



David Zak,
Executive Director

Artistic Associates

Robert Ollis, Donterrio Johnson, Michael D. Graham,
Topher Leon, JD Caudill, Larry Todd Cousineau,
Cindy O'Connor

Presents the World Premiere of
America's Best Outcast Toy

Music by Cindy O'Connor
Book and Lyrics by Larry Todd Cousineau

Director / Choreographer

Donterrio Johnson

Assistant Director

Jacob R. Shaffer

Music Director

Cody Michael Bradley

Technical Director

Evan Sposato

Scenic Design

Evan Frank

Lighting Design

Samuel Stephen

Costume Design

Jos N. Banks

Props Design

Amanda Barth

Sound Design

Jean Carlo Sandy

Production Stage

Manager

Bri Wolfe

Dance Captain

Riley Smith

Accompanist

Matt Salvo

Featuring:

Danny Ackman, Anna Blanchard, Tyler DeLoatch, Josh Kemper, Haylie Kinsler,
Patrick Regner, Julia Rowley, Riley Smith, Jasmine Lacy Young

Opening December 3, 2019

The Broadway, Pride Arts Center | 4139 N Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613
866 811 4111 | www.pridefilmsandplays.com

CAST LIST

Danny Ackman	Spotty
Anna Blanchard.....	Squeak
Tyler DeLoatch.....	Beary/Judge 2
Josh Kemper	Bucky
Haylie Kinsler.....	Jackie
Patrick Regner	Schermie
Julia Rowley	Ashley
Riley Smith	Fishbird/Judge 3
Jasmine Lacy Young	Kitty/Judge 1

SWINGS

Eric Briggs
Teresa Echeveste

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Accompanist	Matt Salvo
Sound Engineer	Jean Carlo Sandy
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Angela Kvittek
Assistant Stage Manager	Jacob Shaffer

AMERICA'S BEST OUTCAST TOY is performed without an intermission.

WRITER'S STATEMENT

As a child, I was obsessed with the Claymation holiday specials that would air every year on TV. They were earnest and charming, they had lots of great music, and they made me feel good. At the time, I didn't realize why a little gay geek in the suburbs like me would be so drawn to these silly diversions. Now, of course, I know why. The central theme of these works, which celebrated odd fantastical creatures, was that there is a place on this Earth for anyone who can find what is special about them and harness it for good.

Similarly, early reality TV was an obsession of mine. I saw myself in some of the flawed but good-hearted contestants. Some of my favorites were gay, sure, but others were just talented little nerds trying to find themselves. I felt as though I had discovered them myself, and I was playing a role in helping them to embrace their uniqueness and find their place on this Earth.

America's Best Outcast Toy is a diversion, sure. But at its heart, as it parodies these two art forms, it reminds us that today, more than ever, there is a path ahead for outcasts, freaks and misfits. Our message? "Come out of your cardboard box, burst out from your plastic shell, step out of your storage bin, and step into the light."

-Larry Todd Cousineau

DIRECTORS NOTES

“Parody shines a light on reality when reality can’t shine a light on itself.”

“America’s Best Outcast Toy” is a parody of the well known Misfit Toys from Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. These toys are cast out to live on a secluded island because of their oddities, until they can find a home with a child that finds value in them and finds space in their hearts to love them. This beloved Christmas movie is full of love and holiday cheer and fond memories for all of us. But deep rooted in this story is a familiar theme about owning your uniqueness and how those oddities you harbor make you special in this world.

We are also using parody to shine a light on our fixation with Reality Tv. A form of entertainment where everyone involved on the screen just simply wants the exposure and the chance to fill the void of wanting to feel important and to leave their mark on the world, and everyone of us watching at home secretly want the same thing.

With this two playing fields we have a show full of laughter and great song and dance. But we also want to gift you the audience a chance to step back and look at yourselves and the world around you and realize that there is still POWER in being unique and special.

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Danny Ackman (Spotty) is thrilled to be making his Chicago theatre debut. College credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Flick*, and *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now*

Change (North Central College). He is a Junior pursuing a Theatre degree. He thanks his family, friends, and mentors.



