

Pride Youth Theater Alliance 2016 Conference



Conference Program

August 18 - 21

Playhouse on the Square

Memphis, Tennessee



Scan the QR Code

to Download the Guidebook Online

www.PrideYouthTheaterAlliance.org

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

3-3:30pm **Conference Registration** *Location:* *Sheraton Memphis Downtown*

3:30-6pm **PYTA Conference Orientation**
Facilitators: *Location:* *Sheraton Memphis Downtown.*
PYTA Staff and Leadership *Nashville Room*

This introductory session will be a community-driven, interactive, get-to-know-you workshop for all conference participants. Important information about PYTA and the conference will be discussed at this opening session where all participants are strongly encouraged to attend.

6-7pm **Opening Reception** *Location:* *Sheraton Memphis Downtown*
Sponsored by Sue and Frank Guarino *19th Floor Hospitality Suite*

7pm **End of conference day**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

- 9:15am Meet in Hotel Lobby to Board Shuttle Bus**
- 9:30-9:45am Travel from Hotel to National Civil Rights Museum**
- 10-11am National Civil Rights Museum Orientation** *Location: National Civil Rights Museum*
- 10-1:30pm National Civil Rights Museum Tour** *Location: National Civil Rights Museum*
- 1:30-2:30pm Lunch**
- Conference Participants are encouraged to join each other for lunch at restaurants and shops in the neighborhood surrounding the National Civil Rights Museum. Use the Guidebook App or the welcome packet to plan your lunch hour.
- 2:30pm Meet at National Civil Rights Museum to Board Shuttle Bus**
- 2:30-2:45pm Travel from National Civil Rights Museum to Playhouse on the Square**
- 3:00-4:30pm Racial Justice Panel** *Location: Playhouse on the Square*
Panelists and Moderators include
PYTA Members and Leaders from the
Memphis Community
- 4:30-6pm Racial Justice Break-Out Groups** *Location: Playhouse on the Square*
- 6:00-7:30pm Memphis BBQ Dinner** *Location: Playhouse on the Square*
- 7:30pm Meet in Playhouse on the Square Lobby to Board Shuttle Bus**
- 7:30-7:45pm Travel from Playhouse on the Square to Sheraton Memphis Downtown**
- 7:45pm End of Conference Day**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

9:15am Meet in Hotel Lobby to Board Shuttle Bus

9:30-9:45am Travel from Hotel to Playhouse on the Square

10-10:30am Opening Session

Facilitators:
PYTA Staff and Leadership

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*

10:30-12pm SESSION BLOCK A

Devised Theatre + Queer Performance #DTQP (Part 1 of Double Session)

Facilitator:
Sidney Monroe - The Theater Offensive

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
Event Room

#DTQP is an exploration of devised theatre techniques that have been developed by/with/for LGBTQ performers. This workshop will ask participants to devise a brief performance with these techniques; investigate how these techniques might apply to their creative spaces; and, expand upon the intersections between devised theatre + queer performance.

A Trauma-Informed Lens for Intergenerational Theatre-Making

Facilitator:
MR Stine, Philadelphia Young Playwrights
MJ Kaufman, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
5th Floor Penthouse

Our workshop space and curriculum empowers queer and trans youth to lead and to thrive, making art through community and community through art. Through training and personal experience, we have developed a queer trauma-informed pedagogy, and applied principles of this model to an ongoing workshop for grades 7-12. This workshop model uses writing, improv and movement activities as well as techniques for devised theatre and playwriting. Our model also emphasizes historical context and bringing in guest artists to share their perspectives and skills. From this workshop you will walk away with activities, tools, and ideas to apply this pedagogy & programming to other theater and youth-work settings. We will present excerpts of original youth-written plays, a basic framework in the theory and science of trauma, and facilitate a discussion on our role as leaders and facilitators in an uncertain world.

