The logo for About Face Theatre, featuring the lowercase letters 'aft' inside a purple circular graphic with three intersecting lines. To the right of the logo, the words 'ABOUT FACE' are written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'THEATRE' in a smaller font below it. Below the logo and name, the text '2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT' is displayed in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font.

**aft** ABOUT  
**FACE**  
THEATRE

**2019-2020**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

“*KINSHIP* was something I truly needed as a young, self-starting, queer artist. A safe space for queer youth that was full of **love, support, and self discoveries**—personally and artistically.”

—Sharon Pasia, Youth Task Force Member

“I knew that, amplified by the artistry and institutional support of adults at About Face, **our youth would change the world.**”

—Julia Fabris McBride,  
AFYT co-founder and donor

“We were vulnerable and uplifted one another as we shared different aspects of our lives. **I felt seen, held, and understood.**”

—Vic Wynter,  
cast member of *Power in Pride*

“We live in a society where memory is short and narratives can be twisted or forgotten, so **we need to tell our histories.**”

—Chay Yew, *Packing* director

“It was a perfect storm of aspiration and craft, and **what a joy to generate art with this team!**”

—Gaby Labotka, *The Gulf* intimacy & fight director



# MISSION & VISION

About Face Theatre exists to create exceptional, innovative, and adventurous theatre and educational programming that advances the national dialogue on sexual and gender identity, and challenges and entertains audiences in Chicago and beyond.

We strive to be a nationally recognized, intergenerational, and community-focused LGBTQIA arts organization by creating theatre that fosters awareness, understanding, and celebration of all forms of sexual and gender expression.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff and board of About Face Theatre honor and uplift that Chicago is the homeland of the original stewards and guardians of Chicagoland: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Their alliance is known as The Council of Three Fires, first formed in the year 796 of the common era at Mishimikinaak, also known as Mackinac Island, in Michigan. These peoples did, and do still exist. Without their committed stewardship, we would not be enjoying this place today.

We also recognize and acknowledge the enslaved Africans who have lived, been subjugated to free labor, and toiled the grounds where many theatres have been built and resurrected. This organization, and the people behind it, believe that Black Lives Matter. We cannot serve our mission to advance dialogue on gender and sexuality without including the voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) in everything we do and create.

About Face Theatre 5252 N Broadway, 2nd Fl, Chicago, IL 60640  
(773) 784-8565 • [AboutFaceTheatre.com](http://AboutFaceTheatre.com)



[/AboutFaceTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/AboutFaceTheatre)



[@aboutfacechi](https://www.instagram.com/aboutfacechi)



[@aboutfacechi](https://twitter.com/aboutfacechi)



[/aboutfacetheatrechicago](https://www.youtube.com/aboutfacetheatrechicago)

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# The People of **ABOUT FACE**

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## STAFF

**Megan Carney**  
*Artistic Director*

**Logan Boyd Jones**  
*Managing Director*

**Amy Sheahan**  
*Interim Education Manager*

**Dave (Dylan) Toropov**  
*Director of Individual & Major Giving  
and Special Events*

**Benjamin Sprunger**  
*Director of Institutional Giving*

**Mary-Helen Pitman**  
*Development Intern*

**Charles Riffenburg**  
*Marketing Manager & Graphic Designer*

**Benjamin Rezko**  
*Operations Coordinator*

**Ruby Muñoz**  
*Bookkeeper*

**John Olson**  
*Public Relations*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Becky Huinker**  
*Chair*

**Derek Blin**  
*Treasurer*

**Aaron Kacel**  
*Secretary*

Shelley Bloch  
Kathe Elwell  
Angelica Grace  
Maxwell Koziol  
Delia Kropp  
Geoff D. Robinson  
Ed Talideh

## BOARD FELLOWS (EX OFFICIO)

Lauren Buethe  
Carlyna Carvalho

Amartya Chatterjee  
Davida Schwabsky

## HONORARY BOARD

Rob Abernathy  
Jim Andrews  
Pat Ewert  
Ted Grady  
William W. Greaves  
Chris Landgraff

Michael Leppen  
Dwight A. McBride  
William J. Michel  
Mary Morten  
Mike Sullivan  
Denis Weil

## YOUTH TASK FORCE

Angelica Grace  
Micah Manternach  
Sharon Pasia

## ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES

Patrick Andrews  
William Boles  
Scott Bradley  
Sheldon Brown  
Mikael Burke  
Philip Dawkins  
Scott Duff  
Scott Ferguson  
Armand Fields  
John Francisco

Keira Fromm  
Delia Kropp  
Bob Kuhn  
Elizabeth Ledo  
Lexi Saunders  
Kelli Simpkins  
Benjamin Sprunger  
Paul Oakley Stovall  
Mieka van der Ploeg  
Alex Weisman

## ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES EMERITI

Amy Beck  
Alexandra Billings  
Precious Brady-Davis  
Joel Butler  
Megan Carney  
Brad Cawley  
Geoffrey M Curley  
Jane C. Cho  
Shelley Echerd  
Mark Emerson  
Mitchell Fain  
Steve Futterman  
Brian Goodman  
Sarah Gubbins  
David Hyman  
Kyle Hall

Ted Hoerl  
Eric Hoff  
Jessica Hudson  
Patricia Kane  
SK Kerastas  
Julia Fabris McBride  
James McKay  
Amy Matheny  
Jacob Padron  
Andre Pluess  
Dida Ritz  
Rebecca Rugg  
Tanya Saracho  
Arturo Soria  
Daniel Stermer

## Introduction

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MEGAN CARNEY (SHE/HER)



Thank you for your consistent belief and support during this extraordinary season. As people who believe in the transformative power of the arts, we hold so many different capacities and this year demanded we use every one of them. About Face Theatre is strong and ready for the next chapter because of you.

Inside this report, you'll get to meet several people who shaped the season. Their stories offer different perspectives on the ways AFT lifts up LGBTQ+ voices in all of our complexity.

Artistic Associate Scott Bradley opened the season with *Packing*, a daring world premiere that led us on a genderqueer odyssey from Iowa to NYC and back to the heartland with layers of visual power unlocked by Chay Yew's direction. Audrey Cefaly's drama *The Gulf* allowed myself and the production team to design for bold physicality on a moving boat while exploring the intricacies of long-term relationships. The *Power in Pride* ensemble launched a visionary touring show that combined personal narratives with striking choreography underscoring the need for seeing more LGBTQ+ Black, Indigenous, and people of color reflected in history books.

When the global pandemic hit, we used all available resources to deliver on our commitment to LGBTQ+ youth. You'll see in this report the changes we made to shift online and create original content in AFT's bold signature style. In support of Black lives, we adjusted production schedules, maintained virtual meet-up spaces for LGBTQ+ youth, and created artistic processes to add their voices to national conversations on equity.

I hope the stories and statistics laid out in this report bring you closer. We're in this together. Even in this very different landscape, the work continues.

Thanks for being here and for making our mission possible,

  
Megan Carney  
Artistic Director

*A Message From*  
**BOARD CHAIR**  
**BECKY HUINKER** (SHE/HER)



Serving on the Board of Directors for About Face Theatre is a unique opportunity to give back and participate in the LGBTQ+ community. As a result of strong collaboration between the staff and board and our collective willingness to try new things, we were able to deliver on our mission in powerful ways this year. On behalf of all of us on the Board, I thank you for your support and invite you to stay connected in the years ahead.

When the pandemic hit, some of our public programming was postponed while other elements moved online. Behind the scenes we continued to make progress on our organizational goals without serious disruption. We focused on organizational structure, clarified roles, added new staff, and advanced goals around equity. We retired historical debt and exceeded campaign fundraising goals with thanks to a strong supportive base committed to our longevity. With a stronger financial foundation in place, AFT can now proceed with more opportunities for advanced planning and broader reach as we head into our 25th anniversary season.

The AFT Board will continue growing in its role as a strategic partner to bolster the company's effectiveness. We will also continue adopting best practices relevant to nonprofit arts organizations in this changing landscape. I've personally enjoyed welcoming new Board Members into the company this year and can see the many ways that AFT is benefiting from policy revisions initiated to attract broader community representation.

It's been a great pleasure to be on this journey with you and we're excited for what's next. Enjoy the report and we look forward to staying connected with you.

Thanks for your support,

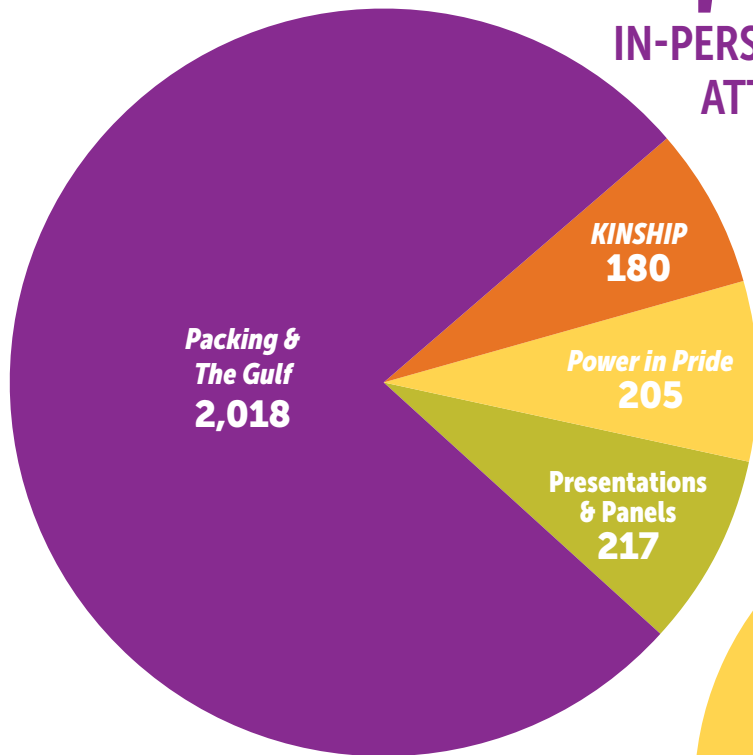
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Becky Huinker  
Board Chair

# AFT'S REACH AT A GLANCE

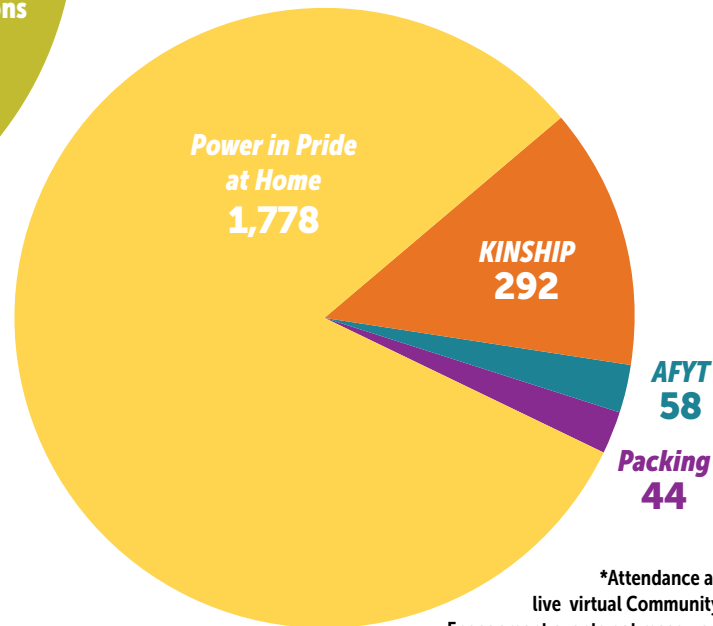
## 2,620

IN-PERSON EVENT ATTENDANCE



## 2,172

VIRTUAL EVENT ATTENDANCE\*



\*Attendance at live virtual Community Engagement events not measured

## 94

ARTISTS & STAFF EMPLOYED







# MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

*Packing | The Gulf | Laced*

WORLD PREMIERE!

