubs in the East Village, including Pyramid and Limbo Lounge. The play has since been presented in many theaters across the country.

1983 TWEED Theatreworks is founded in the East Village by Kevin Malony and Neva Hutchinson.

AUGUST 21, 1983 *La Cage Aux Folles*, written for the stage by Harvey Fierstein with lyrics and music by Jerry Herman is the first Broadway musical with a gay couple as the romantic leads. It wins the Tony for best musical the following year.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1983 *Come Out and Sing Together* (COAST), the first national gay and lesbian choral festival (GALA) consisting of 1,200 singers, performs at Lincoln Center. Groups include the Gay Men's Chorus, the Artemis Singers and the Stonewall Chorale. A combined festival chorus sings new works by Ned Rorem and Libby Larsen.

1984 *Carmelita Tropicana Chats* parodies television talk shows at the Club Chandelier and the WOW Café.

1984 Allice Forrester's play *Heart of the Scorpion* parodies the romance novel.

1984 Poet John Giorno turns his poetry nonprofit into the AIDS Treatment Project, providing compassion, practical help, and cash to those with the disease.

SEPTEMBER 1984 Charles Ludlum's camp show, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, opens Off-Off Broadway in a production by the Ridiculous Theatrical Company.

NOVEMBER 17, 1984 Split Britches performs *Upwardly Mobile Home*, about how to survive in Reagan's America while camping out under the

Brooklyn Bridge, at the WOW Café Theatre.

1985 Pianist and singer Michael Feinstein releases his first album, *Pure Gershwin*, a tribute to George and Ira Gershwin. Feinstein had worked from 1977-1983 as Ira Gershwin's music archivist.

APRIL 21, 1985 Larry Kramer's play, *The Normal Heart*, opens at *The Public Theatre*. The play is semi-autobiographical and recounts the initial years of the HIV/AIDS crisis and the government's inattention.

MAY 1, 1985 William Hoffman's AIDS-themed drama, *As Is*, opens at the Circle Repertory Company.

JUNE 19, 1985 Charles Busch restages *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* at the Provincetown Playhouse, where the show runs for five years, the longest-running Off-Broadway musical.

AUGUST 1985 Drag queen Ethyl Eichelberger performs his own variation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, *Leer*, taking on all three roles of Lear, Cordelia, and Fool, at club 8BC in the East Village.

1986 Ellie Covan founds Dixon Place, which invites new work by women, LGBTQ people and artists of color.

1986 George C. Wolfe's play, *The Colored Museum*, opens at *The Public Theatre*, where he later becomes Artistic Director.

1987 Fashion designer Pat Field establishes the House of Field, the first white downtown house to compete in uptown balls.

MARCH 20, 1988 David Henry Hwang's play *M. Butterfly* premieres at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre. It wins the Tony Award for Best Play and runs for 777 performances.

1989 Five Lesbian Brothers, described as a troupe of Sapphic satirists consisting

of Maureen Angelos, Babs Davy, Dominique Dibbell, Peg Healey, and Lisa Kron, is formed. Their first show, *Voyage to Lesbos*, mocks the notion of marriage.

1989 John Corigliano composes Symphony No. 1, inspired by the loss of many of his friends to AIDS.

1989 Circus Amok, a circus-theater troupe directed and founded by Jennifer Miller that addresses contemporary issues of social justice, presents its first show *The Ozone Show* about environmental pollution and its effect on the ozone layer.

1989 Singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco founds her own record label, Righteous Babe Records. In 1992 she releases her song "In or Out," in which she discusses her sexuality.

1989 Composer Ben Neill and artist David Wojnarowicz first perform the multimedia *ITSOFOMO* (In the Shadow of Forward Motion) at *The Kitchen*. The show addresses the politics of AIDS in the U.S.

1990 Playwright and composer William Finn composes and writes *Falsettoland*, based on a family Thanksgiving dinner.

1990 Performance artists Holly Hughes, Karen Finley, John Fleck, and Tim Miller (the NEA 4) have their grants revoked by the National Endowment for the Arts.

1990 Jennie Livingston's documentary film *Paris Is Burning* chronicles the spectacle of ballroom culture and voguing and the community behind it.

1990 The Gay Men's Health Crisis founds the House of Latex to address HIV/AIDS through dance and an annual ball, the Latex Ball.

JULY 19, 1990 Ethyl Eichelberger directs and stars in his last produced work, *Das Vedanya Mama* at P.S. 122, a spoof of Chekhov, Stanislavsky, and the Bolshoi Ballet.



Illustration of Adah Isaacs Menken performing *The Mazeppa Galop*, ca. 1860. (63)



Dmitri Mitropoulos, conductor of the New York Philharmonic from 1949 to 1958, leads the orchestra in a concert at Lewisohn Stadium on the campus of CCNY, 1955. (32)



The Glines presents Ethyl Eichelberger as Queen Nefertiti. (68)



Robert Patrick and William G. Hoffman in *The Haunted Host* at Caffé Cino, 1964. (21)



Ethyl Eichelberger performing in *Pedro and Oedipus* at La Mama Experimental Theatre Club, 1977. (43)



African-American author and playwright Alexis DeVeaux. (25)



John Benjamin Hickey and Anthony Heald in a scene from the Broadway production of Terrence McNally's play *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (11)



Poster advertising comedienne Margaret Cho. (80)



Chay Yew, playwright and director, who has worked at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Public Theatre and New York Theatre Workshop. (80a)



Plumed feathered participant, Queens Pride Parade, 2019. (95)



"Ma" Rainey advertisement for her recording of "Prove It on Me Blues." (42)



Jennifer Miller, a lady with a beard, in Circus Amok. (60)



Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) Latex Ball, 2016. (4a)

OCTOBER 12, 1990 Composer and soprano sfogato Diamanda Galas performs and records *Plague Mass* at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

JUNE 2, 1991 Visual AIDS in conjunction with Broadway Cares and Equity Fights AIDS launches the Red Ribbon campaign during the annual Tony Awards show.

DECEMBER 19, 1991 John Corigliano's opera *The Ghosts of Versailles* opens at the Metropolitan Opera House.

1992 Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver of Split Britches, perform *Lesbians Who Kill*, written by Deb Margolin.

1992 Dixon Place performance space begins the *HOT! Festival* of queer arts and culture.

1992 Baritone William Parker begins the *AIDS Song Quilt*, consisting of song poems by composers including Ned Rorem, Libby Larsen and William Bolcom. In June, he and fellow baritones perform the cycle at Alice Tully Hall.

1992 Composer Roger Bourland and lyricist John Hall compose *Hidden Legacies*, a cantata written for gay and lesbian choruses.

JANUARY 29, 1992 Paula Vogel's play, *The Baltimore Waltz*, about her brother's death from AIDS opens at the Circle Repertory Company.

APRIL 29, 1992 William Finn's *Falsettos* opens at the John Golden Theatre. It is drawn from his Marvin trilogy, including *March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland*.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1992 Lesbian Avengers stage their first New York City event at P.S. 87 in Middle Village, Queens, handing out balloons to students with "Teach About Lesbian Lives" written on them, protesting the school district's opposition to the Rainbow Curriculum.

DECEMBER 31, 1992 Paul Rudnick's comic play, *Jeffrey*, about a gay man's life in the era of AIDS, opens Off-Off Broadway at the WPA Theatre. On March 6, 1993 it reopens at the Minetta Lane Theatre.

1993 Meredith Monk composes *New York Requiem* about the AIDS crisis.

1993 David Drake's semi-autobiographical one-man show, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, addresses the AIDS crisis.