Youth Participant Forum

Facilitator:
Avery Blanton, Playhouse on the Square

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
4th Floor Studio

12-12:15pm 15 Minute Break

12:15-1:45pm SESSION BLOCK B

Devised Theatre + Queer Performance #DTQP (Part 2 of Double Session)

Facilitator:
Sidney Monroe - The Theater Offensive

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
Event Room

#DTQP is an exploration of devised theatre techniques that have been developed by/with/for LGBTQ performers. This workshop will ask participants to devise a brief performance with these techniques; investigate how these techniques might apply to their creative spaces; and, expand upon the intersections between devised theatre + queer performance.

Theater as a Tool for HIV Prevention in LGBTQ Youth

Facilitator:
Nick Bazo, *The Theater Offensive*
ViQuan Smith, *The Theater Offensive*

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
5th Floor Penthouse

This informational discussion will share about a collaboration between The Theater Offensive and Boston Children's Hospital to create a HIV Prevention workshop targeted towards LGBTQ Youth using interactive theater techniques. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth are at a disproportionately higher risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections than their heterosexual and cisgender peers (particularly youth of color). We will explore how peer-led, arts-based prevention strategies may be effective for sensitive health topics, such as HIV risk, because they engage participants in the emotional and cultural aspects of health promotion in a way that may be more intimately relatable than scientific fact-based discussions alone. Participants in this session will learn about the unique partnership between an arts organization and a premier children's medical institute, the HIV workshop creation and implementation with and for youth, and research findings. Participants should be open to discussion about sex and sexual acts as it relates to sexual health and behavior, especially in terms and vocabulary used by youth.

Youth Participant Forum

Facilitator:
Avery Blanton, *Playhouse on the Square*

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
4th Floor Studio

1:45-2:45pm Lunch

Conference Participants are encouraged to join each other for lunch at restaurants and shops in the neighborhood surrounding Playhouse on the Square. Use the Guidebook App or the welcome packet to plan your lunch hour.

2:45-4:15pm SESSION BLOCK C Fundamentals of Building Strong Programs: Logic Models & Evaluation

Facilitators:
Evelyn Francis, *The Theater Offensive*

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
Café

This interactive session is for those who are new to program evaluation. Participants will broaden their understanding of the language of evaluation, evaluation processes, development of measurable learning outcomes, and application of data collection and data reporting methods. Participants will be provided with resources to develop your own program logic model, evaluation planning model and tools for evaluation. Come to this workshop to see how The Theater Offensive has made data-driven, evidence-based decisions for continuous improvement of True Colors: OUT Youth Theater since 1994.

ART Swap

Facilitator:
Abe Rybeck, *The Theater Offensive*

Location: *Playhouse on the Square*
5th Floor Penthouse

What art are PYTA member groups making? What are some of our biggest artistic revelations of the past year? What are the key artistic challenges of the upcoming year? How do personal, political, developmental, and organizational values play out in the art-making and the art? How can we talk about these creative challenges together in order to advance our work as a field?

Queer Youth Theater Collaboration: Connecting Across The Alliance

Facilitator:
Brian Guehring, Pride Players
Amanda Kibbler, The Coterie

Location: Playhouse on the Square
3rd Floor Studio

How do we connect the youth artists in our groups to each other? For the past three seasons, the Pride Players in Omaha and Project Pride in Kansas City have explored different models on connecting our two queer youth theaters. The first year, Pride Players acted as mentors to Project Pride to inspire, guide and support the Kansas City group in its first year of existence. The second year a queer youth theater group from Lawrence Kansas joined our gatherings and the focus changed to more of an idea exchange and social connections. Last year, Project Pride and Pride Players explored how we can collaborate artistically when we are in different cities. Brian and Amanda will share their successes, failures, challenges and surprises from the last three years. For 2016-17, we would like to invite other PYTA theaters to join us in the collaboration as we find ways for our youth to connect meaningfully during the year. This session will include hands on activities that we have used in the past and small group brainstorming to finalize the invite, timeline, and structure for PYTA groups to collaborate in the upcoming year.