# PACKING

Written & Performed by **SCOTT BRADLEY** Directed by **CHAY YEW**

**OCT 31** thru **DEC 7** 2019

AT THEATER WIT, 1229 W BELMONT AVE

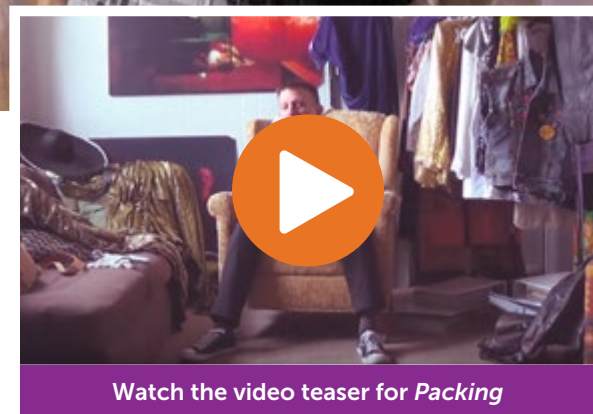


*Packing* is the story of a three-decade odyssey of reinvention and self-discovery, from small-town Iowa to England, New York City, and Chicago, navigating relationships, assaults, addictions, the plague years of the AIDS crisis, and the fight for marriage equality. This personal snapshot of recent queer history is told with Bradley's signature blend of humor, pop music, and disarming honesty.

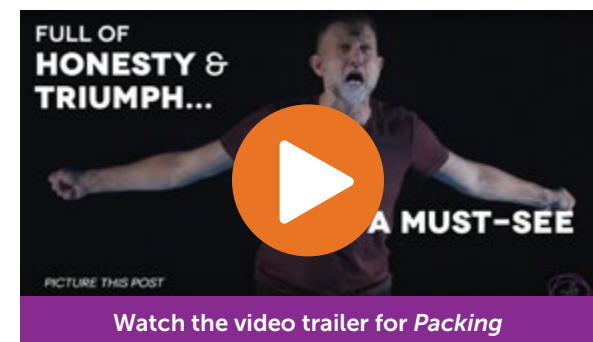
*Scenic Design* by CHAY YEW  
*Lighting Design* by LEE FISKNESS  
*Projections Design* by STEPHAN MAZUREK  
*Composer & Sound Design* by ERIC BACKUS  
*Technical Director* by WILL HUGHES  
*Master Electrician* by RAPHAEL GRIMES  
*Projections Assistant* by JENN SHARP  
*Production Manager* by JENNA MEYERS  
*Stage Manager* by LOGAN BOYD JONES

**974** ATTENDANCE

**24** PERFORMANCES



Watch the video teaser for *Packing*



Watch the video trailer for *Packing*



**“a personally brave and fulfilling story that deserves to be seen...** What’s also so invaluable about it is that Bradley’s life can be seen within within a much larger LGBTQ historical context.”

-SCOTT C. MORGAN, *WINDY CITY TIMES*

**“an important document of queer life...** the warmth expressed in his acceptance and love for his midwestern home is undeniable.”

-ALBERT WILLIAMS, *CHICAGO READER*

“A reminder of how far the LGBT community has come in the past three decades... **His stories aren’t just his stories, they’re all of our stories.**”

-JOHN ACCROCCO, *BUZZ CENTER STAGE*

“A brave story of growing up queer... Bradley’s vulnerability is on full display.”

-JERALD PIERCE, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

“I think this is a beautiful story of perseverance. In addition to shedding light on living and growing up as a queer man in Iowa, this story shows us all how to persevere through thoughts of inadequacy, loneliness, and feeling misunderstood. Everyone should see this.”

-AUDIENCE SURVEY RESPONSE

“It is so powerful, important, and full of moments that resonate beyond the deeply personal story.”

-AUDIENCE SURVEY RESPONSE

**“an emotional roller coaster of a ride from start to finish”**

-PICTURE THIS POST

Marketing photography by NATHANAEL FILBERT  
Production photos by CODY JOLLY

## Reflection

# DIRECTOR CHAY YEOW (HE/HIM)

“ I think it’s very rare to find a piece of theatre about LGBTQ issues told from the point of view of someone who is older. A lot of stories we hear are youth-focused, or coming out stories, but I think Scott’s life has a huge scope. If you match his life against the milestones of American history and gay history, you’ll see his story is woven against a backdrop of all these major events that have happened. So in that way, it’s historical.

And also, it’s a play that not only affirms how far we have come, but also how much more we need to do, how much history has repeated itself. We live in a society where memory is short and narratives can be twisted or forgotten, so we need to tell our histories. It would be a deep, deep shame for our community if the stories and histories of the past were not articulated to the next generation.

I think what’s crucial here is that this is an American story. And being Americans, we need to understand that in the 21st century, we belong to everyone, and everyone belongs to everyone else. So their stories and histories are

our stories and histories. I think there’s a lot of people out there who need to hear this story, particularly people who are not part of this specific community.

When we encounter a story like Scott’s, we realize, “Wow, we’re not alone.” It’s an opportunity for us to dig deeper within our lives to ask those same questions. It also gives us a sense of whence we’ve come, the history of being an American. We did not realize that certain rights had to be fought for, certain epidemics have happened when countless lives have been taken and the government has done nothing—is there a similarity to what could be happening in the future or in the current circumstances? The more we tell these stories, the more change will occur.



Adapted from an interview with Artistic Director Megan Carney published in the *Packing* playbill

”

---

# STREAMING PERFORMANCE

JUNE 18 – JULY 12, 2020

About Face's world premiere performance of *Packing* was professionally recorded by StarBelly Studios for future release. When the COVID-19 pandemic closed our live performances, the company worked with Scott Bradley and Chay Yew to offer the recorded performance through on-demand streaming. This digital version reached audiences beyond Chicago with promotional support from LGBTQ theatres in Memphis, Hollywood, and San Diego.

44

ONLINE RENTALS

25

DAYS AVAILABLE



CHICAGO PREMIERE!

# THE GULF

Written by **AUDREY CEFALY** Directed by **MEGAN CARNEY**

**JAN 9** thru **FEB 15** 2020

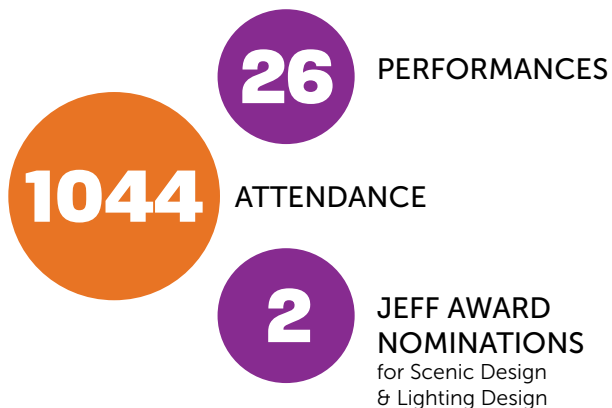
AT THEATER WIT, 1229 W BELMONT AVE



On a muggy summer evening somewhere down in the Alabama Delta, Kendra and Betty troll the flats looking for redfish. Six years into their relationship, tensions and passions flare as the couple clash over past infidelities, life-choices, and job struggles. When their motor breaks, stranding them in open water under darkening skies, the couple are forced to grapple with the growing space between them and where their life together will go next.

Featuring **KELLI SIMPKINS** as Kendra  
and **DEANNA MYERS** as Betty

Scenic Design by **JOE SCHERMOLY**  
Lighting Design by **RACHEL LEVY**  
Costume & Properties Design by **CAITLIN MCCARTHY**  
Sound Design by **ROBERT HORNBOSTEL**  
Technical Director by **BECCA VENABLE**  
Intimacy & Fight Director by **GABY LABOTKA**  
Production Manager by **JENNA MEYERS**  
Asst. Director by **AMY TIEN**  
Dramaturg by **LANISE SHELLEY**  
Stage Manager by **LOGAN BOYD JONES**



Watch the video trailer for *The Gulf*



Watch cast interviews from *The Gulf*



**"About Face's two-hander boasts stellar performances...** an enjoyable ride, rife with silly anecdotes, hilarious relationship quibbles, and genuine moments of honest indignation"

-JOSH FLANDERS, *CHICAGO READER*

**"Artistic Director Megan Carney's staging gives an honest script the focused immediacy it deserves"**

-LAWRENCE BOMMER, *STAGE & CINEMA*

*"The Gulf* is a story for everyone who finds themselves at odds with the person they are, the person they want to be, and the person with whom they are in a relationship"

-*THE BROADWAY BLOG*

"A very beautiful show, performed masterfully... the set just amplifies how beautiful and sad broken things can be."

-ADA GREY, *ADA GREY REVIEWS FOR YOU*

**"Feels real and raw and fragile in that scariest of ways...** Simpkins and Myers bring depth and humanity to two complex characters"

-BEN KAYE, *NEW CITY*

**"Both deeply personal & stunningly universal"**

-*THE BROADWAY BLOG*

*Marketing photography by* NATHANAEL FILBERT

*Production photos by* MICHAEL BROSILOW

## Reflection

# INTIMACY & FIGHT DIRECTOR GABY LABOTKA (SHE/THEY)



“Working on *The Gulf* was a gift in many ways. I was hungry to collaborate with Megan Carney and About Face Theatre, Audrey Cefaly’s script was filled with beautiful and complicated imagery, the main actors and understudies were artists that I looked up to in many ways, and the design team was stacked with inventive creatives. It was a perfect storm of aspiration and craft, and what a joy to generate art with this team!