Anna Blanchard (Squeak) is thrilled to make her Pride Films and Plays debut! Chicago credits include *Spring Awakening* (Marriott Theatre); *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet*

Street (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre); *Carrie the Musical*, *Heathers: The Musical* (Stage Door Fine Arts). She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their love and support! [www. AnnaLynnBlanchard.com](http://www.AnnaLynnBlanchard.com)



Eric Briggs (Swing) is very excited to join the cast of *ABOT*. Past PFP credits include *Afterglow* (Josh understudy) and *Grindr: the Opera* (Don understudy) both of which he was able to go

on for. Eric is a full time leasing agent at the Flats management company and also performs with the Cabaret group “The Chicago Red Line”. He also holds a B.A. in Musical Theatre from Oakland University.



Tyler DeLoatch (Beary/Judge 2) is thrilled to be making his PFP debut. In Chicago, Tyler’s credits include *Morpheus in The One: A Matrix Parody Musical* (The Den Theatre). Tyler received

his BA from Coker University and is a graduate of the Second City Conservatory. He would like to thank his family and all his teachers and mentors for their support.



Teresa Echeveste (*Swing*) is ecstatic to make her Chicago debut with Pride Films and Plays! Teresa recently received her B.M. in Music Theatre from Oklahoma City

University. OCU credits include *Godspell* and *Sister Act*. Much love to her incredible family and Kam!!



Josh Kemper (*Bucky*) began his theatre career in Baltimore, MD and has been acting in Chicago for five years. ABOT marks his debut with Pride Films & Plays.

Favorite company credits include: Black Button Eyes (*Shockheaded Peter*, *Evil Dead*), Hell in a Handbag (*Skooby Don't*, *Lady X: The Musical*, *Rudolph*), Metropolis Performing Arts (*Avenue Q*), and New American Folk Theatre (*Hot Pink! or Ready to Blow*). He holds a BFA in Acting from UMBC.



Haylie Kinsler (*Jackie*) is thrilled to be returning to the PFP stage where she was an understudy for the recent production of *All That He Was*. Haylie is a native New Yorker turned Chicago

transplant. Previous credits include *Ghost Walks Into a Bar* (Coffee and Whiskey Prod.), *Chicago Funny Women's Festival*, *Life Inside an Open Kaije* (Davenport Theatre), *210 Amlent Avenue* (NYMF), *Hair* (SUNY Suffolk), *Henry IV, Part One* (LI Shakespeare Festival). Love to her family and JMS for their endless love and support.



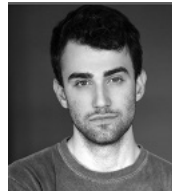
Patrick Regner (*Schmermie*) is feeling all warm and fuzzy to make his return to PFP. You may have caught him in *Miracle* (Royal George), *Afterglow* (PFP), or many

numerous productions through Chicago Kids Company. He is currently seeking representation. Much love to Larry, Donterrio, Bri, and our cast. Happy Holidays!



Julia Rowley (*Ashley*) is excited to make her debut at PFP. Past credits include *Poe* (Theatre Above The Law), *May The Road Rise Up* (The Factory Theater), *Blue Stockings* (Promethean Theatre),

Same Time Next Door (LOL Theater), *Twisty* (Second City). Film credits include *The Confidant* and *South Side*.



Riley Smith (*Fishbird/Judge 3/Dance Captain*)

is terribly excited to make his Chicago debut. Out of town credits include *Twelfth Night*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Angels in America*, and *Vinegar Tom*

(University Theatre.) He is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Boundless thanks to his family and boyfriend for their unwavering support.



Jasmine Lacy Young

(*Kitty/Judge 1*) is so excited to be making her PFP debut! Recent credits include; *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre), *Hands on a*

Hardbody (Refuge Theatre Project), *Godspell*, *Little Women* (Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University). Jasmine recently graduated from CCPA and is so excited to be making her way through the Chicago theatre scene. "All my love to my best friend/mom. 143."