4:15-4:30pm 15 Minute Break

4:30-6pm Q&A Performance

Facilitators:
Q&A Troupe Members

Location: Playhouse on the Square
Event Room

Pass the Peas is Q&A's second original production, and first primarily youth-devised script! Pass the Peas is an exploration of queerness and family. Join us as we explore biological families, chosen families, and our roles in each, through familiar milestones from coming out to prom, from hilarity to heartbreak. Q&A uses theatre to explore and express what life is like as an LGBTQ+ or straight allied youth in Memphis and the surrounding area. Participation is open to students ages 14-21. No prior theatrical experience is necessary. We are a supportive community working toward a common goal. Q&A is a member organization of the PYTA. Q&A is an Education Program of Playhouse on the Square.

6pm Meet in Playhouse on the Square Lobby to Board Shuttle Bus

6:15-6:30pm Travel from Playhouse on the Square to Sheraton Memphis Downtown

6:30pm End of Conference Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

10am-12pm Thinking Out Loud Performance

Facilitators:
LOUD, New Orleans, LA

Location: *Sheraton Memphis Downtown
Nashville Room*

We would like to share excerpts from our most recent performance, "Thinking Out Loud." The show is a multimedia exploration of mental health issues facing queer youth told through dance, poetry, video, visual art and audio collage. This performance would provide conference attendees with an example of one way that ensembles of queer youth can devise original performances together.

12-1pm Conference Closing

Facilitators:
PYTA Staff and Leadership

Location: *Sheraton Memphis Downtown
Nashville Room*

1pm Conference Closes

Session Facilitators

Nick Bazo, The Theater Offensive

Nick joined The Theater Offensive full-time in January 2011 after working with TTO for several years as a Director, Actor, and Teaching Artist. He grew up in a Cuban-American family in Florida where he earned his BA in Theatre from Rollins College and an MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences from the University of Central Florida. At TTO, Nick helps to brainstorm, develop, and implement all OUT in Your Neighborhood programs. In particular he focuses on True Colors where he is the lead artist collaborating with LGBTQA youth to create original works of theatre. Nick is a Board Member of the American Alliance of Theatre and Education (AATE) and a member of the PYTA Executive Committee.

Avery Blanton, Playhouse on the Square

Avery Blanton is a Memphis native and graduated from St. Mary's Episcopal school this past May. They are attending Columbia College Chicago in the fall and will be majoring in musical theater with a minor in voice acting. Avery has been known for work on and off the stage, and even has a special interest in special effect makeup and choreography. Avery hopes to go on to do as much in theater (as well as queer theater) as they can, and looks forward to gleaning as much information from this and future events as possible.

Carly Crawford, Playhouse on the Square

Carly Crawford is ecstatic to welcome you all to Memphis, TN! She is the Assistant Director of Theatre Education at Playhouse on the Square, where she founded Q&A, their QYT. Q&A produced its second original play, Pass the Peas, in April 2016. Carly earned a BA in Drama and Literature from UNC-Asheville and an MA in Arts Administration from SCAD. She loves reading, crocheting, cross stitching, and sunshine.

Evelyn Francis, The Theater Offensive

Evelyn Francis (Director of Programs) an innovative theatre artist, educator and administrator with experience working directly with over 10 Boston area arts organizations. Evelyn's M.A. in Theatre Education from Emerson College culminated in a thesis, which examined the effects of devised work in the lives of LGBT youth. Evelyn joined The Theater Offensive as the lead teaching artist for True Colors: Out Youth Theater in 2001. As a result of her work with the program, True Colors was designated the 2008 Social Innovator for Empowering Youth through the Arts by the Social Innovation Forum. In 2006, she became the Director of Education and in 2010 she was promoted to her current position as Director of Programs. Evelyn now oversees and implements all elements of The Theater Offensive's OUT in Your Neighborhood strategy. She produces the full season of neighborhood productions including World Premieres and New England Premieres, which are accompanied by community activities. Evelyn stays connected to True Colors as the Director of the Summer Troupe and Adult Advisor of the Leadership and Inclusion Council. She oversees the development of the True Colors Creative Action Crew and True Colors Studio. In 2010, she became the co-chair of the executive committee of the Pride Youth Theater Alliance. She has also facilitated workshops at the following conferences: PYTA, AATE, Creating Change, GLSEN, National Guild for Community Arts Education, the Boston Trans* Youth Summit, the Connecticut True Colors Conference. At home in Boston, Evelyn loves meeting with youth artists or national artists and making jewelry in her albeit limited spare time.

