Articles by Jamie Windborne

Fresh Meat 2007 celebrates trans*gender arts community

MISSION DISTRICT — The 6th annual Fresh Meat and Trans*gender Queer Performance Festival, Fresh Meat 2007, took place at the OBC Theater June 14 through 16. Held in the San Andreas' highest profile trans*gender arts event, Fresh Meat 2007 was a showcase of the 30th Annual National Queer Arts Festival and part of Gay Pride Month.

The program included Male, take, male, transvestite, traditional Colombian dance, fusion, hip hop, visual arts and much more! This year’s Fresh Meat Festival featured four days of extraordinary events that put trans*gender and queer artists on traditional forms.

Artistic director Sean Dowie created the special lineup, calling it “an extraordinary panoply of artworks that are challenging tradition and making art with their art.” Festival director Cesar Davis, When Black is Black, Feit Winkin, Tako Rea, Female Dance Co., Jessica Bajer, bleach! Carmen, Rodrigo Hernandez-Goldfinger, Nairsh V 누스, Nairsh, Mya Amadi De la Cruz and Tito Tovar-Tulio.

The festival’s program included artistic director Sean Dowie’s new dance piece, “The Escape.” Dowie wrote, “The Escape” is a dance that is set in the time of a dance and a time after it. It is a dance that is between a dance and a moment. It is a dance that is between a dance and a moment. It is a dance that is between a dance and a moment.

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According to Dowie, “The trans*gender community faces violence and attempt suicide at double to three times the rate of the general population. It often starts with bullying, harassment, and when it is trans*gender, it is attempted. It is not criminalized — it is punished, and it is punished severely.”

Female Dance Company’s “Les Quatre Danseurs” featured hip hop with the newensemble piece, “Les Quatre Danseurs.” Female Dance Company’s newensemble piece was first featured in 2007 by Jessica Ricks and Jennifer Ibarra. They have since been seen on stages such as the San Francisco Fresh Meat Festival and the San Francisco M男 Dance Stages.

“Les Quatre Danseurs” choreographed by Sarah Black and the rest of the FD ensemble, “invites the audience to be a part of the performance and make their own meanings. The highlight of the performance were the dancers dressed in a single color, the one missing, and removed every single step, to give a quiet, slow dancing to the audience.”

Julie Sauer said about the evening with a note, “I am a trans woman who explores the ordinary off the stage for the contemporary queer community. Julie Sauer, a trans woman, is also a black woman, a spoken word performer and music writer. She is also the author of "Waking Up! A Transgender Woman on Solitude and the Suppression of Feeling."

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Fresh Meat 2007’s opening reception also celebrated the premiere of Fresh Meat in the gallery. In a myriad of visual and varied art exhibits presented by OBC’s gallery through June 16. Gallery shows are Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. and Sunday evenings when the festival finishes. Admission is free.

Fresh Meat Production’s goal is a trans*gender arts organization dedicated to creating, producing, and performing new work by trans*gender and queer artists. This year’s event was created and performed by artistic director Sean Dowie’s award-winning dance company, and visual and performing arts collective. Visit OBC Theater in 3151 16th Street (at Mission). Visit oaklandqueerarts.org or freshtmeat.org for more information.