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Cindy O'Connor (composer) and **Larry Todd (Johnson) Cousineau (book writer/lyricist)** have a long history together. Most recently, the revised version of their 1993 musical *All That He Was* was produced to critical acclaim and a Jeff Recommendation at Pride Films and Plays, where their musical comedy *Flies! The Musical!*, was a hit and was nominated for a Jeff Award for Best New Musical. Their other works include *40 Is The New 15*, which had a critically acclaimed run at the NoHo Arts Center in Los Angeles, receiving Best New Musical award from StagesceneLA and a GLAAD Media Award Nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theatre. Several of their songs have been featured in concerts by the Gay Men's Chorus of Chicago, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. O'Connor was nominated in 2018 for an Emmy for Outstanding Music Composition For A Series (Original Dramatic Score) for her work on *Once Upon A Time* (ABC). Her other credits include *Crash* (Starz), *Dolphin Tale*, and *Forgiving The Franklins* (Sundance). Cousineau's writing has been featured in animated series including *Yin, Yang, Yo!* (Disney), *The New Care Bears*, and *Angela Anaconda*. His *Songs From My Closet* cabaret series is an annual hit. Larry was recently named an Artistic Associate of Pride Films and Plays.

Jos N. Banks (Costume Designer) studied Musical Theater & Costume Design at Millikin University. National Tours: *Kinky Boots* (Lola), *Hair* (Hud), *The Color Purple* (Harpo). Regional work at Steppenwolf, Drury Lane, Oak Brook, Paramount Theatre, and multiple other Chicago theatres. Film credits include *The Chi*, *The Chicago Code* and *Rise Against*. He has also interned with the incomparable Michael Kors and was nominated best costume designer for the 2012, 2015/16 and 2019 Black Theater Alliance Awards. Jos would like to thank God, his family & friends for their unconditional love and support. Representation: Paonessa Talent Agency // www.FearlessJos.com // Follow Me: @JosNBanks

Amanda Barth (Props Designer) is a Chicago based Properties Designer originally from Trevor Wisconsin. She's a recent graduate of Millikin University and is excited to work with Pride Films and Plays. Amanda would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support!

Cody Michael Bradley (Music Director) is a Chicago-based musician with experience as a singer, pianist, vocal coach, music director, and conductor. Currently on the voice faculty of Loyola University, he has previously worked at the College Light Opera Company (MA) and Texas Arts Project, and spent one season at Opera in the Ozarks (AR) as both singer and pianist. He has spent two summers as a piano fellow at the Bay View Music Festival (MI), where he also conducted part of an opera scenes program. As a music director he has worked locally on productions with Petite Opera Productions, Third Eye Theatre Ensemble, Thompson Street Opera, and Pride Films and Plays. He serves as assistant conductor for the Northwestern University Summer Chorus, First United Methodist Church of Evanston, and the Apollo Chorus of Chicago. Cody has had the pleasure of singing with a variety of artists, such as Amanda Majeski, Eric Owens, Josh Groban, and Jeff Beal, and can be heard on the Christmas special of Netflix's *Sense8* with the Apollo Chorus. He has sung with Music of the Baroque and Chicago Opera Theater, and in 2019 was a featured soloist at the Green Lake Festival of Music's Choral Institute under the direction of Stephen Alltop.

Evan Frank (Scenic Design) returns to PFF where he designed *Buyer and Cellar*, *Casa Valentina* and *A Man of No Importance*. Other recent designs include *Grace*, or *the Art of Climbing* (Brown Paper Box Company) and *Two Days in Court* (City Lit). Upcoming designs include *The Other Cinderella* (Black Ensemble Theater) and *Noises Off* (Metropolis). Efrankdesign.com

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Donterrio Johnson (*Director/Choreographer*) is excited to be back at home with Pride Films and Plays, directing his third production. Notable directing credits include: *A Man of No Importance, Buyer and Cellar, The Colored Museum, 101 Dalmatians, Emperor's New Clothes, Willy Wonka, Last Five Years, Little Shop Of Horrors, and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Donterrio has worked with companies such as Pulse Theatre Company, Prisco Center, and the REPA Center.