FEBRUARY 14, 1993 Lesbian Avengers install a statue of Alice B. Toklas next to the statue of Gertrude Stein in Bryant Park and dance in their honor.

MARCH 31, 1993 Marga Gomez's *Marga Gomez Is Pretty, Witty, and Gay* is performed at the Whitney Biennial.

MAY 1993 *Kiki and Herb: Coup de Theatre* opens at the Cherry Lane Theatre starring Justin Vivien Bond and Kenny Mellman, bringing their iconoclastic act to Off-Broadway.

MAY 3, 1993 *Kiss of the Spider Woman* opens at the Broadhurst Theatre. Terrence McNally's book for the musical wins the Tony award.

MAY 4, 1993 *Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches*, written by Tony Kushner, opens on Broadway. Director George C. Wolfe wins the Tony Award for Best Director. The play wins the Pulitzer Prize. *Part Two: Perestroika* opens a few months later and appears in repertory with *Millennium Approaches*.

JUNE 16, 1993 Howard Crabtree's *Whoop – Dee – Doo* opens at the Off-Broadway Actors' Playhouse.

JUNE 26, 1993 The Lesbian Avengers organize the first NYC Dyke

Protest March, which moves along Fifth Avenue from Bryant Park to Washington Square Park.

JULY 1993 San Francisco based performance trio Pomo Afro Homos appear in the avant-garde Serious Fun festival at Lincoln Center.

OCTOBER 22, 1993 Bob Ostertag releases *All the Rage*, based on a gay rights riot in San Francisco in 1991.

1994 Bill T. Jones presents *Still/Here*, a ballet about terminal illness.

1994 Pauline Oliveros records *Epigraphs in the Time of AIDS*. It receives its New York City premiere in September 1998 at Columbia University.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1994 The Five Lesbian Brothers perform *The Secretaries* at the New York Theatre Workshop.

OCTOBER 25, 1994 Singer and composer Laurie Anderson releases *Love Among the Sailors* about the AIDS crisis.

NOVEMBER 1994 Claire Chafee's play *Why We Have a Body* opens at the WPA Theatre in New York City.

1995 Actress Cherry Jones wins her first Tony Award for her role in the Lincoln Center revival of *The Heiress*. She wins again in 2005 for her role in *Doubt*.

APRIL 4, 1995 Stewart Wallace's docu-opera *Harvey Milk* opens at the New York City Opera.

1996 Robert Seeley composes *Naked Man*, a song cycle about growing up gay.

1996 Drag queen RuPaul launches a talk show on MTV.

1996 Dancer and choreographer Arthur Avilés' *A Puerto Rican Faggot in America* premieres.



Performers at the Queens Pride Festival, 2019. (94)



Dr. King Wang Newton entertaining at Club Bizarre, Brooklyn. (77)



Caribbean Equality Project members dancing at the Queens Pride Parade, 2018. (84)



Tom O'Horgan with custom made sistrum for *The Tempest* at LaMaMa (directed by Tom O'Horgan), 1994. (99)



NYC Councilmember Tom Duane participating in an ACT UP die-in protesting inadequate funding for AIDS treatment, 1997. (74)



Dancer at the Queens Pride Parade, 2019. (93)



Harmonia reads to children during the Drag Queen Story Hour at the Epiphany branch of the NYPL, 2018. (83)



Performers at the Queens Pride Festival, 2019. (87)



Dancer in Queens Pride Parade, 2019. (91)



Members of Fogo Azul, Brazilian percussion band, performing at the Queens Pride Parade, 2019. (86)

APRIL 17, 1996 Carson Kreitzer's musical, *The Slow Drag*, based on the life of transgender jazz musician Billy Tipton opens Off-Broadway at the American Place Theatre.

APRIL 29, 1996 Jonathan Larson's musical *Rent*, which includes gay and lesbian characters, opens on Broadway and runs for twelve years.

AUGUST 14, 1996 Howard Crabtree's musical comedy *When Pigs Fly* opens at the Off-Broadway Douglas Fairbanks Theatre and runs for 840 performances.

NOVEMBER 1, 1996 The troupe Urban Bush Women premieres *Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story*, by Jawole Zollar, based on Jewelle Gomez's novel about lesbian vampires, at the Joyce Theater.

MARCH 19, 1998 Alan Cummings stars as the Master of Ceremonies in the Broadway revival of *Cabaret*. The show runs for 2,377 performances.

MAY 12, 1998 Craig Lucas's play, *The Dying Gaul*, opens at the Vineyard Theatre.

JUNE 1998 Gay Shame begins as an annual event in Brooklyn, New York. Held for a number of years at DUMBA, an artists' run collective center, this radical queer event featured performers like Penny Arcade and Kiki and Herb.

DECEMBER 6, 1998 Diana Son's play, *Stop Kiss*, opens Off-Broadway at The Public Theatre. The play tells the story of love and commitment between two young women.

JULY 22, 1999 The musical revue, *Naked Boys Singing*, opens at the Off-Broadway Actors' Playhouse.

MAY 18, 2000 *The Laramie Project* opens at the Union Square Theatre. Led by Moises Kaufman, members of the Tectonic Theater Project visit

Laramie, Wyoming to interview residents about their reactions to the murder of Matthew Shepard.

NOVEMBER 2, 2000 Charles Busch's *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* opens at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre following an Off-Broadway success. It runs for 777 performances.

2001 Mark Morris moves the Mark Morris Dance Company to its permanent home at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

MAY 12, 2001 Composer and pianist David Del Tredici collaborates with poet John Kelly on *Brother*, which includes poetry by Allen Ginsberg, Lewis Carroll, and Paul Monette, at P.S. 122 on First Avenue.

OCTOBER 2001 Calvin Clark is one of the founders of Moor's Bar and Lounge on Atlantic Avenue in Crown Heights, later renamed Club Langston, a gay dance club catering to Caribbean and West Indian men.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002 Richard Greenberg's play, *Take Me Out*, opens at The Public Theatre and later wins a Tony Award. It reopens the following February at the Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway.

MAY 27, 2003 The Tectonic Theater presents *I Am My Own Wife* at the Playwrights Horizon. On December 2 that year it moves to the Lyceum Theatre on Broadway. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the play tells the story of a German transvestite's life during World War II and under the East German Communist government thereafter.

NOVEMBER 12, 2004 The Five Lesbian Brothers present *Brave Smiles: Another Lesbian Tragedy*, a satirical look at how lesbians have been portrayed in theater, film, and literature from 1920 onward.

APRIL 30, 2009 *The Temperamentals*, a play written by Jon Marans

about the founding of the Mattachine Society, opens Off-Off Broadway at the Barrow Group Studio Theatre.

JULY 2009 Queer Urban Orchestra is founded.

OCTOBER 27, 2010 Leonard Bernstein's opera, *A Quiet Place*, receives its New York City premiere at the New York City Opera.

2011 Katy Pyle founds Ballez, a radical queering of classical ballet.

JANUARY 13, 2012 Jackson Heights 3AM, conceived and directed by Ari Laura Kreith, opens at P.S. 69 in Jackson Heights. On Feb. 8, 2013 the Jackson Heights Trilogy opens in Manhattan at the New Ohio Theatre.

JULY 18, 2012 E. Patrick Johnson brings *Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales*, his one-man performance piece based on oral histories he conducted, to Dixon Place.

OCTOBER 30, 2012 Caroline Shaw composes *Partita for 8 Voices*, which she wrote for the debut recording of vocal group Roomful of Teeth of which she is a member. In 2013 she wins the Pulitzer Prize for her composition; she is the youngest composer to have won the award since its inception in 1943.

