

'Fresh Meat' Hits San Francisco

by Kilian Melloy

EDGE Contributor

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Fresh Meat is back with the 7th Annual Transgender and Queer Performance Festival, June 19-21 at Project Artaud Theater.

The festival offers trans and queer artists a venue for everything from hip-hop to hula, with clogging, theatre, and more.

The new festival's new location at Artaud Theatre, 450 Florida Street between 17th Street and Mariposa in San Francisco, offers a larger venue for an expanded array of offerings; as the press release notes, "The move will accommodate Fresh Meat's gigantic audiences and allow the Festival to highlight larger ensembles and nationally-recognized artists."

The release notes, "to celebrate our expansion, we have commissioned five world premieres from cutting-edge transgender and queer ensembles who challenge the boundaries of traditional art forms: the Transcendence Gospel Choir (gospel music), Na Lei Hulu I Ka Wekiu (hula), the Barbary Coast Cloggers (clogging), Colombian Soul (Colombian folkloric dance), and Prado Gomez and Nejla Baguio (classical guitar and singing). These commissions are supported in part by the Alliance for California Traditional Arts."

Says the press release, "The special lineup continues with five outstanding, nationally celebrated artists: Scott Turner Schofield (trans theater from the deep South), Sean Dorsey (award-winning modern dance), Shawna Virago (trans rock legend), Jose Luis Munoz (genderbending opera countertenor), and Freeplay Dance Crew (sexy sexy hip hop)."

Said Artistic Director Sean Dorsey, "I am thrilled that the Festival is expanding--our audiences have grown so large that they really demanded a larger venue."

Added Dorsey, who curated the lineup, "People will love Project Artaud Theater--it's such a gorgeous space."

Dorsey continued, "We're celebrating our expansion with an out-of-this world, powerhouse lineup of artists who will astonish audiences with their innovation, skill, heart and strength."

Shows take place Thursday, June 19, Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, at 8:00 p.m., and also Sunday, June 22, at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets cost \$15 and are available at www.brownpapertickets.com as well as at www.ticketweb.com and via phone at 415-863-9834.

Kilian Melloy reviews media, conducts interviews, and writes commentary for EDGEBoston, where he also serves as Assistant Arts Editor.