Jean Carlo Sandy (*Sound Design*) is a graduate student from the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago. He has done live audio for bands like Foreign Policy, Eskee and Frog Stomp at Reggies Rock Club. Jean Carlo was born in Chicago and works as a Recording, Mixing and Mastering Engineer at Chalo's Recording Studio.

Jacob R. Shaffer (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be a part of his first PFP production. Jacob is a freelance dramaturg, playwright, and theater artist. He also works front of house at Theater Wit and writes for SCAPI magazine. He enjoys reading, role playing games, and cross-stitching.

Evan Sposato (*Technical Director*) has spent the last two decades in and around the theatre. Since moving to the Chicago

area, Evan has worked as the Technical Director and Production Manager at Drury Lane and has built shows for Jackalope, Redtwist, City Lit, New Colony, Steep, Interrobang, Cloudgate, and others. When Evan isn't in a theater, he works with political campaigns on voter contact and digital outreach.

Samuel Stephen (*Lighting Design*) lights for the first time at Pride Film and Plays, but has designed lighting for multiple other companies within just the past year. He has worked on shows of a wide variety from Ace Frehley, Scott Stapp, and Kenny Wayne Shepard at Arcada Theatre in St. Charles, to Mamma Mia and South Pacific with The Summer Place Theatre in Naperville. He is excited to be apart of the team, and can't wait to design more shows like this in the future! He wants to give a huge thanks to Angela Kvitck one of his best friends and assistant for always supporting his ideas!

Bri Wolfe (*Production Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back at PFP! Other Pride credits include *All That He Was* and *Afterglow*. She's also worked on stages of Porchlight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Chicago Children's Theatre. Bri recently produced the film, *Note to Self: National Coming Out Day* with Baby Pomegranate Productions. For Eleanor, always.

SPECIAL THANKS

Pride Films and Plays offers special thanks to those who helped support this production of *America's Best Outcast Toy*





David Zak,
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Topher Leon, JD Caudill, Larry Todd Cousineau,
Cindy O'Connor

Presents

The Christmas Foundling

By Normal Allen

Director

Danne W. Taylor

Music Director and Original Music

Dr. Michael McBride

Assistant Director

Dora Farona

Scenic Design

Kailee Tomasic

Lighting Design

Mike McShane

Costume Design

Robert-Eric West

Props Design

Matthew Zalinski

Dialect Coach

Shannon Leigh Webber

Stage Manager

Michael Starcher

Featuring:

Fiore Barbini, Michael D. Graham, Leo LaCamera, Henry Lombardo,
Max McKune, Zane Sade, BethAnn Smukowski

Opening December 7, 2019

The Christmas Foundling is presented through special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

The Buena, Pride Arts Center | 4147 N Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613
866 811 4111 | www.pridefilmsandplays.com

CAST LIST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Old Jake.....	Michael D. Graham
Hoke.....	Fiore Barbini
Boston.....	Zane Sade
Moscow.....	Leo LaCamera
Georgia.....	Max McKune
Tom.....	Henry Lombardo
Aunt Sarah.....	BethAnn Smukowski

Guitar: Max McKune

Autoharp: Michael D. Graham

The Christmas Foundling is performed with one 10 minute intermission.

SETTING

The Sierra foothills, California

Time: 1850 to 1862

DRAMATURGICAL NOTE

The Christmas Foundling was inspired by the stories of the American author, essayist, humorist, and critic, Bret Harte. Despite being born in Albany, New York in 1836, Harte's family moved to Oakland, California after the passing of his father. Later moving to San Francisco, Harte wrote about life in California mining camps, bringing vivid characters and landscapes to life. Harte's slant for political writing, coupled with his strong support of Abraham Lincoln and Unions, influenced his nostalgic writings to acknowledge the greed and corruption of the gold rush that characterized the period.

Harte's descriptions of men living amongst each other in the camps earned him a place as an icon in the gay community. With a queer lens, this production leans into the idea of chosen family with the support of the text. *The Christmas Foundling* turns the greed of the gold rush into community, and later family, as the characters put the wellbeing of a young boy above their quest for gold, raising a child among five men, with Hoke and Old Jake referred to as his "parents."