APRIL 15, 2013 *The Nance*, written by Douglas Carter Beane and starring Nathan Lane, opens at the Lyceum Theatre in a Lincoln Center Production. The show depicts the lives of burlesque workers in the 1930s.

JULY 2, 2013 Tarell Alvin McCraney's play *Choir Boy* opens at the Manhattan Theatre Club at City Center. It later opens on Broadway in January, 2019. McCraney goes on to co-write the screenplay for the Oscar-winning movie *Moonlight*.



Protesting the death of a transwoman held in ICE custody, at the Queens Pride Parade, 2019. (92)



Bisexual Nona Hendryx, musician, singer and member of the group Labelle, wore this outfit on a live television performance of *The Midnight Special*, 1975. (54)



Performers at the Queens Pride Festival, 2019. (90)



Ms. Colombia (Osvaldo Gomez), participating in the Queens Pride Parade, 2001. (82)



Performers at the Queens Pride Festival, 2019. (89)



Member of Tarab, Queer Middle Eastern and North African People, performing at the Queens Pride Festival, 2019. (88)



Dancer Dvora Lapson playing a yeshiva student in *Yeshiva Bachur*, 1937. (2)



Tom Bigornia, Neil Flanagan, and Lucy Silvey in Lanford Wilson's play, *The Madness of Lady Bright*, at Caffe Cino, 1964. (75a)



James Waring and Yvonne Rainer in Waring's *Dromenon*, 1953. (5)



Charles Busch as Marlene Dietrich, 2017. (20)



Exterior of Caffe Cino, a home to avant-garde theater in Greenwich Village, 1965. (3)

OCTOBER 22, 2013 *Fun Home*, a musical adapted by Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori from Alison Bechdel's 2006 graphic memoir, opens on Broadway following its opening at The Public Theatre the previous year. It is the first Broadway musical with a lesbian protagonist.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 Laura Kaminsky's *As One*, a transgender opera opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Kaminsky is the composer and Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed write the libretto.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014 *NEGROGOTHIC, A Manifesto*, *The Aesthetics of M. Lamar* is the first New York solo exhibition by artist, countertenor, and composer M. Lamar.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014 The queer South Asian performance duo DarkMatter, Janani Balasubramanian and Alok Vaid-Menon, perform at La MaMa.

NOVEMBER 8, 2015 Taylor Mac's play on the dysfunctional American family, *Hir*, opens at Playwrights Horizons.

NOVEMBER 9, 2015 Peter Parnell's *Dada Woof Papa Hot* opens at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theatre at Lincoln Center and explores being a gay parent.

MAY 17, 2016 Paula Vogel's play *Indecent* opens Off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre before moving to Broadway on April 18, 2017. It dramatizes the reaction to the opening of Sholem Asch's play *God of Vengeance* in 1923.

OCTOBER 24, 2016 Taylor Mac performs *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* in drag at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. The extravaganza includes acrobats, burlesque performers, puppets, a choir and a marching band.

OCTOBER 31, 2016 The Heartbeat Opera presents its Third Annual Drag Extravaganza, *Queens of the Night: Mozart in Space*.

DECEMBER 19, 2016 Drew Droege writes and stars in *Bright Colors and Bold Patterns* at the Off-Broadway Barrow Street Theatre.

MARCH 2, 2017 Joshua Harmon's play, *Significant Other*, opens on Broadway after making its Off-Broadway debut in June, 2015.

OCTOBER 30, 2017 The Heartbeat Opera presents its Fourth Annual Drag Extravaganza: *All the World's A Drag!* At National Sawdust in Brooklyn.

2018 Playwrights Kit Yan and MJ Kaufman found Translab, an incubator for transgender and non-binary voices in the American theater.

MAY 2018 National Queer Theater presents its inaugural event, *Speechless*.

JULY 26, 2018 *Head Over Heels*, a jukebox musical based on songs by The Go-Go's opens at the Hudson Theatre and stars Peppermint as Pytho, the first transgender woman to originate a principal role on Broadway.

OCTOBER 26, 2018 The Heartbeat Opera presents *Dragus Maximus*, a homosexual opera odyssey at Roulette in Brooklyn.

NOVEMBER 15, 2018 *The Prom* about heartland homophobia opens on Broadway.

2019 *Chamber Queer*, founded by Danielle Buonaiuto, Brian Mummert, Julia Biber, and Andrew Yee, holds its first annual LGBTQ+ chamber music series based in Brooklyn.

JUNE 15, 2019 Burlesque at the Beach presents *Queer Coney Circus Sideshow: After Dark*, centering LGBTQ artists in the genres of circus,

sideshow, and vaudeville.

JUNE 20-24, 2019 *Pride Plays*, a festival of play readings takes place at the Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre on Waverly Place to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. More than fifteen plays are presented.

JUNE 21, 2019 Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Ian Bell's *Stonewall*, performed by New York City Opera. The character of a transgender woman, Sarah, is sung by Liz Bouk, a transgender man.

JULY 26, 2019 *Stone*, a play by Morgaine Gooding-Silverwood, based on Leslie Feinberg's novel, *Stone Butch Blues*, opens at the Corkscrew Theatre Festival at Paradise Factory.

OCTOBER 8, 2019 Queer playwright Jeremy O. Harris's comic drama about sex and race *Slave Play* opens on Broadway at the John Golden Theatre, following its controversial performances earlier this year at the Off-Broadway New York Theatre Workshop.

OCTOBER 30, 2019 The Heartbeat Opera presents its Sixth Annual Halloween Drag Extravaganza, *Hot Mama: Singing Gays Saving Gaia*, at Roulette in Brooklyn.

NOVEMBER 17, 2019 Matthew Lopez's two-part play, *The Inheritance*, an adaptation of E. M. Forster's *Howard's End*, opens on Broadway after an acclaimed London run.

NOVEMBER 19, 2019 Tony Kushner's 1985 play *A Bright Room Called Day* about America in the Reagan Years is revived at the Public Theatre.

DECEMBER 5, 2019 *Jagged Little Pill*, inspired by Alanis Morissette's album, opens on Broadway.



Lucy and Ethel at Wigstock, 1994. (98)



Gladys Bentley and bandleader Willie Bryant in New York, 1936. (78)



Justin Vivien Bond performing in *Over the Moon*. (38)



Poster for Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy*. (75)



Julian Eltinge, early twentieth century female impersonator. (66)



Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1955. (56)

