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BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE presents  
**ARTHOUSE CABARET**  
PRE-SHOW PIANO BAR & STYLISH DOUBLE-FEATURE  
September 21 – October 20, 2007

**Megawatt Musical Talents - Pre-Show Piano Bar – Burlesque - Drag**

**Buddies In Bad Times Theatre** kicks off its playful 2007-08 lineup, dubbed TONIC, with **ARTHOUSE CABARET** - an evening of sensuality, humour and unfettered artistic expression.

With TONIC, Buddies is offering up a season playbill that is less focused on traditional script-based theatre, opting instead for a wild and varied array of performance styles. To launch TONIC, Buddies is putting its most colourful and flamboyant talents front and centre with **ARTHOUSE CABARET**, a large-scale vaudeville which embraces the social consciousness roots of queer theatre and blends it with the audacious in-your-face performance style that has been a mainstay of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre throughout its history.

The core artists involved in **ARTHOUSE CABARET** were asked to dream up cabaret performances inspired by queer pop culture from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through to the present. The result is a colourful evening of bawdy and rhapsodic performances informed by queer icons such as **Noel Coward, Cole Porter, Lesley Gore, Judy Garland, The Guerilla Girls, Rough Trade, Tom of Finland, Lady Di, Rufus Wainwright**, and events from World War II to Stonewall to gay marriage!

Host and ring-master each evening is the irrepressible bon vivant **Keith Cole**, a performance artist known for his enduring love of exhibition and excess. Featured talent includes **Stephen Lawson** and **Aaron Pollard** from Montreal's *2boystv*; naughty burlesque queens **Sasha Van Bon Bon** and **Kitty Neptune** from *The Scandelles*; **Shane Mackinnon** from *The Beefcake Boys*, and musical theatre artists **Paula Wolfson** and **Jonathan Monro** with **Lynn Phillips** from *Random Order*.

Devised and directed by **Jim Lefrancois** (Producer) and **David Oiyé** (Artistic Director), **ARTHOUSE CABARET** incorporates elements of variety, burlesque, drag and performance art with vividly theatrical multi-media applications. In collaboration with set/lighting designer **Daniele Guevara**, Dora award-winning costume designers **Shadowland** and lighting designer **Adrien Whan**, Buddies' entire facility is transformed into an elaborate performance playground.

The evening begins with smart cocktails and music, inspired by early 20<sup>th</sup> century piano bar, in **THE ARTHOUSE PIANO BAR** (Tallulah's Cabaret), opening nightly at 6:30pm. Buddies' mainstage will feature three performance stages, drawing aesthetic inspiration from multiple sources ranging from Toronto's VideoCabaret to the disco palaces of 1970s.

**ARTHOUSE CABARET** launches the 2007-2008 Season at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, widely considered to be "Toronto's most daring and imaginative theatre company." (Toronto Star).

**WARNING: NUDITY, SEXUALITY & SOCIO-POLITICAL CONTENT  
RECOMMENDED FOR ADULT AUDIENCES ONLY!**

DRESS CODE: HAVE SOME FUN\*

\*Because, remember, you are as playful and attractive as YOU choose to be!

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**2boys.tv (Stephen Lawson, Aaron Pollard)** create and tour multimedia performance pieces that often incorporate video projections, soundscapes, found and original music scores, transgendered apparitions, outrageous costume, props, vocal/textual works, and the art of lip-sync. This duo has also produced several video art pieces. Their videos and trans-disciplinary performance works have been presented in clubs, galleries, theatres and cabarets across North America, Europe and South America. [www.2boys.tv](http://www.2boys.tv)

**Keith Cole** is a performer, producer and filmmaker. His main interests lie in the interdisciplinary art forms of theatre/dance/film and performance and the intersections that they create. His films (currently 15 produced works) have appeared in festivals all over the world. In February 2007 Keith choreographed and performed in *A Dance For Those Of Us Whose Hearts Have Turned To Ice*, (a video work directed by Luis Jacob), inspired by Canadian dance legend Françoise Sullivan's infamous dancework *Danse dans la neige* and the sculptural art of Barbara Hepworth, for the *Documenta 12* festival in Kassel, Germany. In 2006 Keith was crowned "Canada's Worst Handyman" after the inaugural eight-episode reality series ran on Discovery Channel. In that same year, Keith also presented the one person show *MINE* as part of the 'Creator/Performer' series at Buddies. Most recently, Keith appeared in Maggie MacDonald's rock opera *The Rat King* in New York City.

**Shane MacKinnon** is an actor, performance artist and DJ. He is a founding member of The Beefcake Boys burlesque/performance troupe, is a regular fixture as a Disk Jockey (Foxhole, Hump Day Bump) at The Gladstone Hotel, and has appeared in such films as *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

**Jonathan Monro** was born and raised in St John's, Newfoundland, where he began his career as a concert pianist, and, at the age of 16, was a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall. As an actor he has appeared in over fifty productions for film, radio and stage, including two shows on Broadway. [www.jonathanmonro.com](http://www.jonathanmonro.com)

**Lynn Phillips** fronts Random Order, a Toronto-based band with a balls-to-the-wall sound reminiscent of Au Pairs, The Slits and The Clash. They have received airplay on radio stations as far away as Ireland, Germany and Amsterdam and have reached #2 on CLKN's charts twice and #1 on CKMS (Waterloo). They have been described as "Canada's premiere reggae-ska-punk-rawk-world underground supergroup who pack floors quickly with politics you can dance to". [www.randomorder.ca](http://www.randomorder.ca)

**The Scandelles (Sasha Van Bon Bon, Kitty Neptune)** have gone from traditional burlesque, to neo-burlesque, to conceptual cabaret in just over five years. With backgrounds in musical theatre, creative writing, and fine arts, The Scandelles have pushed beyond the traditional burlesque model to devise something entirely distinct. The result is a peerless blend of sexual and social commentary, pop culture in action, and experimental theatre, presented by a multi-gender, multi-orientation collective. Think *Hedwig* meets *Showgirls* meets the Dadaists—with a pinch of Carol Burnett. [www.thescandelles.ca](http://www.thescandelles.ca)

**Paula Wolfson** is a twenty-seven year veteran of professional theatre, having seen most of the North American continent through mega-musical tours (*Les Mis; Beauty and the Beast*) or regional dramas. She has won a Dora Mavor Moore Award (Toronto) for Outstanding Principle Performer for her appearance in Buddies' *Shaking The Foundations* and she shares a Jessie Richardson Award (Vancouver) with the Ensemble of *When We Were Singing*. [www.paulawolfson.com](http://www.paulawolfson.com)

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre Presents

**ARTHOUSE CABARET**

September 21 - October 20, 2007

OPENS Tuesday, September 25 @ 8pm

**THE ARTHOUSE PIANO BAR:** Tuesday – Saturday, 6:30 – 8pm

**ARTHOUSE CABARET:** Tuesday – Saturday, 8pm

Tickets are \$15 - \$25 and can be purchased in person at Buddies' box office, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto, over the phone @ 416-975-8555 or online at [www.totix.ca/](http://www.totix.ca/)

[www.buddiesinbadtimestheatre.com](http://www.buddiesinbadtimestheatre.com) • [www.artsexy.ca](http://www.artsexy.ca)

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