SPECIAL THANKS

Nick Sula, Kenny Riffle for graphics, Cody Jolly for Photography

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Fiore Barbini (*Hoke*) is ecstatic to make his PFP debut! Tours *Joseph... , A Chorus Line*. Off Broadway *Chess*, *The Papparazzi*, *The Visitor*. Chicago credits include *Joseph... (Royal George)*,

A Chorus Line, *Singing in the Rain* (Drury Lane), *Sunday in the Park with George* (VP), *Grease*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago* (Voltaire).

"Topher—my husband, my big pineapple, my swirly cone—I love you."

www.fiorebarbini.com



Zane Sade (*Boston*) is excited to make his Chicago theatrical debut with PFP! *Assassins* (Arena Dinner Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (First

Presbyterian Theater), *Avenue Q* (Fort Wayne Civic Theatre); *Measure for Measure*, *The Liar*, *Oklahoma!* (Ohio Northern University)



BethAnn Smukowski (*Aunt Sarah*) was most recently seen at PFP as Eleanor in *Casa Valentina*. Other credits include *The Front Page* (Saint

Sebastian Players), *The Cherry Orchard* and *Cloud 9* (Stage Center Theater). Love and thanks to Danne for inviting her back to play, and to her family and friends for their everlasting support. Smooches xo



Michael D. Graham (*Old Jake*) is making his PFP on-stage debut after directing *Casa Valentina*; *Holding the Man*; *Ten Dollar House*; and *Barney the Elf*. His favorite acting credits include: *Match*

(Appetite Theatre); *The Sum of Us* (1027 Productions); *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Hubris Productions); *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Halcyon Theatre); and *The Front*

Page (St. Sebastian Players). Thanks to Danne Taylor for this opportunity! Love to Cayli!



Max McKune (*Georgia*) is thrilled to be making his debut at PFP. Chicago credits include *Facts of Life-Satan's School for Girls*, *Snowgirls* (Hell in a Handbag Productions) and *The Ballad of Lydia*

Pinkham (Moving Bench Theatre). Love and thanks to Danne Taylor, Mom and Dad, and the ever-supportive Tara.



Henry Lombardo (*Tom*) is delighted to make his PFP debut. Performance credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre), *An Inspector Calls* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater),

Luisa Miller (Lyric Opera of Chicago), *Spirit Week Assembly:NO PDA* (Blackout Cabaret, The Second City), a number of short films, and national commercials for Camping World and Empire Today. He sings with Pro Musica Youth Chorus, enjoys dance and plays piano and drums. Henry is in 5th grade.



Leo LaCamera (*Moscow*) is thrilled to return to theater after a long affair with sketch comedy. If you follow such things, you might recognize him from *Bye Bye Liver: The Chicago Drinking Play*

(Stage 773) or from one of many performances with the groups Rosemary's Other Baby, Fake Quotes, and the iO House Sketch Team. He would like to thank everyone at PFP, those who helped produce this show, and those that came to see it.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Norman Allen's (*Playwright*) work has been commissioned and produced by the Shakespeare Theatre Company, the Kennedy Center, Olney Theatre Center, Signature Theatre, Rorschach Theatre, Source Theatre Festival and the Karlin Music Theatre in Prague, with subsequent productions across the United States, South Africa, Europe and Asia. He received the Charles MacArthur Award for *In The Garden*, and his *Nijinsky's Last Dance* received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Play. Norman's recent dance-theatre collaboration *Once Wild: Isadora in Russia* was hailed as a "bold new work of art" by the *Washington Post*, and his *The House Halfway*, developed through Playwrights Arena at Arena Stage, was named a finalist for the O'Neill Theater Center's 2015 National Playwrights Conference. Norman's essays and commentary have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Smithsonian* and *Yes* magazines, on WAMU-FM, and online sites including Howlround, Tin House, On Being, On Faith and Tikkun. Follow him on Twitter at @WriterNorm and visit www.norman-allen.com.