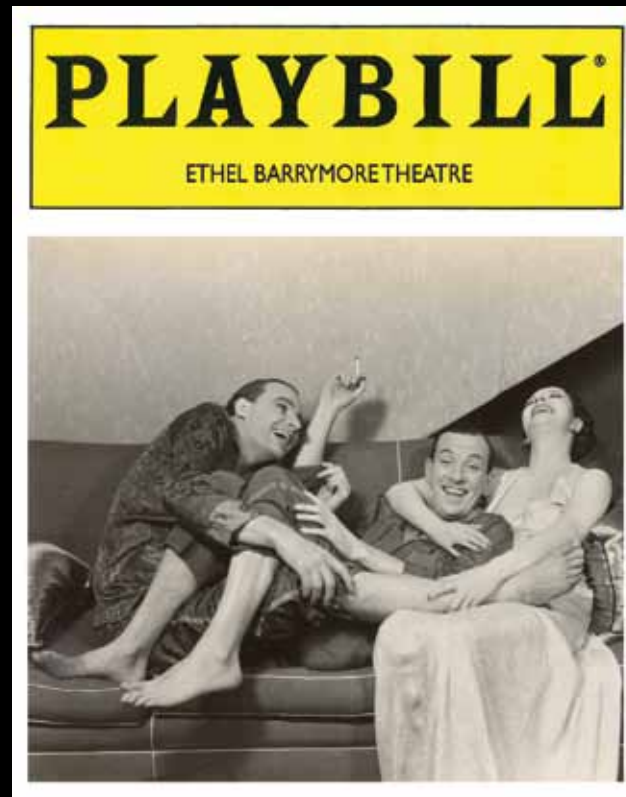
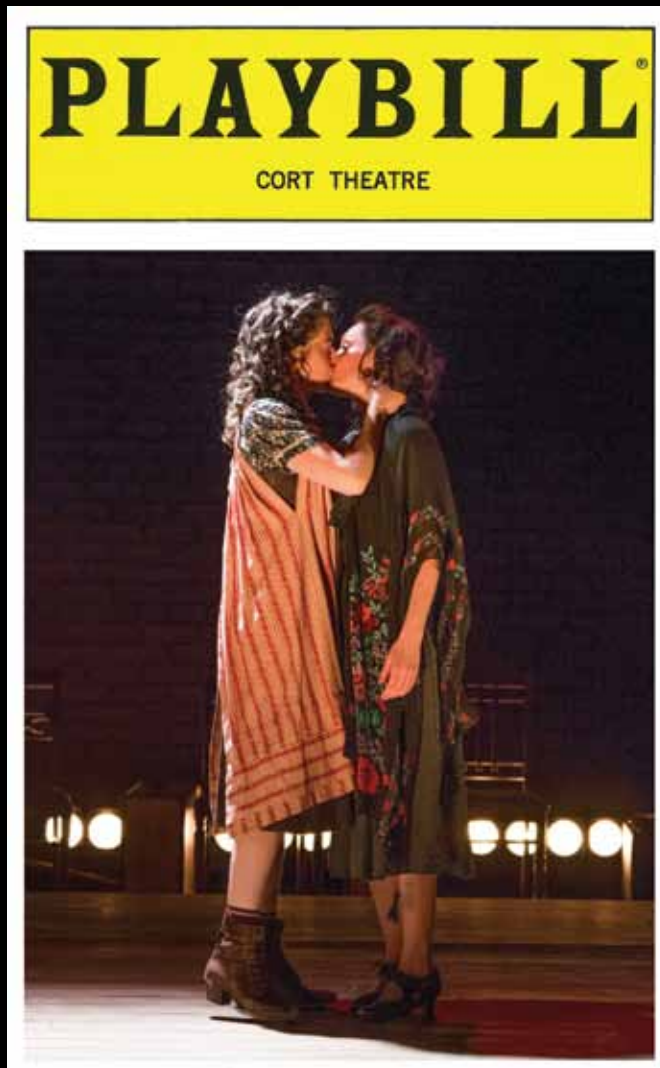


Taylor Mac performing *20th Century Abridged* at the Celebrate Brooklyn Festival in Prospect Park, 2015. Dress by Machine Dazzle. (62)



Female impersonator Loop-the-loop, who performed at Coney Island in the early twentieth century. (41)

(left to right) 1) Adina Verson (L) and Katrina Lenk (R) at the Vineyard Theatre production of *Indecent*, 2016. 2) Alfred Lunt, Noël Coward, and Lynn Fontanne in the original Broadway production of Noël Coward's *Design for Living*, 1933. 3) Original cast of *Angels in America*, 1993.



"The theatre is now so afraid to face its social demons that we've given that responsibility over to film. But it will always be harder to deal with certain issues in the theatre. The live event—being watched by people as we watch—makes it seem all the more dangerous." (Paula Vogel)

PLAYS

"All the More Dangerous"



JANUARY 2020

The theatre has provided a vital forum for LGBTQ voices, issues, and experiences. Fortright depictions of LGBTQ characters, particularly in the first few decades of the twentieth century, instigated theatre raids and arrests of actors, as with the 1923 performance of *The God of Vengeance*, which involves a lesbian romance. Beginning in the 1960s, a number of theatre artists and companies, such as Joe Cino's *Caffe Cino* and Charles Ludlam's *Ridiculous Theatrical Company*, reveled in gender and sexual nonconformity. More recent plays, such as *The Boys in the Band* (1968), *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (1980), *Torch Song Trilogy* (1982), *The Normal Heart* (1985), *Angels in America* (1993), *Choir Boy* (2013), and *Indecent* (2015), have focused on homophobia, AIDS, coming out experiences, LGBTQ histories, family, and the importance of community.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	Anne Revere and Katherine Emery in <i>The Children's Hour</i> performed on Broadway, 1934.		NEW YEAR'S DAY KWANZAA ENDS 1986 Charles Ludlam's last play, <i>The Artificial Jungle</i> , is presented by the Ridiculous Theatrical Company at the One Sheridan Square Theatre.	2	3	4
5	6 THREE KINGS DAY, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY	7 ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS	8	9	10	11
12	13 2012 Jackson Heights 3AM, conceived and directed by Ari Laura Kreith, opens at P.S. 69 in Jackson Heights.	14 1960 Edward Albee's first play, <i>The Zoo Story</i> , opens at the Provincetown Playhouse.	15	16	17	18
19	20 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (OBSERVED)	21	22	23	24 1933 Noël Coward's <i>Design for Living</i> opens at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre to wide acclaim, starring housemates Coward, Lynn Fontanne, and Alfred Lunt.	25 CHINESE NEW YEAR
26	27 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST	28	29 VASANT PANCHAMI (HINDU OBSERVANCE) 1992 Paula Vogel's play, <i>The Baltimore Waltz</i> , about her brother's death from AIDS opens at the Circle Repertory Company.	30 1928 Eugene O'Neill introduces a gay character in his play <i>Strange Interlude</i> , based on the artist Charles Demuth. The play wins the Pulitzer Prize.	31	

DECEMBER 2019

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FEBRUARY 2020

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OPERA

"Said what?"

**"With wed led said with led
dead said with dead led said
with said dead led wed said
wed dead led dead led said
wed." (Lyric from Gertrude
Stein's Libretto)**

Scene from the theatrical production of the opera *Four Saints in Three Acts*, with a libretto by Gertrude Stein and music by Virgil Thomson, 1934. Group portrait of the cast of *Four Saints in Three Acts*, 1934.



FEBRUARY

When Virgil Thomson and Gertrude Stein's opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* opened on Broadway in 1934, critics and audiences were baffled. This was like no other opera presented before, and the collaboration of the gay composer and lesbian poet was utterly disorienting. Stein's modernist libretto capitalizes on the sounds of words rather than in their ability to develop character and plot. Thomson's score is effectively simple and incorporates musical motifs and themes drawn from Protestant hymns. Under the direction of John Houseman, the cast was made up entirely of African Americans (a first for Broadway). Despite the work's defiant unconventionality, *Four Saints in Three Acts* proved to be a huge success and has been revived in several notable productions since its Broadway debut.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson in Paris reviewing the score for <i>Four Saints in Three Acts</i> , ca. 1932.		Frederick Ashton with the cast of <i>Four Saints in Three Acts</i> , Maxwell Baird, Floyd Miller, and Billie Smith, 1934.			I
2 GROUNDHOG DAY 1978 Harvey Fierstein's play, <i>International Stud</i> , a comedy-drama about a drag queen, opens Off-Off Broadway at La MaMa, E.T.C.	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY 1980 Jane Chambers's lesbian drama <i>Last Summer at Bluefish Cove</i> opens Off-Off Broadway at the Shandol Theatre, starring Jean Smart.	13 1980 Jane Chambers's lesbian drama <i>Last Summer at Bluefish Cove</i> opens Off-Off Broadway at the Shandol Theatre, starring Jean Smart.	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 1993 Lesbian Avengers install a statue of Alice B. Toklas next to the statue of Gertrude Stein in Bryant Park and dance in their honor.	15
16	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY	18	19 1923 Sholem Asch's play, <i>God of Vengeance</i> , about a Jewish brothel-keeper whose daughter has a lesbian love affair with a prostitute opens at the Apollo Theatre on W. 42nd Street in its English-language version.	20 1934 The opera <i>Four Saints in Three Acts</i> premieres on Broadway, created by gay composer Virgil Thomson, lesbian librettist Gertrude Stein, and Thomson's lover, scenario author Maurice Grosser, featuring an all-black cast.	21 MAHA SHIVARATRI (HINDU OBSERVANCE) 1985 Maria Irene Fornes's play, <i>The Conduct of Life</i> , opens at The Theatre for a New City.	22
23	24 1945 New York City License Commissioner Paul Moss forces the closing of the play <i>Trio</i> at the Belasco Theatre because of its lesbian theme.	25 MARDI GRAS (SHROVE TUESDAY)	26	27 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INDEPENDENCE DAY	28	29

