

The Secret History Of Love (Part I) – To Be Revealed In Dance

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This weekend, secret love affairs, the history of outlawing love and the underground ways that transgender and queer people found each other in decades past are revealed in Sean Dorsey's latest dance piece, *The Secret History of Love (Part I)*. From 1920s speakeasies to modern-day Craigslist personal ads, the "love that dared not speak its name" explodes onstage in this suite of dances that weave through the decades to reveal inside secrets of LGBT love and connection. This 3-night-only, world premiere concert runs at the Z Space at Theater Artaud. (NOTE: *The Secret History Of Love (Part I)* features sections of the full concert that will premiere in its entirety in March 2012.)

"I am creating the concert through a two-year research process - working with the GLBT Historical Society, using never-before-seen archival materials and conducting oral history interviews with elders who came out and lived as transgender or queer decades ago,"

says Dorsey. The concert is supported by national commissions from the Creative Work Fund, the National Performance Network, the Queer Cultural Center (here in San Francisco), The Theater Offensive (in Boston) and Links Hall (in Chicago).

This is a major new work that brings entirely new LGBT content to dance and to the stage. "Because I have been completely selling out in recent years from pre-sales alone, I am moving my season to Z Space at Artaud, a larger space," Dorsey says.

Last year, Dorsey became the first transgender artist to be named in *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch," an annual "who's-hot" list of the nation's leading dance artists. At only 38, Dorsey is the winner of two Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, the Goldie Award for Performance, prestigious commissions and praise from New York to Los Angeles.

The Secret History Of Love (Part I) features an outstanding cast of performers: Dorsey, Brian Fisher, Juan De La Rosa, Nol Simonse, and Shawna Virago. The original score features music by Jesse Olson and Ben Kessler with lighting design by Clyde Sheets and vintage costume design by Tiffany Amundson.

"There is an urgency to undertaking this project now: we are rapidly losing our community's stories. In the 1980s, we lost part of an entire generation of queer and transpeople to AIDS," Dorsey says. "Every year we lose more and more of our community's elders as they pass on. I am passionate about capturing these stories - the bold transpeople and drag queens who fought at Stonewall, quiet people who found love or raised families, and rowdy activists - before they are lost forever."

"These are riveting stories: imagine having your very body, desire or gender expression outlawed, but still managing to find love despite this," Dorsey elaborates. "There was very real danger, risk and guts involved for our ancestors. These are heartbreaking, inspiring and empowering tales."

"As a relatively young transperson, I recognize that I have benefited from 'coming out' in an era when it is becoming easier to do so," says Dorsey.

Despite the daily challenges I face, they pale in comparison to those confronting queer and transpeople living in earlier periods, who were violently forced into hiding and secrecy. LGBT lives disappeared between the pages of family albums and recorded history; we want to bring them back!"

He adds, "People often feel like they don't 'get' modern dance. Modern dance has a reputation as being cryptic and inaccessible. My goal as an artist is to make dances that people can actually understand and relate to."

The Secret History of Love (Part I) runs April 29 to May 1 (Friday to Sunday, 8pm) at Z Space at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco. Tickets (\$15 to \$20, sliding scale) call (800) 838-3006 or at [brownpapertickets.com \(event/168357\)](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/168357).



Juan De La Rosa, Brian Fisher, Nol Simonse and Sean Dorsey in *The Secret History of Love (Part I)*. Photo by Lydia Daniller