Serving as the Intimacy and Fight Director for this production, ensuring safety, respect, and confidence was paramount in my work with the actors. My first approach always is to establish a common vocabulary and set of protocol between all of the actors (including understudies) when generating and rehearsing violent or intimate scenes. Because everyone has different lived experiences, laying the ground work of vocabulary makes bridges between individuals, and facilitates communication between everyone. We named boundaries for each other in the context of ourselves as actors, so we could tell the stories of Betty and Kendra’s violence and intimacy while keeping Deanna, Kelli, Stephanie, and Sarah all safe. Doing this as we lay choreography helps erase ambiguity so that actors can perform and play more fully when they are in character.

They no longer have to worry “I hope it was ok that I touched her there?” or other such questions because the actors have already named that for each other. As we say at Intimacy Directors & Coordinators (SDC), there’s safety in structure and freedom in form. My goal was to add groundwork and safeguards to enhance, instead of hinder, the actors’ personal processes and creativity. As rehearsal progressed, the integration of our protocol and language naturally ensured collaboration and care throughout the room and production leaving space for everyone to make creative offers or ask for what they needed. I am really proud of what we all made together.

”



# POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

## PACKING

**Reimagining Masculinities with Dr. S Simmons,**  
Co-founder of Simmons Counseling and Consulting Services

**Living Out Loud with Ada Cheng,**  
solo performer and Education and Outreach Specialist with Campus  
Advocacy Network at Women's Leadership and Resource Center at  
the University of Illinois at Chicago

**Inclusive Ministries and Healing with Rev. Rich Havard,**  
Pastor and Executive Director of the Inclusive Collective

## THE GULF

**Discussion with Audrey Cefaly,**  
*The Gulf* playwright

**Discussion with Natalie D. A. Bennett,**  
Director of the Women's Leadership & Resource Center at the  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Discussion with Mia McCullough,**  
playwright, screenwriter, teacher, and filmmaker

**Discussion with Ada Cheng,**  
solo performer and Education and Outreach Specialist with Campus  
Advocacy Network at Women's Leadership and Resource Center at  
the University of Illinois at Chicago



Dr. S Simmons



Audrey Cefaly



Ada Cheng



Natalie D. A. Bennet



Rev. Rich Havard



Mia McCullough

WORLD PREMIERE!

# LACED

Written by **SAMANTHA MUELLER** Directed by **LEXI SAUNDERS**

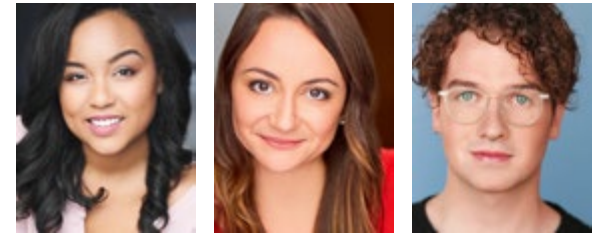
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO RUN

**MAY 13** thru **JUNE 13** 2020

AT THEATER WIT, 1229 W BELMONT AVE

## RESCHEDULED

About Face's premiere production of Samantha's Mueller's *Laced* had been cast and was in preproduction when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the shuttering of theatres around the country. With such an inspiring creative team already in place, the company is dedicated to producing the play when it is again safe to do so. *Laced* has now been rescheduled to premiere at the end of the 2020-2021 season.



*Planned cast Mariaha Copeland, Paula Ramirez, and Collin Quinn Rice.*



# EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

AFYT | KINSHIP | *Power in Pride* | *Power in Pride at Home*

# ABOUT FACE YOUTH THEATRE

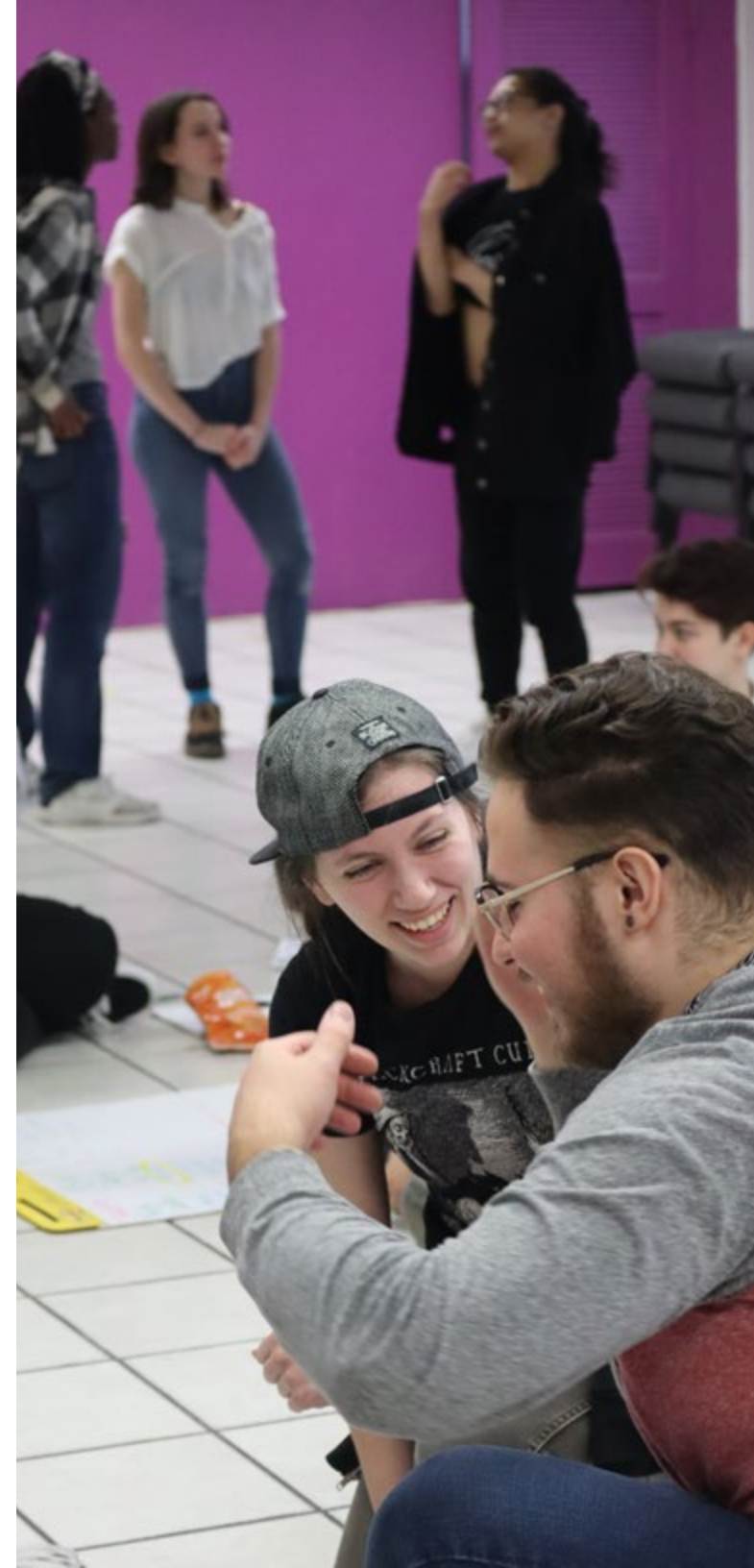
**About Face Youth Theatre (AFYT)** is a brave and creative space for queer youth to find and empower their artistic voice in the performing arts. Our award-winning, nationally-recognized program provides rigorous training in devised theatre, lessons about social justice through history, and opportunities for leadership development and activism. Through original ensemble plays, created in dynamic collaboration with accomplished adult artists, we encourage and support LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies to become powerful agents for change.

As a result of this program, AFYT has developed and performed **16 original mainstage productions**, plus this season's digital streaming showcase, ***A Glow Up: The Hot Take From AFYT***.

In 2018, AFYT also developed a new performance series called ***KINSHIP***. Curated and led by the About Face Youth Task Force, *KINSHIP* provides a safe, all-ages space for young queer artists previously unaffiliated with AFYT to perform new and experimental pieces in an intimate variety-show format.

## **AFYT Program Highlights and Benefits**

- Connections with a diverse network of peers
- Rigorous artistic training with professional artists
- Access to professional mentorship from local leaders and activists
- Connections to resources for support in different areas of life
- Lessons about social justice and LGBTQIA+ history
- Leadership training and opportunities
- CTA cards and snacks at weekly workshops



