

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RISK/REWARD**

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**Risk/Reward presents**  
**RENÉE'S QUEER CABARET:**  
**QUEER NATIONAL CONVENTION**

*"...all at once humble, subversive and delightful."  
-Krista Garver, BroadwayWorld Portland*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 15, 2020.** With the presidential election approaching, many of us are wishing there was another way to make our voices heard by folks who would actually listen, or who cared about our well-being in a way beyond the financial and electoral. Our candidates, Muzquiz and Potter, are here to do just that!

This, our 6th installment of Renée's Queer Cabaret, is a Special Edition of our resistance variety show that defies the traditional cabaret with rock music and a focus on the intimate humor, joys and vulnerabilities of living as LGBTQIA+. We are creating a mock "Queer National Convention" film to premiere at a YouTube watch party a week before the election (Tuesday, October 27th). While we all agree that voting for Joe Biden is necessary to remove Trump from office, we dream of a time where we can see ourselves represented in the next administration. So why not host our own national convention?

In this short pseudo-mockumentary, Renée Muzquiz is running for President, and co-host, Jason Potter, is running as Vice President. There will be several queer artists with 1-minute comedic/artistic endorsements of our candidacy throughout the show (like in a state roll call), as

well as a handful of openly queer-identified community leaders, giving short speeches on important LGBTQIA+ issues.

“We decided to host the QNC, because our faces and voices are largely missing from this November’s ballot. It’s deflating when we have no choice but to vote for Joe Biden, yet another moderate, hetero-patriarchal Democratic presidential candidate. Yes, we absolutely need to vote for Biden if we want to save the last shreds of our democracy and our planet, but his vision for justice is unclear at best,” says Renée Muzquiz, host and producer of Renée’s Queer Cabaret. “That’s why we invited LGBTQI+ community leaders and artists to create a fun and meaningful space to take an actual stand on queer issues and keep the hope alive in the week leading up to the election.”

The premiere on October 27 begins at 7pm PST and will last about an hour. Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can, as always, and you are welcome to purchase one ticket for the household. During the week following the premiere (October 28-November 3), tickets will be Pay-What-You-Can and ALL PROCEEDS will go towards supporting Portland’s own [Black Resilience Fund](#).

*“For me, RENEE’S QUEER CABARET represents everything Portland theatre and queer theatre should be -- fierce, authentic, awesome, and worth MUCH more than the ticket price (which in this case was pay-what-you-will),”* says Krista Garver of [BroadwayWorld Portland](#). Tickets to Renée’s Queer Cabaret are available now. Read below for the artists and community leaders involved in the Queer National Convention.

**What:** Renée’s Queer Cabaret: QUEER NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Who:** Presented by Risk/Reward

**When:** LIVE WATCH PARTY | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 at 7PM PST

**Where:** Online at YouTube.com

**Tickets:** [www.risk-reward.org](http://www.risk-reward.org) - Pay-What-You-Can tickets available now. Video link comes with confirmation of ticket purchase.

**Media comps:** Complimentary tickets for media available from [katie@risk-reward.org](mailto:katie@risk-reward.org)

**Photos:** [High-resolution digital photos available here](#), or email [katie@risk-reward.org](mailto:katie@risk-reward.org)

**More Info:** [info@risk-reward.org](mailto:info@risk-reward.org) | [risk-reward.org](http://risk-reward.org)

## ARTIST/COMMUNITY LEADER BIOS

**Cameron Whitten** (all pronouns) is a community activist, small business owner, and nonprofit executive. At the age of eighteen, Cameron worked themselves out of youth homelessness in Portland and has spent the past decade giving back to the very same community that was here when they needed it most. They have a Bachelor’s of Economics from PSU and are an MBA student at Willamette University. Cameron recently served as the Executive Director of Q

Center, and are the founder and CEO of racial justice nonprofit Brown Hope. They serve on the board of REACH CDC and Pioneer Courthouse Square.

**Kristan Knapp** has been a women's community activist and cultural worker since coming out as a lesbian in 1970. A musician and music producer, she toured nationally with The Izquierda Ensemble and Musica Femina Flute Guitar Duo. Among many nonprofit leadership roles, she held the title of interim director and later Program director for Lesbian Community Project and was Summer Concerts Producer for Portland Parks and Rec for 30 years. She is currently the Alumni Relations Manager for Portland Youth Philharmonic and volunteers as Treasurer for Portland Womxn's March. Additionally, she consults with GLAPN, the Queer Archive Project of the Pacific Northwest.