JANUARY

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MARCH

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29	30	31				



LAVENDER JANE LOVES WOMEN

WOMEN'S MUSIC

"A Woman's Love"

"And all the men I've known
Were as loving as they could be
There's no man that can match her beauty
Because she's a woman"
(Alix Dobkin)



Kay Gardner, Pat Moschetta, and Alix Dobkin, known collectively as Lavender Jane, at a recording session, 1973.

MARCH

Women's music emerged in the 1970s as one of the many threads of the lesbian feminist movement. While there had long been female performers, this genre recognized music created specifically to celebrate womanhood and women's relationships. This music became the soundtrack of women's liberation through the 1970s and 1980s, functioning as a way to expand feminism's reach and visibility of lesbian community. New Yorker Alice Dobkin recorded the first full length album of lesbian-identified music, *Lavender Jane Loves Women*, in 1973. That same year, former members of the lesbian separatist collective the Furies established Olivia Records in an attempt to control the entire creative process involved in making women's music.

1	2 LENT (ORTHODOX)	3 2006 Lisa Kron's <i>Well</i> opens on Broadway and runs for fifty-two performances. She is nominated for a Tony Award.	4	5	6	7
8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	9 PURIM (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN) HOLI (HINDU OBSERVANCE) BEGINS AT SUNDOWN	10 PURIM HOLI (HINDU OBSERVANCE)	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 VERNAL EQUINOX / SPRING BEGINS 1998 Alan Cummings stars as the Master of Ceremonies in the Broadway revival of <i>Cabaret</i> . The show runs for 2,377 performances.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 1993 Marga Gomez's <i>Marga Gomez Is Pretty, Witty, and Gay</i> is performed in the Whitney Biennial.	   (L-R) L) Teresa Trull and Meg Christian performing in New York City, 1975. M) Sandy Stone, academic theorist, music theorist, performance artist and recording engineer at Olivia Records. R) Maxine Feldman, folk singer and songwriter, whose song, "Angry Atthis," is seen as the first openly distributed out lesbian song, seen here performing, c. 1975.			

FEBRUARY

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APRIL

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(below) Five Lesbian Brothers performing in *The Secretaries* at the New York Theatre Workshop. (L-R) Peaches (Lisa Kron), Dawn (Moe Angelos), [behind] Susan (Peg Healey), Patty (Dominique Dibbell), and Ashley (Babs Davy) in the Kill night scene, 1993. **(left)** Split Britches members Lois Weaver (L), Peggy Shaw (M), and Deb Margolin (R) performing in *Upwardly Mobile Home* at the WOW Café Theatre, 1984.

QUEER CABARET AT WOW

"A Critical Mass of Weirdos"



"We had a critical mass of weirdos at WOW. We were each others' audience. You could be wrong, you could make bad stuff, and still come back. You could make offensive stuff and still come back. In that period, people were campy and funny." (Holly Hughes)

APRIL

Lesbian feminist performance troupes such as Split Britches (founded by Lois Weaver, Peggy Shaw and Deb Margolin) and The Five Lesbian Brothers (Maureen Angelos, Babs Davy, Dominique Dibbell, Peg Healey and Lisa Kron) emerged in 1980s New York. They rely upon many forms of parody, satire, absurdism, and dark comedy to create plays and performance art that tackle the intersection of homophobia and sexism as it is internalized in the lesbian experience. They provide striking social commentary in their performance of gender and queerness. This work has been supported by the Village's WOW Cafe which opened as a lesbian performance space in 1980. Two of its founders are also founding members of Split Britches.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	Charles Ludlum performing as Marguerite Gautier in <i>Camille</i> , c. 1980.		1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY	6 1927 The NYS Legislature passes the Wales Padlock law enabling the police to padlock any theater showing a play that included "sex degeneracy or perversion," language that was understood to mean homosexuality.	7 WORLD HEALTH DAY	8 PASSOVER (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)	9 HOLY THURSDAY FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER	10 GOOD FRIDAY	11
12 EASTER ORTHODOX PALM SUNDAY	13	14 1968 <i>Boys in the Band</i> premieres off-Broadway at Theatre Four on W. 55th Street. It doesn't open on Broadway until 2018.	15	16 LAST DAY OF PASSOVER	17	18
19 PASCHA (ORTHODOX EASTER)	20	21 YOM HA'SHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY) 1985 Larry Kramer's play, <i>The Normal Heart</i> , opens at The Public Theatre. The play is semi-autobiographical and recounts the initial years of the HIV/AIDS crisis and the government's inattention.	22 EARTH DAY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY	23 RAMADAN (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN) TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY 1961 Judy Garland performs in concert at Carnegie Hall in what has been called "the greatest night in show business history."	24 ARBOR DAY	25
26	27 1978 Lanford Wilson's play, <i>The Fifth of July</i> , about a gay disabled Vietnam War veteran, opens at the Circle Repertory Company.	28	29 YOM HA'ATZMAUT ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY 1992 William Finn's <i>Falsettos</i> opens at the John Golden Theatre. It is drawn from his Marvin trilogy, including <i>March of the Falsettos</i> and <i>Falsettoland</i> .	30		

MARCH

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MAY

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BAAD!

(Bronx Academy
of Arts & Dance)

"We Must Hold Space"

**"In order for the Bronx, our communities,
and society to develop, we must hold space,
physically and intellectually, for the freedom
of expression—creative and otherwise."**



MAY

Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD!) presents *A Gentle Act of Men in Hunts Point*, performed by Arthur Avilés and Nicolás Dumit Estévez, an improvisational piece that unfolds along Hunts Point Avenue in the Bronx, for which they enact gentle acts formatted as movement-based public action, 2014. Avilés and Estévez wear vestments designed and created by Lorenzo Walker II and inspired by those worn for Sufi Whirling Dervishes.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<i>A Gentle Act of Men in Hunts Point</i> : Arthur Avilés and Nicolás Dumit Estévez.				1 MAY DAY 1970 Lavender Menace performs its first zap at the Second Congress to Unite Women, sponsored by NOW, protesting the exclusion of lesbians from the feminist movement.	2
3 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 1993 <i>Kiss of the Spider Woman</i> opens at the Broadhurst Theatre. Terrence McNally's book for the musical wins the Tony award.	4 1993 <i>Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches</i> , written by Tony Kushner, opens on Broadway and wins the Pulitzer Prize.	5 CINCO DE MAYO	6	7 WESAK (BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY)	8 V-E DAY	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY	11	12	13	14	15	16 ARMED FORCES DAY
17 2016 Paula Vogel's play <i>Indecent</i> opens Off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre before moving to Broadway on April 18, 2017. It dramatizes the reaction to the opening of Sholem Asch's play <i>God of Vengeance</i> in 1923.	18 2000 <i>The Laramie Project</i> opens at the Union Square Theatre. Led by Moises Kaufman, members of the Tectonic Theater Project visit Laramie, WY to interview residents about their reactions to the murder of Matthew Shepard.	19	20	21 ASCENSION THURSDAY	22	23 EID AL-FITR (RAMADAN ENDS)
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED)	26	27	28	29 FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOT	30
31 PENTECOST						

APRIL

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JUNE

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and Wagner
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PERFORMANCE AS PROTEST

A large, dense crowd of people is sitting on a city street, likely during a protest or demonstration. The people are of various ages and are dressed in casual clothing, including t-shirts, tank tops, and shorts. Many are looking towards the camera or the street. Some are holding signs, including one that says "THE GAY COMMUNITY" and another that says "I AM A GAY COMMUNITY". The background shows city buildings and a street with traffic lights.