# AFYT BY THE NUMBERS

## ENSEMBLE DEMOGRAPHICS

**14-23**

AGE RANGE OF PARTICIPANTS

**19**

AVERAGE AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

**50%**

IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOR

**41%**

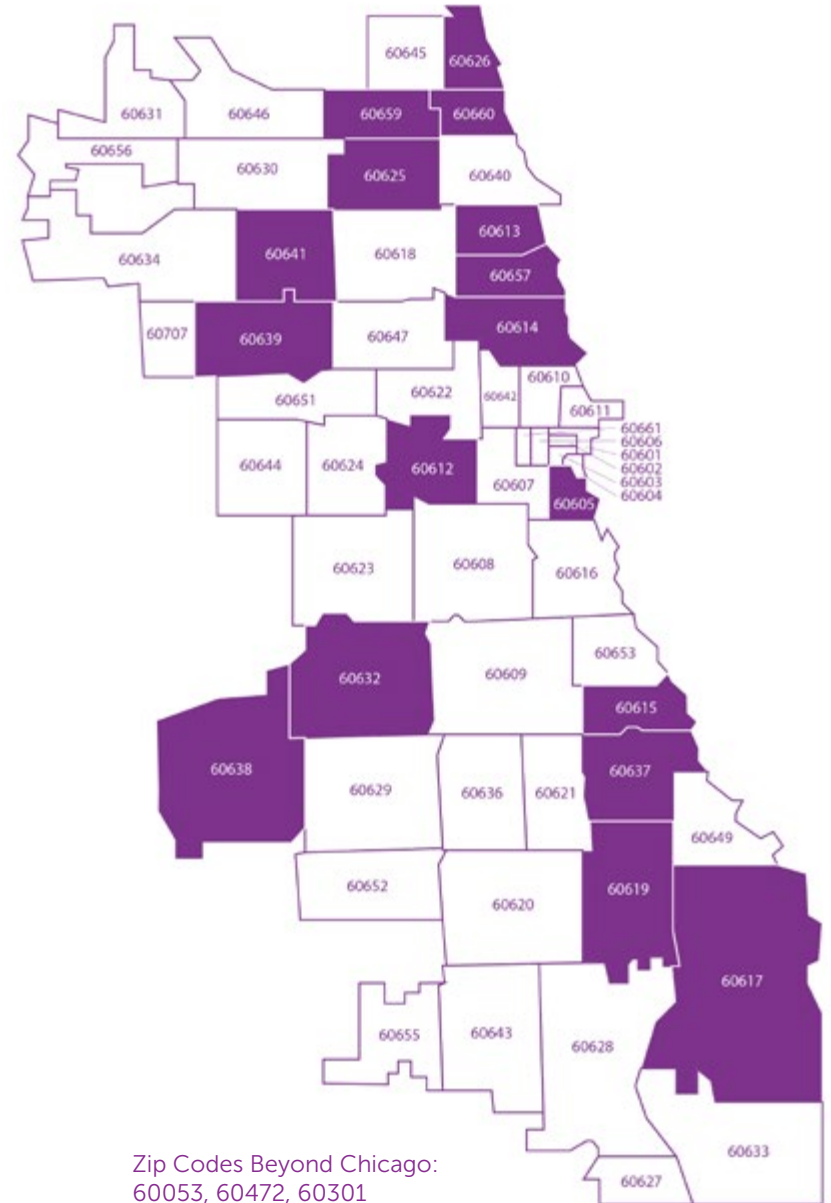
IDENTIFY AS TRANSGENDER, NONBINARY, AND/OR GENDER FLUID

**41%**

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Data collected at the end of 2018-2019 season. The majority of 2019-2020 participants returned from the previous season.

## AFYT ENSEMBLE MEMBERS 2018-2020 REPRESENTATION BY ZIP CODE



Zip Codes Beyond Chicago:  
60053, 60472, 60301



# A Glow Up

## THE HOT TAKE FROM AFYT

JULY 11, 2020

## AFYT SHOWCASE

### WORLD PREMIERE!

Written and performed as a response to the past and continuing violence against Black people by police and society, the About Face Youth Theatre ensemble focuses their rage, pain, protests, and healing into monologues, songs, comedy, and other techniques in this unique showcase of work. Combining live and prerecorded performances in an experimental streaming event, this necessary work captures a unique time in our history.

*Directed by AMY SHEAHAN  
Featuring BEN REZKO, CORI JEAN, JADEN SALAZAR,  
KEYONNA JACKSON, KIRSTEN BAITY, MICAH MANTERNACH,  
and SHARON PASIA,*

**58** TOTAL VIEWS

**36** LIVE VIEWERS



[Read the Event Program ▶](#)



“Ensemble,  
Thank you for that showcase. Thank  
you for your willingness to share, to  
be vulnerable, to inspire us, to help us  
confront our own inadequacies, to help us  
envision a better future. Hope to see more  
from you soon.”

-AARON KACEL, AUDIENCE MEMBER

**“Very powerful. Very moving.”**

-ABBY ARMATO, AUDIENCE MEMBER

“It was wonderful. So impactful and  
beautiful. I miss AFT so much and all the  
incredible work you all do. Truly, thank  
you!”

-MCKENZIE WILKES, AUDIENCE MEMBER

“Congratulations to the whole ensemble  
on a very very beautiful show!!!”

-MEGAN OTTO, AUDIENCE MEMBER

**“We loved. Radical  
poetry theatre kids.  
Gen Z is going to  
save the world.”**

-KATHERINE CONOLLY. AUDIENCE MEMBER

*Workshop photos by AMY SHEAHAN*

## Reflection

# SHOWCASE DIRECTOR

## AMY SHEAHAN (THEY/THEM)



“ This season, we started the fall learning about theatre-making and social justice from outstanding guest artists in the Chicago area. We learned about vocal techniques from Sojourner Zenobia, stand-up comedy and social justice theatre from Malic White, casting processes in theatre and film from Catherine Miller, playwriting from Jesse Alana Robkin, and devised theatre for healing and justice from leaders of the Youth Empowerment Performance Project.

As we began our spring session, we were aiming to put together a showcase of original work, drawing from the skills we had learned from our fall guest artists and continuing that work with new guest artists. Then, COVID-19 came to call!

After a two-week delay, we pivoted to move our sessions over Zoom. The ensemble met nearly every Saturday in April, May, and June to refine our personal work and learn from our incredible guest artists. At the beginning of each virtual workshop, we had a check-in with the ensemble to follow up on any mental health and/or individual needs. Our original plan for our end-of-season showcase was to follow the example of AFT's *KINSHIP*, which presented a virtual cabaret performance in May with individual performances of poetry, dance, drag, scenes, and

comedy. Through experimentation, we found that music, dance, and drag wouldn't be viable for us, so we adjusted our workshop artists to help us generate content for our showcase.

Then, when George Floyd was murdered on May 25th, the ensemble pivoted again. After a workshop in which we took the time to mourn and rage led by Black ensemble members, we took time to become acquainted with the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression protest toolkit.

We joined protests for social and racial justice, and moved our art in a different direction. It became a response to the injustices we continue to see, a light for the people we love and remember, a message of hope and demand for change now.

Every Saturday session of AFYT, we ended with the same phrase, which was featured in our showcase: “I Will Hold You Up, I Will Not Let You Fall.” In person, we would stand in a circle and say this to one another. Over Zoom, we did our best to bring that same care to one another. With our showcase, we extended it to our audience as well.





## Reflection

# ENSEMBLE MEMBER BENJAMIN REZKO (HE/HIM)



“ I worked for AFT as their Operations Coordinator and then auditioned to be a member of the AFYT Ensemble. I had duties separate from our Education programming, but when COVID hit I was directly assisting Amy Sheahan, our Interim Education Manager. While in workshops, I felt like I was just one of the cast members. Amy did an incredible job keeping a balance between my role in assisting them and my role as an ensemble member. They never overwhelmed me with work and I was able to keep an active voice in the workshops, too.

What I admired most about the workshops this spring/summer was that we, the ensemble, were given space to speak and process the civil unrest that followed after the killings of Auhmad Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. We spoke, we cried, we listened, and we were there for each other. We wanted to respond in the best way artists know how, using our showcase to process, to protest, and to support the BLM movement.

I was able to find solace in stand-up comedy. All throughout this pandemic and staying home, I looked to talk show hosts like Stephen Colbert and Trevor Noah to make me laugh and also serve the daily bad news with a softer, comedic touch. I took after their example and crafted my own comedy routine with observational quick-laughs and critical-thought observations in tandem.

Looking back, these workshops and the time with the ensemble taught me we can have a sense of community despite these times of social distancing. We were there for each other during one of the most turbulent times of our young lives and we will continue to support each other moving forward.

”

# KINSHIP AN ALL-AGES QUEER VARIETY SHOW

*KINSHIP* is a performance series from About Face Theatre created and curated by the About Face Youth Task Force. It is an artistic platform for young queer performers (prioritizing those of color) to showcase new and original work. This all-ages queer variety show creates brave spaces for storytelling, drag, spoken word-poetry, monologues, music, and connection for people across the city of Chicago. *KINSHIP* is a home to uplift, empower, and celebrate queer art.

Every show has a new lineup of singers, dancers, poets, drag artists, and more. Some months have a theme, some don't! The event has a suggested donation of \$5 at the door, with proceeds going directly back to the performers.

*KINSHIP* launched in December 2018 with performances at The Martin and has since expanded to Reunion Chicago, Steppenwolf Theatre, and online. There have been eight *KINSHIPS* so far and we have served over 50 queer performers ages 14-24 and have reached over 700 audience members.

## MILESTONE

In the 2018-2019 Season, *KINSHIP* packed the house at Steppenwolf's new 1700 theatre space, making it the most well-attended Look-OUT series performance Steppenwolf had ever hosted. This season, Steppenwolf approached the Youth Task Force about bringing *KINSHIP* back to their Look-OUT series for a second time. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the final *KINSHIP* event of the season from taking place in person.



## Reflection

# YOUTH TASK FORCE

## SHARON PASIA (SHE/THEY)



“ I had been a member of AFYT for two years when I was invited to be a part of the Youth Task Force. Angelica [Grace] and I met up in a coffee shop that first year trying to figure out what our YTF project was going to be. We weren't 21 yet and we were frustrated that most of the queer events in the city were in bars, so we couldn't go. We wanted to create something new.

We saw the youth-led *Salonathon* and then we saw posters around the AFT office for a queer dance party and we thought: why don't we mix the two and create a space where queer youth are allowed to be out and safe and share their art and then dance? We wanted our event to be all of that. We decided it should feel like a gathering of friends and we looked up synonyms for that idea and that's how the title *KINSHIP* came to be.

I remember the first *KINSHIP* event at The Martin in Logan Square last year. We were very nervous because we didn't know who would show up. Then we opened the doors and our first night was a full house! It was hot and crowded and so incredible watching some of our old friends, some people I knew from high school that I didn't even know were queer, up there sharing their art.

People our age are so used to auditioning for a good school with a good name. It was important to not have that tension for *KINSHIP*. We removed that unneeded wondering, "am I good enough?" For me, watching the performers, seeing their faces light up, everyone around them snapping, clapping, seeing these young people grow as artists, gave me such a feeling of confidence and bliss.



# KINSHIP



## AN ALL AGES QUEER VARIETY SHOW

Created & cruated by the **ABOUT FACE YOUTH TASK FORCE:**  
**ANGELICA GRACE, MICAH MANTERNACH, and SHARON PASIA**



The *KINSHIP: An All Ages Queer Variety Show* series creates brave space for storytelling, drag, spoken word-poetry, monologues, music, and connection for people across the city of Chicago. Prioritizing young artists of color, most performers are youth under 25 years of age, and many are previously unaffiliated with About Face Theatre. It is a performance series aimed at curating a safe, supportive, and creative space for queer artists to experiment with their performance crafts and share in a dance party.

