

STAGE PRODUCTION

FRESH MEAT 2004

ACTIVATING TRANSGENDER DANCE

JESSICA ROBINSON
Choreographer Sean Dorsey creates intelligent and evocative dances that question assumptions about gender and play with sexual politics. As a genderqueer artist working in contemporary dance, Dorsey talks about the origins of Fresh Meat, and what genderqueer performance offers the field of dance.

ID: What is Fresh Meat?

Sean Dorsey: Fresh Meat Productions creates, develops, and presents transgender and queer dance and performance. Fresh Meat presents my choreography as well as curated showcases of multidisciplinary trans and queer performance. Our mission includes creating and presenting dance as well as transgender performance, so our shows are a unique blend of both.

ID: How did Fresh Meat come into being?

SD: I was in the process of creating a production company three years ago, and was influenced significantly by two things: the cancellation of the Lesbian & Gay Dance Festival, which compelled me to commit to providing ongoing, professional opportunities for queer/trans dance artists; and witnessing the beginnings of the world's first transgender performance scene, whose artists and audiences were hungry for visibility and professional presentation.

ID: Is there something unique happening with trans performance in San Francisco?

SD: Yes! While there have always been incredible transgender artists here in SF, the past few years have forged the emergence of an actual trans performance scene/field - transgender men and women, as well as genderqueer artists who are questioning or even rejecting the idea of a gender binary at all, and it makes for some pretty interesting art! ...

ID: Do you see Fresh Meat as an activist endeavor?

SD: Absolutely. Transgender and gender-variant people have been misrepresented and under-represented in mass media and the arts - and frankly still don't stand much of a chance when it comes to getting funding or gigs in professional mainstream venues. Giving trans and queer people professional performance opportunities and bringing new audiences to trans/queer work IS inherently political. And this kind of activism WORKS - because we're not just a slogan or a demand - we're being present in a most vulnerable, real, generous, joyful way. That changes hearts and minds. That leads to real and lasting change.

Fresh Meat 2004: The Trans & Queer Cabaret Extravaganza runs June 17-19, 8pm at ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street (Shotwell), SF, 415-863-9834, www.queerculturalcenter.org.

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