Brian Guhring, Omaha Theater Company

Brian Guehring is the co-founder and co-director of the award winning Pride Players. Now in its 18th season, Pride Players has been honored by National Education Association and American Alliance for Theater and Education among other. He is the award-winning Playwright in Residence of the Omaha Theater Company for Young People and the Education Director of the Omaha Theater Company. Brian previously served on the national boards of Theater For Young Audiences/USA and Pride Youth Theater Alliance. His playwriting website is www.brianguehring.com.

MJ Kaufman, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

MJ Kaufman is a playwright and theater educator working in New York and Philadelphia. MJ has taught playwriting at Wesleyan University, SUNY Purchase College, the University of the Arts and as a teaching fellow at Yale College. They are currently a Teaching Artist in Residence at Philadelphia Young Playwrights where they are a leader of the Queer Theater Workshop. They studied Trauma Awareness at the Institute for Family Professionals in Philadelphia. Their plays have been seen at the Huntington Theatre, New York Theater Workshop, the New Museum, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Page73, Colt Coeur, Yale School of Drama, Lark Play Development Center, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Aurora Theater, Crowded Fire, Fresh Ink Theatre, New Harmony Project and performed in Russian in Moscow. MJ is currently a member of the Public Theater's Emerging Writers' Group, WP Theater Lab and a core playwright at InterAct Theatre.

Amanda Kibler, The Coterie

Amanda Kibler is the Education Director at The Coterie Theatre in Kansas City, MO and founder of Project Pride. She earned her M.F.A. in theatre for young audiences from the University of Central Florida. Before joining The Coterie, she worked as an actor, director, and teaching artist at the Omaha Theater Company in Omaha, NE, Orlando Repertory Theatre in Orlando, FL, and Visible Fictions in Glasgow, Scotland. Seeing the impact that creating theatre has on the lives of youth, she began Project Pride within a year of beginning at The Coterie to provide youth in KC a platform for their voices. She loves creating theatre for and with youth of all ages.

Thomas Medina-Castrejón, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

Tom born in Paris, France in 1998 to French and Mexican parents. When Tom was 1, the family moved to the US, where they discovered homeschooling. Tom now identifies as an unschooler. Tom has had a great love for animals since very young, and has raised two working dogs. He is fascinated by animal-communication. Tom has participated in several acting opportunities over the years, from being a teddy bear in a homeschool co-op's play, to performing in Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor". Tom also enjoys writing and has participated in 3 NaNoWriMos. Tom recently began exploring what being Latino meant to him as well as being a white-passing mestizo. This, along with him being gay and trans, prompted him to learn as much as he could about social justice issues and oppressive structures. He aims to incorporate that knowledge in his writing.

Sidney Monroe, The Theater Offensive

Sidney joins the stellar TTO staff as the Youth Programs Manager. His introduction to TTO came through a chance encounter at the 2012 Creating Change conference. As an Arkansas native, Sidney taught Theatre & Speech Communications at Episcopal Collegiate School and worked for the Arkansas Repertory Theatre. His current work merges Applied Drama & Theatre techniques with LGBTQA youth ensembles. One of his favorite workshops to teach is Hip-Hop Theatre because of the fusion between multidisciplinary arts and culture. In his spare time, he enjoys the occasional jazz dance class or seasonal ale. Sidney holds a BA in International Relations from Hendrix College and a MFA in Drama and Theatre for Youth & Communities from The University of Texas at Austin. Sidney's spirit animal is the elephant.