180

IN-PERSON  
ATTENDANCE

292

ONLINE VIEWS  
through Sept 1, 2020

3

LIVE IN-PERSON  
PERFORMANCES

1

VIRTUAL  
STREAMING  
PERFORMANCE

## LIVE PERFORMANCES

**Sunday, Nov 24, 2019 @ The Martin**

*Theme: "What are you desiring right now?"*

**Saturday, Dev 21, 2019 @ The Martin**

*Theme: "What are you celebrating?"*

**Saturday, February 22, 2020 @ Reunion**

*Theme: "KINSHIP's birthday"*

## VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES

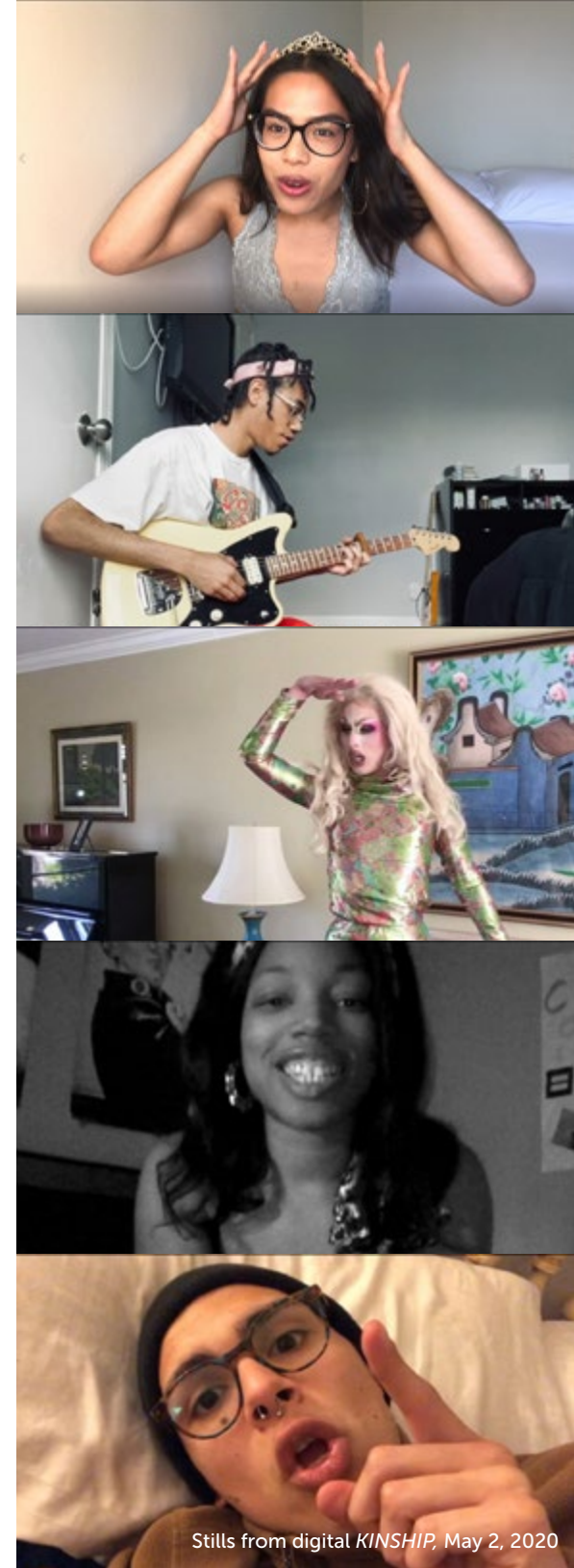
**Saturday, May 2, 2020 online streaming**

*Theme: "Coming together while social distancing"*

# DIGITAL KINSHIP

When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit in the spring, preventing gatherings and performances from happening safely, the Youth Task Force immediately looked for ways to take its April *KINSHIP* event online. Task Force members expanded the reach of *KINSHIP* by bringing in performers from outside of Chicago for the first time to contribute a range of styles and content to the show.

As one of the first original variety shows produced online during this time, the May 2020 *KINSHIP* presented considerable learning curves for everyone involved, from virtual collaboration to video editing to premiering a virtual watch party via social media. The final video program drew almost 300 viewers, more than tripling the program's regular in-person attendance.



Stills from digital *KINSHIP*, May 2, 2020

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH STORIES AND CONVERSATION

For over two decades, About Face Theatre's Community Engagement Ensemble has toured productions and workshops to schools, organizations, campuses, churches, and conferences around Chicago to deliver LGBTQIA+ stories and advocate for safe and equitable environments. Our performances and discussions provide opportunities for people of all ages to have important conversations about gender, sexuality, and intersecting identities while exploring ways to be a better ally and support healthy relationships. Offering a touring show, customizable interactive workshops, and guest speakers, our Outreach and Engagement program is a flexible means by which to build community, allyship, and foster understanding of LGBTQIA+ expressions and experiences

About Face Theatre understands that exposure to the arts and opportunities to engage with professional artists supports well-rounded education and provides students with opportunities for emotional growth and community involvement. We are committed to creating performance and dialogue programs that provide safe and brave spaces to talk about LGBTQIA equity and inclusion.

This program intentionally highlights the new Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Law which took effect July 2020, and offers educators greater access to and inspiration for incorporating LGBTQ+ historical figures into lesson plans. It also centers the lives and narratives of LGBTQ+ people of color to increase awareness of multiple and intersecting identities.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## LIVE PRESENTATIONS & EVENTS

### Arts in the Dark Parade

AFYT members represented AFT in this arts-focused city-wide parade through downtown Chicago

### Elevate YOU(th)

Featured performances by AFYT members for a youth job fair sponsored by Center on Halsted Women's Group  
*Attendance: 25*

### American Blues Theatre: Roan At the Gates talkback

Interim Education Manager Amy Sheahan led a post-show discussion on the LGBTQ perspective in the production  
*Attendance: 12*

### Andersonville Chamber of Commerce: "Being A Stronger Ally: Trans/GNC Business Affirming Symposium"

Daylong symposium featured stories and discussion with members of *Power in Pride* cast.  
*Attendance: 75*

### Marriott Theatre staff professional development event

*The Gender Revolution* presented by Artistic Associate Delia Kropp  
*Attendance: 15*

### University of Michigan Theatre Studies: "History of AFT and the Politics of Queer Theatre"

Presented by Artistic Director Megan Carney  
*Attendance: 35*

### Purdue University Music and Theatre Studies: "Trans+ Folx in the Entertainment Business" panel

Curated by Artistic Associate Delia Kropp  
*Attendance: 30*

### Columbia College Chicago Theatre Studies

AFT staff Presentation  
*Attendance: 25*

## ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

### Night of Noise online benefit for the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance

Online presentation featured an excerpt from *Power in Pride at Home*

### Chicago Foundation for Women: "Beyond the Binary"

Online webinar featured panelist Angelica Grace, Youth Task Force member and *Power in Pride Ensemble* member

### The Drama League: "Queering the Theatre: A Special Pride Week Event"

Online event featured Artistic Director Megan Carney

### Arizona Theatre Company's "Hang & Focus Live with Sean Daniels"

Online program featured Megan Carney and AFYT Ensemble Member Sharon Pasia as special guests

### Federal Trade Commission: "Supporting LGBTQ Youth: Local Perspectives"

Online panel featured Megan Carney and AFYT Ensemble Member Sharon Pasia

## PLAY READINGS

### Crystal Lake

Written by Tracy Baim & Clark Baim  
Directed by Delia Kropp  
February 3, 2020, at Theater Wit

### Plot Points In Our Sexual Development

Written by Miranda Rose Hall  
Directed by Keira Fromm  
February 11, 2020, at the About Face Theatre rehearsal space

### Dr. Ride's American Beach House

Written by Liza Birkenmeier  
Directed by Megna Carney  
Produced in collaboration with Rivendell Theatre Ensemble  
May 28, 2020, on Zoom streaming



217

TOTAL IN-PERSON  
COMMUNITY EVENT  
ATTENDANCE

# POWER IN PRIDE

Written by **THE POWER IN PRIDE ENSEMBLE**  
Directed by **LEXI SAUNDERS**

*Touring*  
**SEPT 2019 thru Feb 2020**



## AFT TOURING SHOW

*Power in Pride* is an original touring show developed by About Face Theatre's celebrated Community Engagement Program. Reinvented for its second year and featured new cast members, this new iteration of *Power in Pride* uses humorous and brave stories about gender & sexuality to spark conversations with students, educators, and community members of all ages. Written and performed by artists of color about their true life experiences, this play explores their dreams for the future and how understanding the role of LGBTQ+ people in history can change your life.

*Featuring* DIONNE ADDAI, ANGELICA GRACE, NICO QUINN,  
AIMY TIEN, VIC WYNTER  
*Produced by* AMY SHEAHAN

205

ATTENDANCE

4

LIVE IN-PERSON  
PERFORMANCES

## LIVE PERFORMANCES

**University of Chicago Booth School of  
Business Pride Group**

*Attendance: 22*

**Urban Gateways Teen Arts Pass Members  
Performance**

*Attendance: 24*

**About Face Youth Ensemble**

*Attendance: 14*

**Kenwood Academy**

*Attendance: 145*



## Endorsement

# EDUCATORS AT KENWOOD ACADEMY



“ I want to THANK YOU all immensely for today’s performance. Every performance that AFT gives is heartfelt and has moments of joy, discomfort, and learning—the kids loved it and the kids were able to learn new perspectives.

One of the teachers reached out to thank me for bringing AFT to Kenwood and said:

Kristian,

Thank you so much for putting together the KEN Talk. My students were so enthralled and engaged. I have several students in class who were so excited to be there and be seen and ask questions. Thank you for providing this experience for them!

Thanks,  
Emily

Today during our GSA meeting the students said it was incredible and specifically said the following:

- Soundtrack was really fun.
- Really enjoyed it.
- It was awesome.
- The part with the gym was really powerful.
- One student said she would have liked to know their names and pronouns before the performance - introduce themselves earlier

Lastly, I wanted to reiterate that I will be working [...] to get AFT approved again as a CPS vendor so you all can be paid by us and future schools. If you all need any affidavits or anything about the impact AFT has on students in high schools then please let me know.

Best and I’ll be in touch once I get the check,

Mrs. Kristian Coerper  
Kenwood Academy





# POWER IN PRIDE *at Home*

Streaming  
**June 17 thru July 9 2020**

When the pandemic shutdown in March necessitated cancelling all in-person performances of *Power in Pride*, About Face began working to find ways to bring the show online to stay connected with our communities. What emerged was a series of six videos adapted from segments of the show along with three Q&A segments modeled after the post-show discussions that accompany the live touring shows. This format also provided a unique opportunity for the ensemble to respond to the protests and calls for racial justice happening around the country.

