Fresh Meat Festival Brings Top-Notch LGBTQ+ Performers to Z Space

by Nastia Voynovskaya

Acclaimed choreographer and trans activist Sean Dorsey's Fresh Meat Festival is an opportunity to experience the cutting edge of Bay Area dance, music, comedy, theater and more, featuring a slate of diverse artists from the LGBTQ+ community.

This year's edition takes place June 20–22 at Z Space in San Francisco, and stars vogue ensemble kNOwShade; Axis Dance, which spotlights dancers with disabilities;
bachata champions (and life partners) Jahaira Fajardo and Angelica Medina; deaf dance trailblazer Antoine Hunter; and, of course, Sean Dorsey Dance. On the musical front, electro-pop singer-songwriter Ah Mer Ah Su performs her spellbinding, synth-driven tracks. Audiences will also hear from retro quartet the Singing Bois, folk-punk artist Shawna Virago, R&B singer Tajah J, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Men's Chorus and New Voices Bay Area TIGQ Chorus.

J Mase III and Randy Ford take on topics like colonial and domestic violence through poetry and dance; Javier Stell-Fresquez and Ivy Monteiro team up for a gender-bending performance art piece; and Lottie Riot takes the mic for a stand-up comedy set.

All three evenings are hosted by filmmaker Annalise Ophelian, director of Major!, a documentary about the legendary trans activist Miss Major Griffin-Gracy. DJ Frida Ibarra spins house, cumbia, techno, pop and more for the after party.

The performances feature ASL interpretation and are wheelchair accessible, and there is a scent-reduced seating area. More details about Fresh Meat Festival can be found at www.freshmeatproductions.org.