It would be enough to say that the Fresh Meat Festival, which kicks off at Z Space this weekend, is celebrating 15 years of powerful, funny and dazzling transgender and queer performances, but that wouldn't quite capture the variety of artists participating in the three-day event.

Spearheaded by Sean Dorsey, whose company has brought stories from the queer community to vibrant life, the Fresh Meat lineup includes the dance troupe Axis Dance Company as well as trans singer-songwriters like Shawna Virago, Star Amerasu and StormMiguel Florez. Dancers Jahaira Fajardo and Angelica Medina will offer queer bachata dance, transgender singer Breanna Sinclairé performs opera and North American same-sex ballroom champions Robbie Tristan and Ernesto Palmer will heat up the dance floor. There will also be a post-show reception each night.

— Mary Ellen Hunt

**15th Annual Fresh Meat Festival:** 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, June 16-18. $15 sliding scale. Z Space, 450 Florida St., S.F. [www.freshmeatproductions.org](http://www.freshmeatproductions.org)