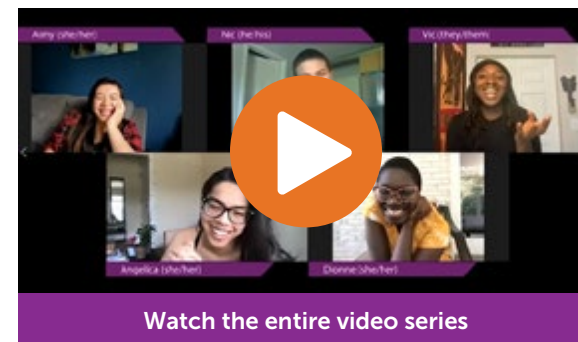
Directed by *LEXI SAUNDERS*  
Featuring *DIONNE ADDAI, ANGELICA GRACE, NICO QUINN,*  
*AIMY TIEN, VIC WYNTER*  
Video Editing by *CHARLES RIFFENBURG*  
Produced by *AMY SHEAHAN*

1,778

ONLINE VIEWS  
through Sept 1, 2020

9

VIDEO  
EPISODES



## STREAMING PERFORMANCES

### About Face Social Media

All videos available on Facebook and YouTube

### Chicago Parks District Night Out in the Parks

Select videos presented as part of the "Your Night Out At Home" program

## POWER IN PRIDE AT HOME EPISODES

### **"The Constitution of Queerdom"** June 17, 2020

The *Power in Pride at Home* series kicks off with a declaration of positivity and inclusivity.

### **"LGBTQ+ Community Q&A":**

#### ***Power in Pride Kiki*** July 23, 2020

The ensemble answers questions about the LGBTQ+ community they get commonly asked during post-show Q&A talkback sessions.

### **"Black + Queer"** June 25, 2020

Cast member Dionne confronts the overlap of Black and queer identities within the Black community.

### **"Family Fortune"** June 25, 2020

Cast member Aimy examines her relationship with her grandfather and his subtle acceptance of her identity.

### **"Right Now": *Power in Pride Kiki* Q&A**

June 30, 2020

The ensemble answers urgent questions about addressing racism in the queer community and how to be an effective accomplice.

### **"Whose History?"** July 2, 2020

Cast member Aimy contrasts her family's struggle with accepting her identity with the ancient history of queer identities.

### **"Letter To My Younger Self"** July 2, 2020

Ensemble members Dionne and Vic send insight and encouragement to their younger selves about love and self-acceptance.

### **"Hey Allies!": *Power in Pride Kiki* Q&A**

July 7, 2020

The cast answers questions about being an LGBTQ+ ally.

### **"My Power Is..."** July 9, 2020

In the conclusion of the *Power in Pride at Home* series, the cast reflects on and celebrates where they center power within themselves and their identities.

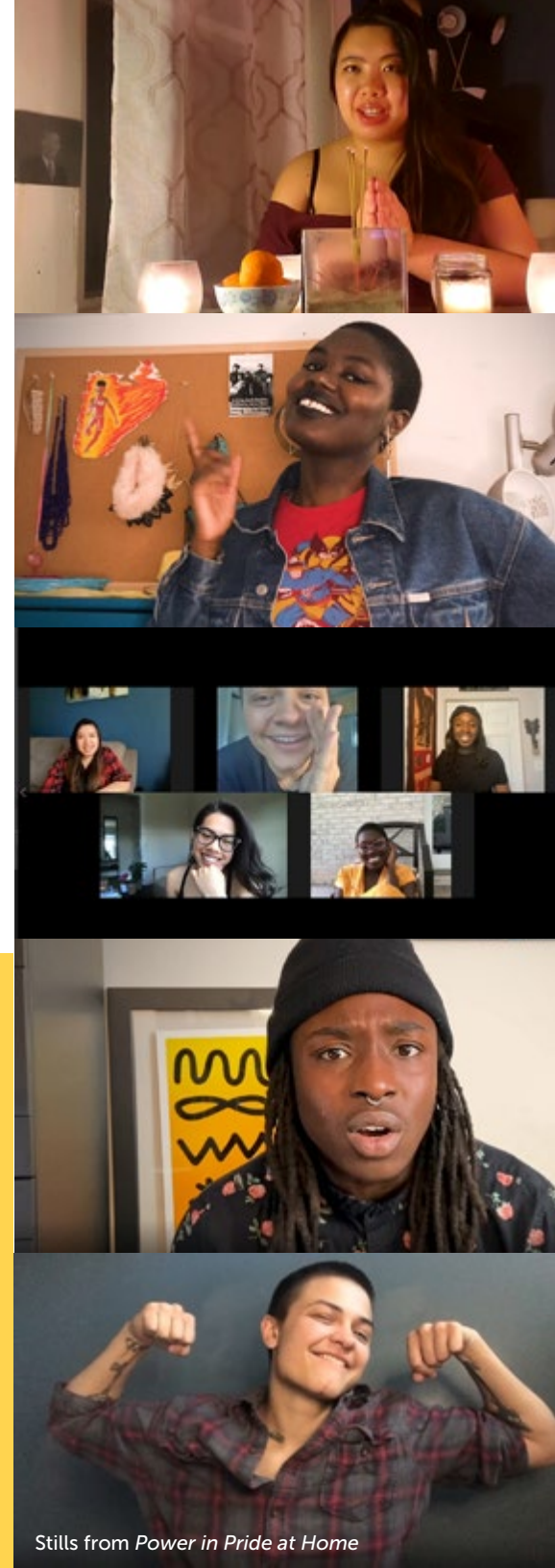
Aimy Tien radiates a similar boldness with "The Constitution of Queerdom," adapted from the *Power in Pride* touring community engagement show.

"So many people think Pride is just rainbows and glitter and naked people. I'm like no, Pride started as a riot. We celebrate, but we have to keep fighting," Tien said. "The work is not done, not when the life expectancy of a Black trans woman is around 35. All lives can't matter until Black Lives Matter. All Black Lives can't matter until Black trans and queer lives matter."

"The Constitution of Queerdom" is part of About Face Theatre's *Power in Pride at Home* series, which focuses on amplifying queer voices, often drawing upon autobiographical stories.

"The more stories we can tell, the better," said Tien. "Queer stories matter. Queer people matter. You don't get to look away. We are right here. We are not going anywhere."

—from "COVID can't stop the Pride celebration" by Catey Sullivan, *Chicago Reader* June 24, 2020



Stills from *Power in Pride at Home*

## Reflection

# ENSEMBLE MEMBER

## VIC WYNTER (THEY/THEM)



“As a newer member of the ensemble, I didn’t know what to expect, as the majority of the cast had already been a part of *Power in Pride*’s previous seasons. Initially, I was nervous, but after the first few rehearsals, I knew I’d be taken care of. The director, Lexi Saunders, had the ability to hold space and make room for everyone’s voices to be heard and, more importantly, valued.

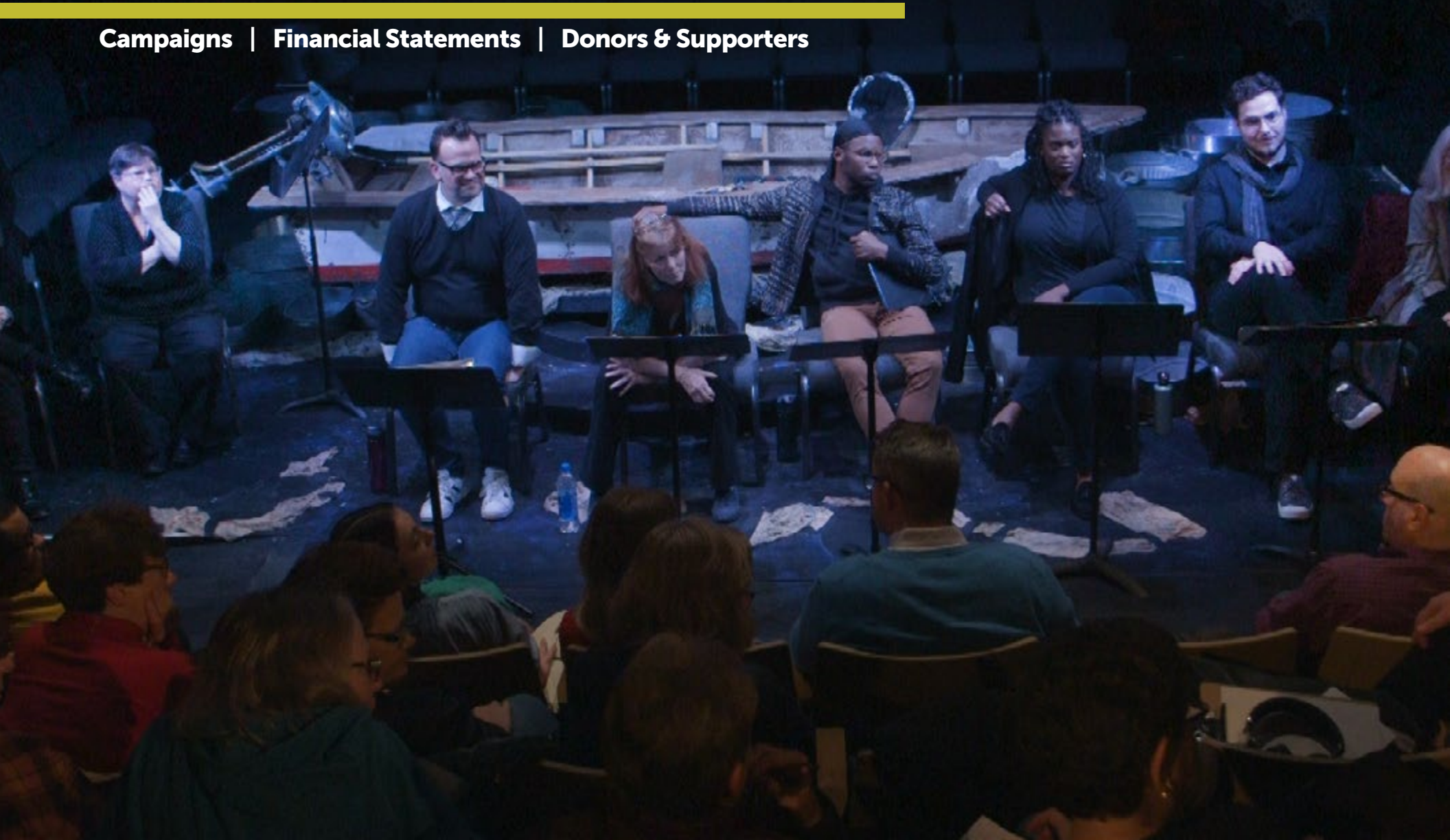
The process of bringing all our stories together into one cohesive piece felt like healing. We were vulnerable and uplifted one another as we shared different aspects of our lives. I am forever grateful to the ensemble. I felt seen, held, and understood throughout the process of creating *Power In Pride*.