"The Gay Revolution
Has Started"

"I'd like to see the gay revolution get started, but there hasn't been any demonstration or anything recently. You know how the straight people are. When they don't see any action they think, 'Well, gays are all forgotten now, they're worn out, they're tired.'... If a transvestite doesn't say I'm gay and I'm proud and I'm a transvestite, then nobody else is going to hop up there and say I'm gay and I'm proud and I'm a transvestite for them." (Marsha P. Johnson)

JUNE

Performance has figured centrally in queer protest. When the world ignores your humanity and refuses to recognize your suffering, theatrical activism is a means of demanding attention. ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) formed in New York in 1987 to address the nation's failure to respond to the AIDS crisis. The die in was an effective and attention-grabbing way of demonstrating the impact AIDS had on the queer community.

(Photo above) Fifth Avenue, Manhattan, ACT UP die-in at the LGBT Pride Parade, June 1991.

	1	2 1991 Visual AIDS in conjunction with Broadway Cares and Equity Fights AIDS launches the Red Ribbon campaign during the annual Tony Awards show.	3	4 ANNIVERSARY DAY (BROOKLYN-QUEENS DAY)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI	12 PHILIPPINES INDEPENDENCE DAY	13
14 FLAG DAY	15	16 1937 Gay composer Marc Blitzstein's <i>The Cradle Will Rock</i>, a labor musical, opens at the Venice Theatre after the WPA abandons its sponsorship.	17	18	19 JUNETEENTH 1985 Charles Busch restages <i>Vampire Lesbians of Sodom</i> at the Provincetown Playhouse, where the show runs for five years, the longest-running Off-Broadway musical.	20 WORLD REFUGEE DAY SUMMER SUMMER SOLSTICE / SUMMER BEGINS 2019 (June 20-24) <i>Pride Plays</i> presents more than fifteen play readings at the Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre on Waverly Place.
21 FATHER'S DAY 2019 Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Ian Bell's <i>Stonewall</i>, performed by New York City Opera. The character of a transgender woman, Sarah, is sung by Liz Bouk, a transgender man.	22	23	24	25 1991 Terrence McNally's play, <i>Lips Together, Teeth Apart</i>, opens Off-Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club and runs for over 250 performances.	26	27 (Photo below) Activist Rich Wandel and the Gay Activists Alliance protesting against the ban on same-sex marriage at the New York City Clerk's Office, June 1971.
28	29	30			(From left) 1) Coalition of activists, including CUNY students and faculty, healthcare workers, AIDS activists, block the Queens-Midtown tunnel during rush hour to protest proposed state and city budget cuts, April, 1995. 2) A zip tied ACT UP protester is removed from inside St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Stop the Church direct action, December, 1989. 	

MAY

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JULY

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"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ART AND ENTERTAINMENT"

Sarah Schulman

"It's the difference between art and entertainment. Entertainment tells us what we already know; art expands what we think we know. The second is more uncomfortable."
(Sarah Schulman)



JULY

Sarah Schulman's life is equally recognizable through her mastery of the performance art and her artful performance of political activism. Her creative career includes literary fiction, plays, screenplays, and non-fiction works of queer history and activism. Schulman's political engagement includes anti-war, feminist, queer, and AIDS activity. She was a founder of the Lesbian Avengers and active in ACT UP, both of which used direct action and street theater to demand community survival for lesbians and gay men. This passionate advocacy extended to abortion activism as well, taking a visible role in protests coordinated by the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization. Schulman (above-far left) and the Women's Liberation zap action brigade protest at a Senate hearing to consider legislation to ban abortions, April 23, 1981. A Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the College of Staten Island, Schulman represents the stage CUNY offers practitioners of the performing arts. She is photographed here by the groundbreaking lesbian photographer Joan E. Biren.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	Sarah Schulman reading from her new book <i>Empathy</i> at a Valentine's Day gathering of 100 Lesbian Avengers and friends at Bryant Park, NYC. They gathered to celebrate the reunification of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas (statue made by Lesbian Avengers).		1 CANADA DAY	2 2013 Tarell Alvin McCraney's play <i>Choir Boy</i> opens at the Manhattan Theatre Club at City Center. McCraney goes on to co-write the screenplay for the Oscar-winning movie <i>Moonlight</i> .	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 BASTILLE DAY 1969 Lanford Wilson and Marshall W. Mason and other veterans of the Caffe Cino, found the Circle Theatre Company, later the Circle Repertory Company.	15	16	17	18 2012 E. Patrick Johnson brings <i>Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales</i> , his one-man performance piece based on oral histories he conducted, to Dixon Place.
19 1990 Ethyl Eichelberger directs and stars in his last produced work, <i>Das Vedanya Mama</i> at P.S. 122, a spoof of Chekhov, Stanislavsky, and the Bolshoi Ballet.	20	21	22 1999 <i>Naked Boys Singing</i> , opens at the Off-Broadway Actors' Playhouse.	23	24	25 PUERTO RICO CONSTITUTION DAY
26	27	28	29 FAST OF TISHA B'AV (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)	30 TISHA B'AV EID AL-ADHA (FEAST OF SACRIFICE) BEGINS AT SUNDOWN	31 EID AL-ADHA	

JUNE

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AUGUST

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"There's a place for us, / A time and place for us. / Hold my hand and we're halfway there. / Hold my hand and I'll take you there / Somehow, / Someday, / Somewhere!" (Stephen Sondheim lyric, "Somewhere" from *West Side Story*)

WEST SIDE STORY

"A Time and Place for Us"



Chita Rivera (far left), Stephen Sondheim (at the piano), Leonard Bernstein (standing), Carol Lawrence (far right) and Frances Taylor (center), and cast around piano in rehearsal for the stage production of *West Side Story*, 1957.

AUGUST

West Side Story opened on Broadway on September 26, 1957. Inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the musical presents a story of star-crossed lovers caught in the rivalry between the Jets, a white gang of teenagers, and the Sharks, who are Puerto Rican. Four members of the creative team behind the show, including Leonard Bernstein (music), Arthur Laurents (book), Jerome Robbins (director and choreographer), and Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), have since been identified as gay. Although the musical does not address aspects of sexuality directly, one can detect a gay subtext. In the 1950s when homosexuality was considered a social disease and a national threat, the musical highlights the resilience of love in the midst of prejudice, oppression, and reactionary violence.

