

# MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

## Celebrate an extended Pride Month with *Sissy Fit: The Future is Queer Cabaret* and Arts Commons Presents

**July 12, 2021 CALGARY** – After a year-long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Sissy Fit: The Future is Queer Cabaret* – the final production in Arts Commons Presents’ 2020-21 season of TD Amplify Cabarets – is ready to bring a celebration of queer Calgary artists from across the rainbow into your home with a virtual premiere watch party on **Sunday, July 25 at 7 p.m.** After a roof-raising premiere in 2019, *Sissy Fit Cabaret* and curator Brett Dahl are back to reimagine his powerful showcase of the LGBTQ+ performing artist community. Whether you’re already a *Sissy Fit* fan or have yet to have the pleasure, Dahl promises that Calgary audiences won’t be disappointed after the wait! Because International Pride Month may be over for 2021, but the future is queer.

Filmed at Arts Commons under continuing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, *Sissy Fit: The Future is Queer Cabaret* is **free to watch** online, featuring curator Brett Dahl, as well as fellow cabaret performers **Robert Adam, Sarah Ord, Jamie Tognazzini, MelVee X, and Marshall Vielle**. Simply pre-register at [artscommons.ca](http://artscommons.ca) and log in on July 25 for an evening of dance, drag, and dramatic performance!

Brett Dahl is a director, educator, performer, writer and winner of the 2020 RBC Emerging Artist Cultural Leader in Calgary Award. His plays made international waves with their boldly unapologetic human stories. He envisioned the 2019 *Sissy Fit Cabaret* to fill a niche in Calgary that wasn’t being served on our local stages.



Felicia Bonée, Sissy, and Raven Virginia perform in *Sissy Fit* 2019, Photo by Lucia Juliao

*“As both a playwright and a performer, I’ve noticed that there is a lack of showcases for Queer artists in our province beyond what you see in drag shows. So many other theatre centres like Toronto, Victoria, even Lethbridge have their*

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*own cabarets and Queer festivals – and Calgary doesn't have an outlet for Queer theatre," says Brett. "I really wanted a space where other voices could be heard, and that was the inception of Sissy Fit Cabaret"*

The 2020-21 season of TD Amplify Cabarets, produced by Arts Commons Presents, is the third year of the innovative series elevating the voices of Calgary artists from equity-seeking communities, bringing new perspectives and different forms of live art to the Arts Commons Presents offerings. *Sissy Fit: The Future is Queer Cabaret* is a joyful party representing of all that the cabarets have come to stand for.

*"This past season, the TD Amplify Cabaret Series has offered audiences the chance to connect with some of Calgary's most exciting local artists and communities at a time when so many are experiencing isolation. We're excited to welcome folks back in person - of course - but the online watch parties proved to be a great way to build a sense of community online," says Josh Dalledonne, Associate Director of Social Impact. "The Sissy Fit Cabaret is particularly close to my heart. Not only is it a celebration of the LGBTQ2S community of which I'm a proud member, it was also conceived at a time when the curator and I were highly aware that opportunities for specifically Queer work was few and far between."*

Arts Commons Presents will announce details for the 2021-22 season of TD Amplify Cabarets in the coming months. Until then, enjoy this *Sissy Fit: The Future is Queer Cabaret*!

This event is best suited for people 16-years and older due to mature content. Tickets are FREE! To book, please call 403-294-9494 or visit [artscommons.ca](https://artscommons.ca). Curator bio below.

**What:** TD Amplify Cabaret: *Sissy Fit: The Future is Queer Cabaret*  
**When:** Sunday, July 25, 2021  
**Where:** Online presentation

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:  
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**Arts Commons Presents** invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the third largest performing arts centre in Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and TD Jazz, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.

**Brett Dahl** is a Queer director, writer, performer, and educator born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. Brett's first play, *Like Orpheus*, premiered at Theatre Outré and continued to tour to OUTstages in Victoria and The International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival in Ireland. Brett's play, *Pretty Ugly*, was produced by The Alberta Queer Calendar Project/Cardiac Theatre in 2020. Brett is a graduate of the BFA Acting Program from the University of Alberta and is an Associate Artist with Theatre Outré in Lethbridge and was part of the 2019 Stratford Festival Emerging Directors Lab. He was the recipient of Theatre Calgary's Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award in 2015 and the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award in 2018 and the RBC Emerging Artist Cultural Leader in Calgary Award in 2020. Brett is also known as Sissy, a Glamdrogynous drag performer and host of the all-inclusive Queer Cabaret, *Sissy Fit*, which premiered in 2019 at Arts Commons.

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