The few times we got to perform, I was delighted by how we were received. From the queer youth to the adults in the room—we could see them receiving and listening deeply to our stories. There was an excitement and a genuine curiosity to engage with us. The talkbacks we held gave us the opportunity to connect and educate folks on our identities. For the first time, I got to be an example of what I wish I could have seen and/or been exposed to growing up. By showing up as our authentic selves and sharing our stories, *Power in Pride* was a reminder to queer youth that their identities should be celebrated and honored always.



# FUNDRAISING & FINANCIALS

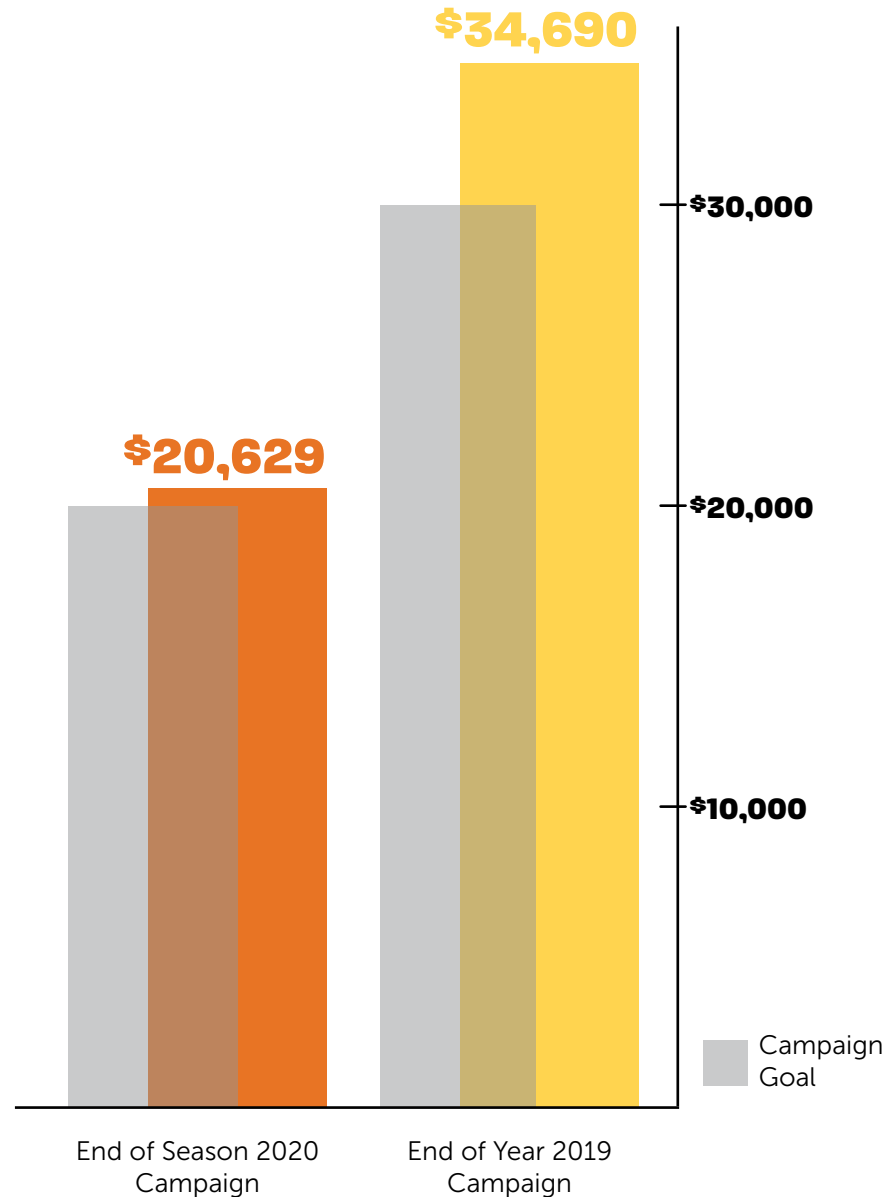
Campaigns | Financial Statements | Donors & Supporters



# FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

About Face Theatre runs two major individual giving donation campaigns during the average season: the End of Year Campaign mid-way through the season coinciding with the end of the calendar year, and an End of Season Campaign to mark the end of the current production season and prepare for the next. Each campaign is generally a combination of mailed solicitation letters, email and social media communications, and a brief phone banking period to reach out to donors one-on-one.

Given the ongoing hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, About Face made the decision to forego mail and digital campaigning for the 2019-2020 End of Season Campaign in favor of targeted telephone contact with past donors. Thanks to a combination of AFT's strong shift to digital programming during the summer and a donation-matching grant provided by The Logan Foundation, the End of Season Campaign exceeded its goal. The Logan Foundation grant will be received and applied to the 2020-2021 season.



## Reflection

# DIRECTOR OF INDIVIDUAL GIVING & SPECIAL EVENTS DYLAN TOROPOV (THEY/HE)



“First and most importantly, I would like to thank the generous and incredible donors to About Face Theatre this year.

In my three-plus years on staff at About Face Theatre as Director of Individual and Major Giving & Special Events, I've always been incredibly grateful for the fact that this theatre has always encouraged me to be myself. Given the fact that I know I'm a fairly independent and relatively strange person, it's so wonderful that this community encourages me to be authentic and creative, both in my self-expression and in development strategy.

When the COVID pandemic hit, In order to successfully close our 2020 fiscal year on stable and powerful footing, our development strategy had to pivot in a substantial way. Thanks to the leadership of Megan Carney, Logan Jones, our Board of Directors, and a generous well-timed matching grant from the Logan Foundation, our strategy shifted from primarily asking for mail-in donations to direct fundraising on the phone as well as peer-to-peer asks. The hope was that this change would provide timely results that avoided contributing to the strains the postal

service experienced. Gratefully, that shift worked, and here we are, looking forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary in any way we can this year. In the face of adversity and unprecedented challenges, our donors choose to stand up for LGBTQ+ and queer stories and we ended our fiscal year in a strong position to do our important work together in 2021, and beyond.

This direct approach also allowed us the opportunity to speak with many of our supporters on an individual basis to ask how they were and reaffirm our sense of community. I realize that our circumstances could continue to be unpredictable and challenging. In 2020, we proved that we can collectively meet those challenges with creativity, flexibility, and determination. I'll continue to do what I can to lead our individual development strategy in a sound and wise manner, and I'll continue to thank our donors every chance I get for making our mission a reality.

”

# 2019-2020 FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

\*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2020

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20*</b>
Cash	\$63,790.77	\$84,959.43
Accounts Receivable	\$65,658.04	\$7,213.04
Prepaid Expenses	\$6,211.57	\$3,611.57
Security Deposits	\$16,236.72	\$16,236.72
Fixed Assets	\$11,330.42	\$11,330.42
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$163,227.52</b>	<b>\$123,351.18</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$6,140.31	\$2,012.08
Deferred Income	\$63,860.00	\$52,000.00
Loans Payable	\$102,200.00	\$59,400.00
Security Deposits Payable	\$1,186.60	\$1,220.20
Accrued Expenses	\$113.63	\$113.63
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$173,500.54</b>	<b>\$114,745.91</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Opening Balance	\$30.00	\$30.00
Retained Earnings	-\$51,149.74	-\$ 10,303.02
Net Revenue	\$40,846.72	\$18,878.29
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>-\$10,273.02</b>	<b>\$8,605.27</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$163,227.52</b>	<b>\$123,351.18</b>





## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

\*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year  
ending August 31, 2020

<b>EARNED REVENUE</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20*</b>
Production Income	\$69,584.57	\$24,355.35
Education Income	\$18,579.56	\$6,415.00
Rentals & Other Income	\$44,232.72	\$25,483.77
<b>Total Earned Revenue</b>	<b>\$132,396.85</b>	<b>\$56,254.12</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTED REVENUE</b>		
Individuals (Board)	\$55,413.65	\$61,150.63
Individuals (Non-Board)	\$121,399.23	\$114,054.24
Special Events	\$52,526.00	\$257.98
Foundation	\$290,185.00	\$281,785.02
Government	\$24,989.00	\$22,300.00
Corporate	\$7,967.28	\$7,478.31
<b>Total Contributed Revenue</b>	<b>\$487,026.18</b>	<b>\$543,280.30</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$684,877.01</b>	<b>\$543,280.30</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff Personnel	\$321,560.68	\$285,635.24
Production Personnel	\$120,621.30	\$72,969.74
Production Venue	\$30,841.00	\$35,065.00
Production Materials	\$20,439.99	\$11,560.11
Marketing	\$27,272.21	\$28,570.64
Business & Operations	\$55,678.16	\$40,725.24
Facilities	\$60,165.96	\$54,250.75
Depreciation	\$13,892.00	TBD
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$650,471.30</b>	<b>\$528,776.72</b>
Net Operating Revenue	\$34,405.71	\$14,503.58
In-kind Revenue	\$6,441.01	\$4,374.72
<b>Total Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$40,846.72</b>	<b>\$18,878.30</b>

# DONORS

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Reflects donations made between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020.

### FOUNDERS SOCIETY

With a generous annual contribution or monthly gift totaling \$1,000 or more in a year, Founders Society members support today's LGBTQ+ artists creating About Face Theatre's mainstage performances as well as tomorrow's leaders with AFT's youth and outreach ensembles.