MR Stine, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

Maryruth (Mr) Stine is a performer and educator raised in Elmwood, [W.VA](#) and Baltimore MD. Their principal focus is community-driven projects combining elements of commedia dell'arte and puppetry to strike a balance of silly stories and social critique. Love to all collaborators, special shout-outs to trailblazers Marapacchi (Chennai), LesBit (Bangalore), Lost and Found (Vancouver), Teen Sleuth and the Freed Cyborg Choir (Montreal), Lady Gaza (MTL/Lethbridge)! Mr is a resident teaching artist and co-founder of the Queer Theatre Workshop at Philadelphia Young Playwrights, creating original theatre through a youth empowerment lens since 1987.

Abe Rybeck, The Theater Offensive

Abe Rybeck is the founder and Executive Artistic Director of The Theater Offensive: OUT in Your Neighborhood. He also serves as Chair for the Board of the National Performance Network. His main work now is uniting artists, neighbors, community groups and local businesses to collaborate on OUT performance work in the Boston neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain and the South End. Programs Abe founded include True Colors: Out Youth Theater, which helps LGBT and allied youth create autobiographical shows for schools and community groups; A Street Theater Named Desire, an AIDS-activist guerrilla theater troupe performing in gay cruising areas; Come As You Are, a national performance series to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising; the band Adult Children of Heterosexuals, for which he was lead singer; and the OUT on the Edge Queer Theater Festival. Collaborating across cultures, genders and generations to create performance work is Abe's favorite part of his job. He won the 2007 Jonathan Larson Award for musical theater for his collaboration on the book of True Colors alumna Melissa Li's *Surviving the Nian*. Abe's other plays include *Bombshell*, about actress Judy Holliday's relationship with her female NYPD lover in the mid-century Greenwich Village scene; *Dirt*, a domestic comedy about insider gay politics and housecleaning; and *Immaculate Infection*, co-written with Brenda Cotto Escalera and Noelia Ortiz Cortés. His musicals include the hit *Pure PolyESTHER*: a biblical burlesque, which re-tells the biblical Book of Esther as a coming out story, *Blame It on the Big Banana*, about a troupe of drag queens during the Sandinista revolution; and the musical revue *An Evening of Rachel Tension Among Friends*. His solo performances include *This is Not a Test*, a burlesque show about AIDS; and *Breaking the Dress Codes*. He was declared one of the "Heeb 100" progressive Jewish world cultural leaders. He is proud to have received several awards from his peers in the community, especially the title of "Honorary Drum Majorette" from South End Dynamite, a Latina girls twirling squad.

Shuttle Bus Schedule

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Pick Up	9:15am	<i>Location: Sheraton Downtown Memphis</i>
Drop Off	9:45am	<i>Location: National Civil Rights Museum</i>
Pick Up	2:30pm	<i>Location: National Civil Rights Museum</i>
Drop Off	2:45pm	<i>Location: Playhouse on the Square</i>
Pick Up	7:30pm	<i>Location: Playhouse on the Square</i>
Drop Off	7:45pm	<i>Location: Sheraton Downtown Memphis</i>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Pick Up	9:15am	<i>Location: Sheraton Downtown Memphis</i>
Drop Off	9:45m	<i>Location: Playhouse on the Square</i>
Pick Up	6:15pm	<i>Location: Playhouse on the Square</i>
Drop Off	6:45pm	<i>Location: Sheraton Downtown Memphis</i>

Special Thanks

Karin Barile, Michael Detroit, Noby Edwards, Focus Magazine, Sue and Frank Guarino, Katharine Hughen, Jody Koster, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Jackie Nichols, Courtney Oliver, Brooke Papritz