

Fresh Meat Festival 2019

by [Peter Wong](#) on June 18, 2019

Something more feels at stake with attending the 18th iteration of the annual live performance festival put on by [Fresh Meat Productions](#) Artistic Director [Sean Dorsey](#). Going to the 2019 Fresh Meat Festival means supporting transgender and gender non-conforming artistic resistance to the return of culturally retrograde oppression. Enjoying the after-party music spun by DJ Frida Ibarra as well as the go-go dancers and the photo booth doesn't hurt either.

Consider: enabled by a mentally incompetent bigot who's badly posing as President of the United States, religious homophobes have been waging a multi-level sociopolitical campaign to return transgender and gender non-conforming individuals to an otherdom status lacking social or legal rights. From bathroom bills to legalized religious bigotry, such hateful efforts cumulatively aim to send a society-wide message that these sexual minorities should not presume to conceive of a life beyond the severely circumscribed one the bigots want to impose on them.



FRESH MEAT
FESTIVAL
OF TRANS & QUEER PERFORMANCE

JUNE 20-22
Z Space, SF



TRANS + QUEER
DANCE | MUSIC | THEATER

FRESHMEATPRODUCTIONS.ORG

The poster features a large image of a woman in a teal top on the left and a grid of 15 smaller images on the right showing various festival activities, including performers, dancers, and social gatherings.

The acts performing at Fresh Meat Festival 2019 resist such hatemongers by offering examples of what it means to be transgender or non-gender conforming and to exist in the world. From music and dance to cutting edge indescribability, the festival's three evenings at Z Space (450 Florida, SF), features works from established and new artists as well as works specially commissioned for the festival.

Here's who you can expect to see during the festival's run from June 20-22

International award-winning African American deaf dance choreographer and Deaf advocate *Antoine Hunter* boasts an impressive career resume. He's been crowned King of Carnival SF 2017 and has received the Isadora Duncan Dance Award in 2018. He's taught and lectured at such places as Harvard and Duke University. The Urban Jazz Dance Company was founded by Hunter and he still serves as its Artistic Director. Currently, he also produces the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival.

Over the last three decades, the *AXIS Dance Company* has lived in practice its credo that all bodies can dance. The members of this contemporary dance troupe mixes both disabled and non-disabled dancers. The works the troupe commissions and performs expand by example the possibilities of the physically integrated dance field.

Pittsburgh, PA's *#kNOWSHADE Vogue Ensemble* creates experimental dance and theater pieces commenting on the concerns of its urban LGBT youth/young adults of color performers. The piece they're doing is a collaboration with Empress *Dena Stanley* of the Pittsburgh Ballroom Community. Stanley serves as a Mother of Pittsburgh's House of Mizrahi and has founded the Pittsburgh non-profit transgender advocacy group Trans YOUning.

Fresh off performing at Japan's Hand In The Hand LGBTQ Choral Festival, the *GAPA Men's Choir* will grace the festival with their "sublime harmonies." The choir's performances allows the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) to do outreach to both the Asian Pacific and LGBT communities. This year marks the choir's 30th year of existence.

Performing together for the Fresh Meat Festival, *J. Mase III and Randy Ford* both use poetry and dance to artistically explore themes of BlackTrans Survival. Their works have touched on such subjects as domestic violence and colonization of various stripes.

Competitive dance partners *Jahaira Fajardo and Angelica Medina* have made a huge mark in the queer dance world. They're co-directors of In Lak'ech Dance Academy, and have founded the Bay Area's Queer Latin Dance Festival. In competition, the duo has taken first place honors twice at the World Latin Dance Cup. They're one of four acts premiering new work at the festival.

Javier Stell-Fresquez & Ivy Monteiro will deliver cutting-edge performances. Stell-Fresquez brings to her performance a lifetime of work in dancing and performance art as well as voguing experience in her persona of Xav ome'Lauren. Monteiro comes with a closetful of artistic hats including queer futurist, draglesque alter-gender-bender, and social expectations shapeshifter.

Trans-woman of color stand-up comedian *Lottie Riot* makes a return visit to the Fresh Meat Festival. Her edu-taining style of comedy can be expected to repeatedly go for the gut and be peppered with lots of profanity. She hails from Chicago, after all.

The fairly new musical group *New Voices Bay Area TIGQ Choir* hails from the San Francisco Community Music Center. This 30-voice strong group of transgender, intersex and non-binary singers use choral singing of music from different traditions as a medium of community uplift. Singing ability matters less than providing a place where TIGQs can grow free of silence or shame.

Modern dance troupe *Sean Dorsey Dance* is where the Fresh Meat Festival's guiding light dances and does choreography work. The troupe's newest work, "Boys In Trouble," unsparingly unpacks contemporary American masculinity.

Openly transgender folk-punk singer/songwriter *Shawna Virago* has performed nationally since the early 1990s. In addition, she's a writer whose published appearances have included "Gender Outlaws: Next Generation" and "Trans/Love: Radical Sex."

Multidisciplinary music and video artist *Star Amerasu's* work has been seen in such outlets as Paper Magazine and KQED Arts. As indie electronic music creator Ah-Mer-Ah-Su, her 2018 album "Star" was hailed by Billboard Music as one of the year's Top 20 LGBT music albums. Her singing voice has been likened to Nina Simone's tones. Amerasu will also premiere new work at the festival.

Former Detroit native *Tajah J* favors contemporary soul, EDM, R&B, and pop songs. The wellsprings of her music draw from her passion for trans empowerment, her love life, and from her incarceration experiences. The festival has commissioned her to present new work.

Queer trans retro band *The Singing Bois* make a return visit to the festival. Infectious hooks and lush harmonies make their "songs of love and liberation" a pleasure to listen to. Their music draws from R&B, hip hop, and Latin music to create their sound. The Bois are the last of the acts given a festival brief to perform new work.

The Fresh Meat Festival has often been called a highlight of Pride Month.

...Don't wait too long to work up the courage to step outside your comfort zone and score tickets to this popular event.

(All shows start at 8 PM. For further information about the festival and to order advance tickets, go to <http://freshmeatproductions.org/fresh-meat-festival-2019/> .)