#### \$10,000+

Becky Huinker  
Michael Leppen  
Robert McCamant

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Geoffrey Anderson  
Derek Blin  
Shelley Bloch

#### \$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous  
Rob Abernathy  
& Peter Vamvakas  
Jim Andrews  
& Rich Cohrs  
Tracy Baim  
Philip Burgess  
& Jim Nutter  
Greg Cameron  
& Greg Thomson  
Megan Carney  
Victoria Carney  
Judge Tom Chiola  
Christopher Dionesotes  
& Sam Portaro  
Eileen Dordek & Chris  
Landgraff  
Kathe Elwell  
Julia Fabris-McBride  
& William McBride  
Dr. Wayne Franklin  
& Pete Eriksson  
Michael Halberstam  
& Jack Segal

Logan Jones  
Aaron Kacel  
Elizabeth Kimball  
Bruce Klotzman –  
In honor of  
Michael & Jill Vance  
Maxwell W. Koziol &  
Justin E. Runquist  
Dan & Anita Mauro  
Dr. Dwight A. McBride  
Bill Michel & Mark  
Botelho  
Edward Potocek  
Charles Rhee  
Geoff Robinson  
John Sanders  
& Jason Held  
Roche Edward Schulfer  
& Mary Beth Fisher  
Paul Semper  
& Eric Medina  
Coco Soodek  
& Roxanne Saylor  
Ed Talideh

### SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

About Face Theatre would like to thank the Sustainers Circle, a community of donors who pledge a recurring monthly or quarterly donation in support of the Theatre and its mission to advance the national dialogue on sexual and gender identity

Jim Andrews & Rich Cohrs  
David Bentlin  
Megan Carney  
Victoria Carney  
Bill Chamberlain  
& Howard Heyman  
Judge Tom Chiola (Retired)  
Kenneth Creech  
Alan Eddington  
Pat Ewert & Susan Blake  
Brent Fisher & Jim Rinnert  
Dr. Wayne Franklin & Pete Eriksson  
Amy Hutchison  
Betsy Kimball

Daniel & Anita Mauro  
Dr. Dwight McBride  
Bill Michel & Mark Botelho  
Hunter Sanders  
Paul Semper & Eric Medina  
RJ Silva  
Norm Sloan  
Michael Sullivan  
Stephen Lowell Swanberg  
Dylan Toropov  
Steve Trubac  
Joshua Turnbull  
Moises Villada

## **\$500-\$999**

Anonymous  
Broadway Daddies  
Pat Ewert & Susan Blake  
Luke Frazier & Robert Pullen  
Gary Gephart  
David Germaine & Robert LoPrete  
Prof. James A. Glazier  
Em Hall  
Howard Heyman & Bill Chamberlain  
John Kander  
Maria Kronfeld  
Kevin McGirr  
John Morse & Wes Broquard  
Mary Morten & Wllla Taylor  
Terri Riendeau & Shelley Krause –  
    In Honor of Taylor B. Feld  
Norman Sandfield  
Stephen Lowell Swanberg  
Ruthann Szente – Carve Systems  
Anna Trzeciak  
Paul Winberg & Bruce Czuchna

## **\$100-\$499**

Anonymous (x4)  
Stephanie Ambuehl  
David Bentlin  
Bill Bergfalk  
Dorian Bezanis  
Roger Bialcik  
Thomas Blaser  
Robert Book & Dan Acosta  
Marlena Boruch-Krol  
John Bowen  
Tony Breed  
Pandora & Mark Brewer  
Tim Brynda  
James Butt  
Kathleen St. Louis Caliento &  
    Evan Caliento  
John Callen  
Megan Carney  
Kevin Christopher

Colorado Keesecker  
Henry, Libby & Gus Cohen  
Darwin B Corrin  
Noreen Costelloe  
Kenneth Creech  
Anthony D'Amato  
Steven Davis & Eddie Rothermel  
Ed Dawkins  
Andrea Densham  
Dan Dornbrook  
Alan Eddington  
Dr. James Embrescia  
Toby Eveland & Brian Johnson  
Danny Ferenczi  
Janet Ferguson  
Brent Fisher & Jim Rinnert  
Daniel & Jacqueline Frett  
Emily Friedman  
Judy Friedman  
Sharon Furiya  
Robert Lavigne  
John Gallagher & Tod Tappert  
Bob Gill  
Ethel and Bill Gofen  
Ted Grady & Ross Slotten  
Randall Grant  
Cecil R Hall Jr  
Jeffrey Hamm & Brian Elmore  
Kate Hanley  
Steven Haught & Robert Stoner  
Mark Hirtzer II  
John Hogan  
Lisa Honaman  
Casey Horton  
Amy Hutchison  
Charles Jackson  
Robin Kacel  
Patricia Kane & Kim Osgood  
Lynn Katsulis  
Carol Kennedy  
Jack Kiburz  
Rick Kinnebrew  
Jean Klingenstein  
David Gitomer & Thomas Klein  
Tim Knipper  
Elizabeth Kuczera

Mike Liska  
Paul Lisnek  
Eric Lofdahl  
Bob Malandrino  
Amy Matheny  
Cynthia Matthews & John Kenny  
John Matthews  
Ann & Lynn McBurney-Soderlund  
Andy Melinat  
Bonnie Metzgar  
Nick Miller & Michael Ross  
Colleen Miloni  
Tony Miner  
Jacob Mueller  
Stuart Orelove  
Sam Orelove  
Michael Oxman  
Deanna Myers, Mozilla Foundation  
Sascha Fishman  
Anna Pettersson  
Jerry Proffit  
Ryan Rayburn  
Ellen Jordan Reidy  
Ben Rezko  
Rick Roberts  
Ethan Rogers  
Adam Rossier  
Lisa Oppenheim & Steven Rothschild  
Hadley Rue  
Rebecca Rugg  
Terri Runquist  
James Ruud & Richard Shoemaker  
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Timothy Sherck  
Judith & Jack Schindler  
David Schoon  
Bob Schwartz  
John Schwartz  
Scott Schroeder  
F. Sheppard Shanley  
Thomas Sinkovic  
RJ Silva  
Norm Sloan  
Jeremy Smith  
Dasha Snyder  
Cindy Sobel

Dawn Stewart  
Michael Sullivan  
Brad Suster & Tom Hernandez  
Andrew Szegedy-Maszak &  
    Elizabeth Bobrick  
Barbara & Randy Thomas  
Ron Thomas  
Dylan Toropov  
Joshua Turnbull –  
    In Honor of Aaron Kacel  
Steve Trubac  
Ray Vas  
Moises Villada  
Ann S. Whitney  
Doris Woods  
Brian Woodworth

## **\$1-\$99**

Anonymous (x13)  
Daniel Alter  
Lauren Anderson  
Al & Rosanne Andrews  
Abigail Armato  
Sonia Arroyave & Nina Fernandez  
David Aslesen  
Thomas Aulino  
Karan Bagga  
Peter Baranowski  
Carmelo Barbaro  
    & Alexander Boni-Saenz  
Ronit Bezalel  
Jon & Geoff Altizer-Bieger  
Ian Bonner  
Wendy Bostwick  
Michael Bredenkamp  
Graham Bridgeman  
James Brott  
Brigid & Mike Browne  
Erik Burns & Benjamin Sprunger  
Jerold Caldwell  
Dr. John T. Carlsen  
Ruth Carter  
Adithi Chandrashekar  
Julie Chiron

Ruth Clark  
Carly Conklin  
Paul Conroy  
M. Pat Cummings  
Reshma Desai  
Sandy Dinkel  
Thomas Drexler  
Kelly Duke  
Zach Ebner  
Paul Eberhardt  
John & Kathleen Engman  
Kirby Epley  
John Erskine  
Paul Fagen  
Donald Fraynd  
Jared Geller & Drew Kirkbride  
Joy and Marc Gerber  
Norden Gilbert  
John Golanty  
James Gorski  
Tammy Graves  
Susan Greenberg  
Kevin Hansen  
Linda Heying  
Cynthia Ho  
Gareth Hoeni

Melissa Hoffman  
Michael Horvich  
Melissa Hubbert  
Bill Hynes & Roger Ward  
Jake Jones  
Blake Kelley  
Henson Keys  
Stephen Klavish  
David Gitomer & Thomas Klein  
Ronald Klimek  
Justin Koziatsek  
Ethan Langford  
Yev Lapik  
Robert Lavigne  
Samuel Levine  
Kristofer M. Luck  
Kevin Mader  
Dean Manternach  
Kara & Kevin Massey  
Carl E. May  
Jerry Mazzolini  
Kevin McLemore  
Ronald S. McClure  
Cindy McNulty  
Rex Babiera & Geoffrey Meyer  
Travis Myers & Sam Allen

E. Napoletano  
David Niemeyer  
Nathan Novaria  
Andrea Opperman  
John Olson  
Marissa Panganiban  
Alex G Papadopoulos  
Nima Patel  
Lynne Perryman  
David Pezen  
Shay Phillips  
Mary-Helen Pitman  
Jose Ramos  
Eric Reed  
Alex Rhyan  
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Anthony Ruth  
Bob Sanders  
Sharvari Sastry & Sarah McDaniel  
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James Schiff  
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Kathryn Seifert  
Peggy Shinner & Ann Tyler

Dujon Smith  
Brian Solem  
Steve Sondheimer  
Kate Staley  
Ryan Stanfield  
Howard Stolar  
Christopher Stratton  
Joanna Strzelec  
Carol Stukey  
Santina Sullivan  
Nilsa Shepsle Sweetser  
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Michael Turkal  
Spencer Vadner  
Jean-Pierre Vidrine  
Greg Vinkler  
Gray Vogelmann  
Liz and Dave Weber  
Wilbert Watkins  
Sam Wegman  
Jennifer Weinberg  
Charles Whitmer & Jeff Bucher  
Gregory Wiercinski  
McKenzie Wilkes

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## Reflection

# DONOR

## JULIA FABRIS MCBRIDE (SHE/HER)



“ I am a co-founder of About Face Youth Theatre, a bisexual woman, mother of a beautiful non-binary 13-year-old, former Chicagoan, and 15-year resident of rural Kansas. I’m vice president at the Kansas Leadership Center, and I have a secret: Most of what I learned about leadership I learned at About Face Youth Theatre.

Back in 1999, Eric Rosen and Kyle Hall stood in front of a sold-out crowd in the old theatre at Broadway and Belmont. They shared their intention to create a youth theatre. I felt the energy of their commitment to break down barriers between generations in our community, to use the medium of theatre to support LGBTQ+ young people in finding their voices and speaking their truths. I knew that, amplified by the artistry and institutional support of adults at About Face, our

youth would change the world. I wanted to be a part of that. Twenty-one years later, I felt a similar rush when I heard from Megan about plans to take the youth theatre online. I knew in 2020, as I had in 1999, that this bold move by About Face would change the world.

About Face Youth Theatre is a beacon and an inspiration. Living in rural Kansas, my kid needs you. Our LGBTQ+ kids need you. While there is more support than many may imagine, our rural kids’ voices are not as confident as their urban counterparts. Your average LGBTQ+ youth may need an About Face performer to speak up first, to lead the way, to reflect their truth before they can say it out loud. We who are far outside big city limits can’t always get to the theatre. Thank you for making your voices loud enough for everyone to hear. ”

**THANK YOU!**  
Your ongoing support makes  
our critical work possible.



ABOUT  
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