**Tyler TerMeer**, CEO of Cascade AIDS Project.

**Emily June Newton** is an international multi-skilled comedic performer specializing in the areas of clown, physical comedy and character creation. Newton creates and performs eccentric characters that live in direct contact and interaction with an audience. Having had many years experience of MC-ing, stand up comedy, cabaret and clown, her work reflects an ongoing interest in exploring the boundaries between performer and audience via comedy.

**Mysteria - Jeff Desautels** has performed physical comedy and drag in Portland with CoHo Theatre, Box of Clowns, Tears of Joy Theater, Sir Cupcake's Queer Circus, and Fou Fou Ha. He has also appeared on The Gong Show and America's Got Talent. He works as a Teaching Artist with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Program in collaboration with Oregon Children's Theatre.

**Jennifer Lanier** received her classical acting training at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and improvisation training from Paul Sills at his Wisconsin farm. Lanier is currently Co-Artistic Director of Original Practice Shakespeare Festival (OPS Fest). She has worked in regional theatre (American Stage, Profile Theatre, Ruth Foreman Theatre, ) touring theatre (Artist's Repertory Theatre, Lesbian Thesians, United Stage), television (Leverage, Hawaii, Grimm), and film (Thin Skin, Scrapper, Last Champion). Lanier lives with her wife, two sons, a costume-loving dachshund, a cantankerous cat, a tornado of a kitten, and an anorexic tortoise. **\*SHE IS JOINED in her video by the The Core Company of Original Practice Shakespeare Festival**

**Amy Katrina Bryan** is an actress, director and choreographer and has been a professional drummer since she was 17. She's thrilled to be a part of Renée's Cabaret!

**Frank SHE-natra** - Texas born-and-raised Donna Kay Yarborough has done a bit of everything-- actor, improviser, comedian, singer, songwriter, storyteller, voice actor, bullshit artist. She is thrilled to bring Frank SHENatra to Renee's Queer Cabaret. Find more about her DonnaKaySpeaks.com. Her Instagram @DonnaKaySpeaks is full of cute animal pictures.

Frank SHEnatra was born Dec. 15, 1915 in Hoboken, NJ. He died in 1998. Known for being a talented performer and a hell of an asshole, he's been working to redeem himself in his new form since 2016. He's trying to figure out the Twitter @FrankSHEnatra

**Ara (they/them) and Teague (they/he)** are drag artists with a mission to create trans-affirming spaces through performance. As a Jewish-Armenian performer, Ara strives to create content that represents their identities and celebrates queer/trans joy. Teague loves making hot chubby drag and making people smile with goofy antics!

**ANTHONY HUDSON** (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, performer, and filmmaker perhaps best known as Portland, Oregon's premier drag clown CARLA ROSSI, an immortal trickster whose attempts at realness almost always result in fantastic failure.

**Tera (SUPERNOVA) Zarra** is the hardest working strongwoman in America. She strives to push past physical limitations, smash expectations, and bring world-class entertainment to audiences. Supernova has performed for Nike, Intel, Game of Thrones, Red Dead Redemption II, and thousands of national and international venues.

**Renée Muzquiz** is a genre-bending singer-songwriter and actor in Portland. Curve Magazine has urged their listeners to "Keep an ear out for this one," and she has shared the stage with prominent Portland musicians Jen Conlee (Decemberists), Ritchie Young (Loch Lomond), Jeremy Wilson (Dharma Bums) and Zia McCabe (Dandy Warhols). She currently sings and plays lead guitar in Major Tomboys, her all femme-identified David Bowie cover band.

**Jason Potter** - After graduating with a film degree, Jason Potter got a job as a television coordinator on a world-traveling cruise ship. After sailing the oceans for a few years, Jason came back to dry land armed with plenty of stories to tell. This began his love for storytelling. He founded the Affable Gentlemen Storytelling Show which ran successfully for many years at the Clinton Street Theater. He's been a ghost tour guide and a storytelling curator for Pickathon. Jason also worked on documentaries for MTV and VH-1 as well as 4 Academy Award nominated stop-motion films and directed a few short films of his own.

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### **Risk/Reward - Producer**

Risk/Reward champions artists and audiences who push the boundaries of the performing arts. Risk/Reward's primary activities are the 1) Festival of New Performance - an annual festival that supports the creative process as a launch point for short new works. 2) Presenting Series - bringing new full-length contemporary performances to Portland stages. 3) Risk/REWIND - making live events accessible online to audiences everywhere. 4) Dialogue Series - community events to expand the knowledge of and appreciation for adventurous performance work. Get more info and stay on top of happenings by visiting <http://www.risk-reward.org>