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	Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Laurents, Hal Prince, Robert E. Griffith, Leonard Bernstein, and Jerome Robbins in rehearsal for the stage production of <i>West Side Story</i> , 1957.		Jerome Robbins directs rumble scene with actors during rehearsal for <i>West Side Story</i> , 1957.		Jerome Robbins directs Carol Lawrence and Larry Kert in rehearsal for <i>West Side Story</i> , 1957.	I
2	3 RAKSHA BANDHAN (HINDU OBSERVANCE)	4	5	6 HIROSHIMA DAY	7	8
9	10 V-J DAY	11	12	13	14	15 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY
16	17	18	19	20 MUHARRAM (ISLAMIC NEW YEAR) BEGINS AT SUNDOWN	21	22
23 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION	24	25	26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY	27	28	29
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JULY

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SEPTEMBER

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L'UNICORNS

(STATEN ISLAND
TRANS-LATINX GROUP)

"For So Short a While"



"Oh, only for so short a while you have loaned us
to each other, because we take form in your act of drawing us.
And we take life in your painting us,
And we breathe in your singing us." (Aztec Prayer)

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4 2014 Laura Kaminsky's <i>As One</i>, a transgender opera opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.	5 2002 Richard Greenberg's play, <i>Take Me Out</i>, opens at The Public Theatre and later wins a Tony Award.
6	7 LABOR DAY	8	9 1992 Lesbian Avengers stage their first NYC event at P.S. 87 in Middle Village, Queens, handing out balloons to students with "Teach About Lesbian Lives" written on them, protesting the school district's opposition to the Rainbow Curriculum.	10	11 WORLD TRADE CENTER REMEMBRANCE DAY 1983 <i>Come Out and Sing Together</i> (COAST), the first national gay and lesbian choral festival (GALA) consisting of 1,200 singers, performs at Lincoln Center.	12
13 GRANDPARENTS DAY	14	15 INDEPENDENCE DAY IN CENTRAL AMERICA	16 EL GRITO DE DOLORES (MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY)	17 CITIZENSHIP DAY (CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVED)	18 ROSH HASHANAH (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)	19 ROSH HASHANAH
20 1994 The Five Lesbian Brothers perform <i>The Secretaries</i> at the New York Theatre Workshop.	21 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE	22 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX / AUTUMN BEGINS	23 GRITO DE LARES (PUERTO RICO)	24	25 NATIVE AMERICAN DAY	26 1957 <i>West Side Story</i> opens at the Winter Garden Theatre, with a gay, lesbian and bisexual creative team including Arthur Laurents, Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Oliver Smith, Jean Rosenthal, Irene Sharaff and the first actor to play Tony, Larry Kert.
27	28 YOM KIPPUR	29	30 START OF CHUSEOK (KOREAN HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL)			

AUGUST

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OCTOBER

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Madison Krekel in *Slavic Goddesses, A Wreath of Ceremonies*, conceived by Paulina Olowska, choreographed by Katy Pyle/Ballez, presented at The Kitchen, 2016.

BALLEZ

"Coming Back into the Castle"

"Ballez celebrates the emotionally expressive dancing of queers, dykes, fags, and trans and gender non-conforming dancers whose identities have always been a part of ballet. We who have been deemed unworthy of the pride, nobility, and belonging in ballet's centuries long hierarchical history... are coming back into the castle now, to take back the movements, magic, creativity and power that we have always been integral to creating." (From Ballez's Mission Statement)



OCTOBER

				1	2 SUKKOT (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)	3 1928 Two days after Mae West opens her play, <i>Pleasure Man</i> at the Biltmore Theatre, police raid the show and arrest all 54 actors for indecency due to the “degenerate” performances by drag queens who were flamboyantly effeminate.
4	5	6	7	8	9 LAST DAY OF SUKKOT (HOSHANA RABBAH) SHEMINI ATZERET (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)	10 SHEMINI ATZERET SIMCHAT TORAH (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)
11 NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY SIMCHAT TORAH	12 COLUMBUS DAY	13	14	15	16 NATIONAL BOSS'S DAY 1981 Harvey Fierstein's <i>Torch Song Trilogy</i> starring Fierstein and Matthew Broderick, debuts at the Richard Allen Center on W. 62nd Street.	17
18	19	20 1992 Larry Kramer's play, <i>The Destiny of Me</i> , opens at the Lucille Lortel Theatre.	21	22 2013 <i>Fun Home</i> , a musical adapted by Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori from Alison Bechdel's 2006 graphic memoir, opens on Broadway. It is the first Broadway musical with a lesbian protagonist.	23	24 UNITED NATIONS DAY 2016 Taylor Mac performs <i>A 24-Decade History of Popular Music</i> in drag at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. The extravaganza includes acrobats, burlesque performers, puppets, a choir, and a marching band.
25	26	27	28 MAWLID AL-NABI (MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY) BEGINS IN EVENING	29 MAWLID AL-NABI	30 2012 Caroline Shaw composes <i>Partita for 8Voices</i> , which she wrote for the debut recording of vocal group Roomful of Teeth of which she is a member. In 2013 she wins the Pulitzer Prize for her composition; she is the youngest composer to have won the award since its inception in 1943.	31 HALLOWEEN

SEPTEMBER

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NOVEMBER

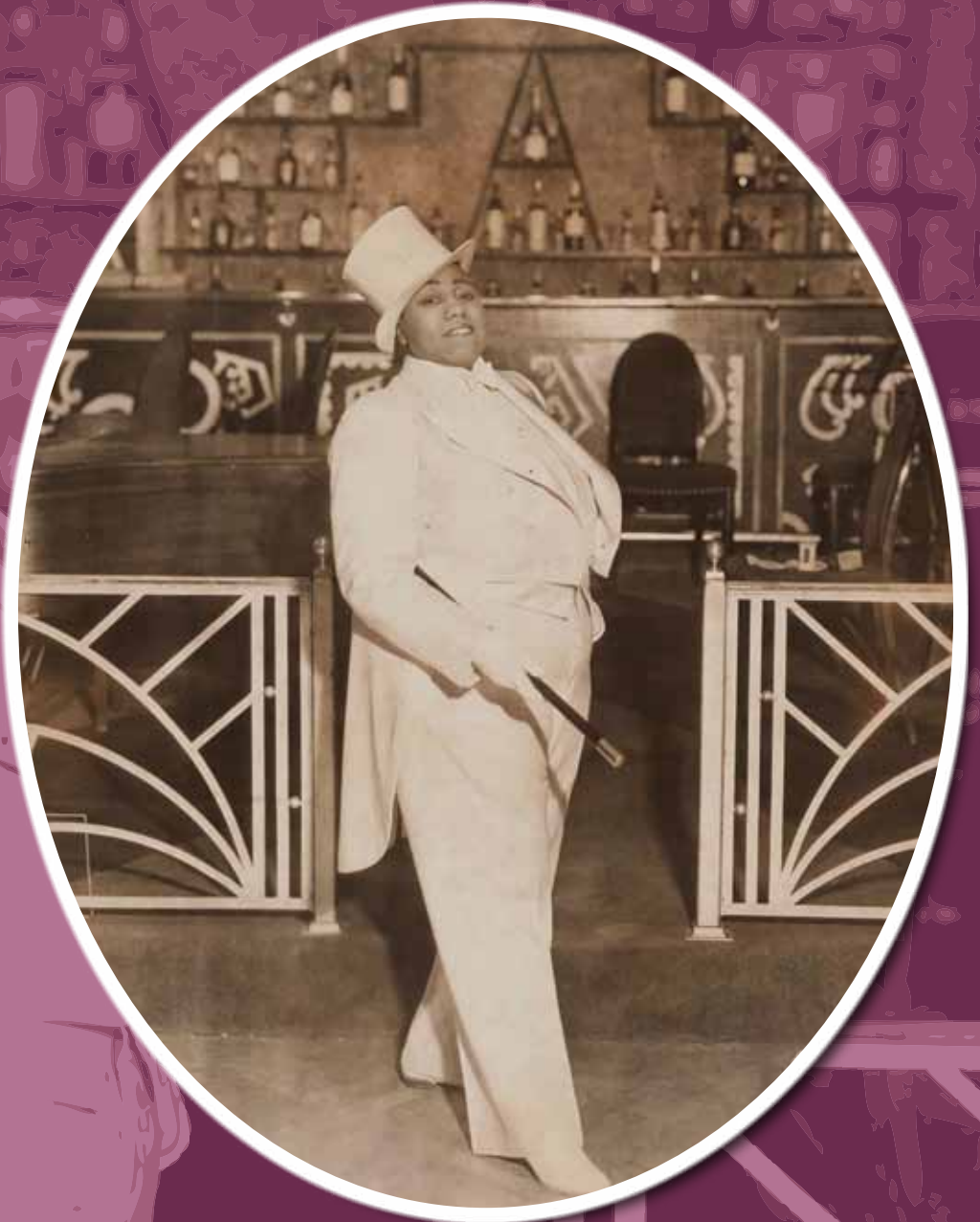
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DRAG KINGS: GENDER TRANSGRESSORS