Danne W. Taylor (*Director*) Chicago credits include: *The Golden Girls: Bea Afraid* and *The Valentine Edition*, (HIAH); *Hurricane Damage*, *His Greatness*, (best actor: International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival) (PPF); *Terre Haute*, (Black Elephant Theatre); *Insignificance*, (Mary-Arrchie Theatre); *The Eviller Twin* (Curious Theatre); and many others. Danne is an Artistic Associate with Hell in a Handbag Productions.

Dr. Michael McBride (*Music Director*) is honored to make his PFP debut. Credits include *Man of La Mancha*, *Mamma Mia*, *Into The Woods*, and *The Little Mermaid* (Timber Lake Playhouse); *Footloose* (Wallace Bowl); *Violet*, *Cabaret*, *Tintypes*, *She Loves Me*, *Spring Awakening*, *Hot Mikado*, and *Urinetown* (Loyola University Chicago).

Robert-Eric West (*Costume Design*) is proud to join the design team for *The Christmas Foundling*. Company/Board member and Resident Costumer for Saint Sebastian Players, he recently directed *DROOD* and *Love, Loss & What I Wore*. MFA (Indiana University), co-founder of Studio BE: Youth Revolution, musical theatre audition coach, and freelance director & designer.

Mike McShane (*Lighting Designer*) has an MFA in Lighting Design from the University of Florida. His recent designs at PFP include: *A Man Of No Importance*, *All That He Was*, *GRINDR: The Opera*, and *Buyer & Cellar*. Visit his design portfolio: mikemcshane.weebly.com.

Dora Farona (*Assistant Director*) is making her debut at PFP. Dora has worked on many theatrical productions as a director, production manager, stage manager, and producer. Notable credits include *Macbeth*. Dora's first full length piece as a director, as well as Stage Managing *Fences* at the historic Karamu House.

Kailee Tomasic (*Scenic Designer*) is happy for another opportunity to work with Pride Films & Plays again after being their scenic designer for *Afterglow*. Chicago credits include *Goblin Market* (Black Button Eyes Theatre Co.); *After the Dance*, *Blue/Orange*, and *Wounds to the Face* (Runcible Theatre); *These Saints will Burn* (The Plagarists). Kailee received her BS from Ball State University. She is thrilled to have collaborated with such amazing people and hopes to work with them again in the near future.

Michael Starcher (*Stage Manager*) is happy to be back at PFP having just finished work on *Dog Days*, an opera staged at Northwestern University. His PFP credits include *Yank: A WWII Love Story*, *Flies! The Musical!*, *Holding the Man*, *Barney The Elf* and *Casa Valentina*. When he's not herding cats, Michael is the Operations Manager for The Pride Arts Center.

Shannon Leigh Webber (Dialect Coach) is an actor and voice/dialect coach from Dahlonega, GA and recently celebrated her 6 year Chicago anniversary. Shannon has a BA in Acting from Piedmont College and an MFA in Drama from the University of Arkansas. Some of her favorite roles include, Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Katherine Brandt in *33 Variations*. Come see her get spooky with some fabulous puppets in Rough House Theater's *The Silence in Harrow House* at The Chopin Theatre.

Matthew Zalinski (Props Designer) is excited to work on his second show at PFP. Selected credits include, *Spamalot* (Mercury Theatre Chicago); *Hello Again*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, and *The Full Monty* (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater); *Mamma Mia*, *On The Town*, *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* (Highland Park Players); *Into the Woods*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Water by the Spoonful*, and *Oresteia* (Depaul University); Enjoy the show!

Pride Films and Plays

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ABOUT PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS

Pride Films and Plays creates diverse new work (or work that is new to Chicago) with LGBTQ+ characters or themes that is essential viewing for all audiences. We accomplish this mission through fully-staged productions, writing contests and staged readings, and filming one short film each season.

PFP is the primary tenant in the Pride Arts Center, which connects and promotes other artists who share our values, creating a safe environment for all. PAC books one-night events or limited runs, cabaret, film, dance, comedy, and other events. In 2015, Huffington Post called PFP "A powerful and empowering entity."

PFP is a member of the Belmont Theater District, League of Chicago Theaters, Buena Park Neighbors, LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, Northalasted Business Alliance, and Uptown United. PFP is part of the Smart Growth program at Chicago Community Trust.

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