

For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents Hosts Weekend of Celebration with Taylor Mac in Conversation with Denise Clarke and Hot Dyke Party at the High Performance Rodeo

December 17, 2024 - CALGARY – In collaboration with One Yellow Rabbit’s High Performance Rodeo, Arts Commons Presents brings a weekend of Queer celebration with two killer shows. *Hot Dyke Party* takes the stage for three nights of high-energy punk music. Then the dynamic, flamboyant, and undefinable artist Taylor Mac comes to Calgary for a one-night conversation hosted by One Yellow Rabbit’s Denise Clarke, followed by a free screening of his Pulitzer Prize nominated film, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*. Join Arts Commons Presents, Calgary International Film Festival, Downstage, and One Yellow Rabbit for ***Hot Dyke Party*** on **January 16 – 18, 2025 at 7:30pm** in the Engineered Air Theatre and ***Taylor Mac in Conversation with Denise Clarke*** on **Saturday, January 18 at 7:30pm** in the Martha Cohen Theatre. Learn more at artscommons.ca/hotdykeparty and artscommons.ca/taylormac.

Straight from the west coast, *Hot Dyke Party* is a theatre-rock-concert celebrating dykes, butches, femmes, and queers of all sorts. With original music by Arthi Chandra, Blue Chu, Cindy Kao, Hannah Meyers, Hayley Sullivan, and Thule van den, their songs will make you laugh, and even sing-along as they celebrate, poke fun, and uplift LGBTQ+ culture for Queers and allies alike. Visuals and atmosphere courtesy of Alexandra Caprara. Then Arts Commons Presents invites you to stay after the show for SCRATCH, Calgary’s favourite underground after-party.

Taylor Mac in Conversation with Denise Clarke takes audiences behind-the-scenes of the ground-breaking [*Taylor Mac’s 24-Decade History of Popular Music*](#). Rich with stunning musical performances, the HBO documentary captures a tour-de-force performance that was performed only once in Brooklyn, New York. The concert was performed for 24 straight hours, including 246 songs that spanned 240 years of music history from 1776 to 2016. It was hailed by New York Times writer Wesley Morris as “one of the great experiences of my life” and recognized by The Guardian as fifth on the list of best theatrical works since 2000. The documentary film, directed by Academy Award winners Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, is an eye-opening look into the monumental concert performance.

"I had 24 hours to give the audience the context for what they were watching. And then within that, there’s a lot of repetition, because you’re trying to get the ideas to sink in. In a movie, you can do it in one clip. We needed some way to truncate six hours of context into something easily understood," says Taylor Mac. *"For me, it’s all about an invitation: How are you inviting the audience over and over and over and over again, and every moment? That’s what those sequences do for me."*

Taylor Mac is the first American to receive the International Ibsen Award, is a MacArthur Fellow, a Pulitzer Prize Finalist, a Tony nominee for Best Play, and the recipient of the Kennedy Prize (with Matt Ray), the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, and a Guggenheim, among many other awards and accolades. His work includes the Tony nominated *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus* which starred Nathan Lane on Broadway, *Prosperous Fools*, *The Fre*, *The Be(A)st of Taylor Mac*, and the revues *Comparison is Violence*, *Holiday Sauce*, and *The Last Two People on Earth: an Apocalyptic Vaudeville* (created with Mandy Patinkin and Susan Stroman).

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“In just a few short weeks we’re going from holiday cheer to high performance queer! The boundary-pushing Hot Dyke Party that are just so much fun and will rock the Rodeo all night long,” says Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS), VP of Programming at Arts Commons. “Then we have the pleasure of hosting Taylor Mac, a shining example of an artist who defies definition. A musician, a performance artist and an activist, as well as so much more, and I can’t wait to be in the room when he shares his creative energy”

Arts Commons Presents is the programming arm of Arts Commons, presenting a diverse line-up of concerts, speaker presentations, youth programming, and emerging artist showcases. Outside of the three signature series of BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, and National Geographic Live, Arts Commons Presents also shares special presentations that are just too good to pass up. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit [acpresents.ca](https://www.artsccommons.ca/acpresents).

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the **Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta**, and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents programs and presents the signature subscription series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, and Classic Albums Live, as well as TD Amplify and a number of special presentations. 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 many levels.

Celebrating its 39th season, the **High Performance Rodeo** is an annual festival featuring theatre, dance, comedy, music and multimedia presentations. Founded by One Yellow Rabbit Co-Artistic Director Michael Green, the festival is currently curated and produced by Artistic Director Blake Brooker and Producer Oliver Armstrong and the One Yellow Rabbit team. It is dedicated to entertaining as wide an audience as imaginable, while remaining fertile ground for the progressive and wild. The High Performance Rodeo is the largest festival of its kind in Western Canada.