"Bring it On"

(Left) Dr. King Wang Newton as master of ceremonies at Bizarre in Brooklyn, scene of *At The Pan-Asian Drag Revue*, 2017. **(Right)** Entertainer Gladys Bentley performing in Harlem at the Ubangi Club, 1930s.



"Drag kings have to be the best of the best of the best in order to get a fraction of the recognition that a drag queen does. But if there's anything I know about my king community is we just say bring it on, you can't ignore us forever." (Drag King and Former Mr. Coney Island, Lee VaLone)

NOVEMBER

Drag kings are performers who enact masculinity, commonly as a means of parody or critique. There is a long history of male impersonators but drag king performance dates to the 1990s. It emerged within queer spaces and continues to challenge norms and explore the spectrum of gender and sexuality. Most kings are women, commonly lesbian-identified. For transgender or gender-nonconforming individuals, drag can be a means of exploring and embodying masculinity. Drag kings have not gained the mainstream recognition that queens have. This is not surprising given that women are underrepresented in the performing arts and given that drag kings critique masculinity in a way that challenges male authority in a patriarchal society.

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1 1994 Terrence McNally's AIDS-themed comic play, <i>Love! Valor! Compassion!</i> opens Off-Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club and runs for seventy-two performances; it reopens the following year and runs for an additional 248 performances.	2 ALL SOULS' DAY 2000 Charles Busch's <i>The Tale of the Allergist's Wife</i> opens at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre following an Off-Broadway success. It runs for 777 performances.	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5	6	7
8 2015 Taylor Mac's play on the dysfunctional American family, <i>Hir</i>, opens at Playwrights Horizons.	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY	12 2004 The Five Lesbian Brothers present <i>Brave Smiles: Another Lesbian Tragedy</i>, a satirical look at how lesbians have been portrayed in theater, film, and literature from 1920 onward.	13	14 DIWALI (HINDU FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS)
15 2018 <i>The Prom</i> about heartland homophobia opens on Broadway.	16 2019 <i>Fefu and Her Friends</i>, Maria Irene Fornes 1977 feminist play is revived Off-Broadway at the Theatre for a New Audience.	17 1984 Split Britches performs <i>Upwardly Mobile Home</i>, about how to survive in Reagan's America while camping out under the Brooklyn Bridge, at the WOW Café Theatre.	18	19 'DISCOVERY' OF PUERTO RICO DAY 2019 Tony Kushner's 1985 play <i>A Bright Room Called Day</i> about America in the Reagan Years is revived at the Public Theatre.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29 FIRST DAY OF ADVENT	30	  (From left) 1) Drag King performer Murray Hill pointing to his likeness on the "Downtown Legends" wall at Mo Pitkins House of Satisfaction which featured artists known in the East Village performance scene, 2007. 2) Nineteenth century gender transgressor Ella Wesner.			 Fran Novak and Stormé Delarverie from the <i>Jewel Box Review</i>.	

OCTOBER

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DECEMBER

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Peppermint (center) as Pythio, The Oracle of Delphi and the ensemble in *Head Over Heels*, at the Hudson Theatre, 2018.

MUSICALS

"Math Problem"

"Look, I'm 40, I'm single, and I work in musical theater—you do the math!" (Nathan Lane)



DECEMBER

The 2011 Tony Awards telecast began with an extravagant opening number, “(Broadway is) Not Just for Gays Anymore.” The song, performed by the show’s host and out gay actor Neil Patrick Harris, humorously acknowledged the age-old association of Broadway musicals with gay audiences and aficionados. While there have been many LGBTQ artists in musical theatre, there have been comparatively few shows that contain queer characters and topics. Some of the most famous Broadway musicals that address LGBTQ experiences and lives include *Applause!* (1970), *A Chorus Line* (1975), *La Cage aux Folles* (1983), *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (1993), *Falsettos* (1992), *The Color Purple* (2005), *Hedwig* (2014), *Fun Home* (2015), *The Prom* (2018), and *Jagged Little Pill* (2019).

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<i>The Prom</i> starring Isabelle McCalla as Alyssa and Caitlin Kinnunen as Emma, Longacre Theatre, 2018.	1 WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY	2 1979 Martin Sherman’s play, <i>Bent</i> , starring Richard Gere and David Dukes, about the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis, opens at the Apollo Theatre on W. 43rd Street.	3	4	5
6 1998 Diana Son’s play, <i>Stop Kiss</i> , opens Off-Broadway at The Public Theatre. The play tells the story of love and commitment between two young women.	7 PEARL HARBOR DAY	8	9	10 CHANUKAH (BEGINS AT SUNSET) HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	11 FIRST DAY OF CHANUKAH	12 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
13	14 1979 Christopher Durang’s play, <i>Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You</i> , opens at the Ensemble Studio Theatre.	15	16	17	18 LAST DAY OF CHANUKAH	19 1991 John Corigliano’s opera <i>The Ghosts of Versailles</i> opens at the Metropolitan Opera House.
20	21 WINTER SOLSTICE/ WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY (Photo below) <i>Fun Home</i> , at The Circle in the Square Theatre, 2015.	26 KWANZAA BEGINS BOXING DAY (Photo below) Scene from the Off-Broadway stage production <i>Falsettoland</i> , 1990.
27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR’S EVE 1992 Paul Rudnick’s comic play, <i>Jeffrey</i> , about a gay man’s life in the era of AIDS, opens Off-Off Broadway at the WPA Theatre.		

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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JANUARY 2021

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and Wagner
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New York City Council

STREET PERFORMANCES

"Love and Power"



"For me #QueensPride is about love & power. We are more powerful when we love & share that with the world." (Tweet from Jimmy Van Bramer)

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Queens Pride Parade, 2018 and 2019.		NEW YEAR'S DAY KWANZAA ENDS	2
3	4	5	6 THREE KINGS DAY, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY	7 ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (OBSERVED)	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST	28	29	30
31						

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	6
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			28						

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Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, Photograph by Mehboob Ahmedabadi.



Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, written by Bert V. Royal and directed by Patrick Anthony Surillo, performed at LaGuardia Community College's LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, 2019 Summer on Stage festival is a parody of the Peanuts cartoon strip, imagining the characters as degenerate teenagers. The photo to the left shows Joel Lloyd at the piano and Jalen Alexander standing. The photo to the right show Renee Airall.