The Secret History of Love

Captures Voice of San Francisco LGBT Elders

BY EBAY WINDOWS STAFF | MAY 17, 2012

Having served as the legislative assistant to Congressmen Barney Frank and Steny Hoyer, trans and queer political activist Don Buskey analyzes the role of trans and queer advocate Frank Heathcote in the decades. Dorsay takes the stage in this dragball dance theater piece, which features a troupe of four dancers as well as trans and queer superstars in the 1980s. Dorsay is the founder and Artistic Director of Fresh Meat Productions, the nation's first trans and queer theater company, presenting and touring year-round trans and queer arts programs. Dorsay says being a drag performer, her art, her presence, is a major blessing and a huge challenge. Almost all modern dance is completely, traditionally gendered. Yet there's something really magical about being in your body and your skin showing your true self. As far as I'm concerned, in my work, I strive to articulate that which is most human and visceral and honest about us.

The Secret History of San Francisco's debut in April was met with high praise by reviewers and audiences alike. To no one's surprise. In 2011, SF Weekly named Fresh Meat as one of the Bay Area's "Best of the Bay" and Bay Area Reporter called Dorsay "the most imaginative and intriguing drag artist in the Bay Area." Dorsay's work bridges boundaries for the trans community through powerful dance theater depicting trans and queer experiences.

The Theater Offensive is the lead co-commissioner of The Secret History of Love along with the National Performance Network and partners in Chicago and California. The Theater Offensive co-facilitated creative development for Secret History by organizing the Boston-area interviews for Dorsay's LGBT Elders project. For The Secret History of Love, "It's so cool that he came here to work with folks in our neighborhoods," said Executive Artistic Director Abe Rybeck, who co-founded The Theater Offensive in 1989. "Sean Dorsay has an intimacy and tenderness to his beating heart of our community's love stories as he performs them.

The Secret History of Love's local element featuring LGBT seniors' love stories fits in well with The Theater Offensive's (TTO) OUT in Your Neighborhood programming. OUT in Your Neighborhood engages local community members in creating art that gives voice to the local community. The TTO experience is unique because it is co-created by the participants. The show is a year-round community-based workshops, intensive engagement with at-risk youth to end bullying, and free theater workshops that are community-focused in Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain and the South End in Spring 2011.

As an interventional element of OUT in Your Neighborhood, The Theater Offensive will honor community organizer Gunnar Scott with the Out on the Edge award on the opening night of the Secret History of Love. The Out on the Edge honor marks community members who break boundaries for LGBT advocacy, arts and activism, a field in which Scott has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

As Executive Director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, Scott led the battle for passage of the Massachusetts Transgender Equal Rights Bill in 2010. This historic Transgender Equal Rights Bill, which is the same civil rights law that he introduced to the state legislature in 2007, provides non-binary individuals with the opportunity to identify their gender in the law, newly called Gender Identity, makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit & lending, because the trans community has a long way to go before they truly have equal rights. Scott says the Trans Equality Bill was a step in the right direction.

"I am proud of the work that I have done with MTVMTL and LGBT and allied activists from around the state to pass the 2010 Transgender Equal Rights Bill. Even though it did not include everything that is needed to fully protect transgender youth, adults, and our families it will make a difference in the daily lives of thousands of people across the state who need it."

As the person Scott is so proud of, he stated, "I am so proud of my role and my talent, but most important, this has been accomplished with the support of the many people who have been instrumental in the progress of the bill."