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Brava! For Women in the Arts Unveils Partnership With Kat Evasco's New Production Company *With You* Productions

Brava and *With You* Productions launch collaboration; Evasco curated *With You* Festival showcases queerness, immigration, and resilience in the midst of pandemics



Image courtesy of Mark Marking Photography

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 11, 2022 – Today, Brava! for Women in the Arts announced their partnership with producer, director and performer, Kat Evasco and her newly established production company, With You Productions. The groundbreaking collaboration launches Evasco's official residency at Brava and the *With You* Festival - a trio of plays helmed by diverse and emerging voices that shed light on growing up queer, being undocumented, and living your best life in the face of AIDS, HIV, and COVID-19. The festival will run from September 8th through October 1, 2022. The full schedule, tickets, and festival passes are available now at brava.org/all-events/withyoufest.

"Brava! for Women in the Arts is excited and honored for Kat Evasco to join the incredible family of artists that make up our artist-in-residence program, House of Brava," stated Anastacia Powers, Brava Executive Director. "We can't wait for our audiences to experience Kat's powerful blend of storytelling, comedy, cultural critique, and theatrical magic."

Curated by Evasco, the festival program is a direct reflection of the storytelling that With You Productions aims to share - raw experiences and narratives created by artists of color. Through

community and empathy, their mission is to nurture the human spirit, strengthen interpersonal connections, and cultivate collective power to influence change and culture for genuine liberation.

In the spirit of liberation, the festival also boasts an impressive list of prolific trail blazers and production partners known for expanding boundaries and conventions. Alongside With You Productions is critically acclaimed theater company, the Living Word Project; the GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) and GAPA Fund; and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, and activist Jose Antonio Vargas.

"I'm thrilled to see Kat's evolution as an artist, director, and now founder of With You Productions," said Joan Osato, Producing Director of the Living Word Project. "We're excited to produce new work with Kat as part of the launch for her new production company. As a longtime supporter of Kat's artistic career, it's also great to see her come full circle with the return of Mommy Queerest in the city where she got her start."

"The With You Festival is a narrative strategy project that presents LGBTQI stories we need - stories that reflect how powerful and magical we truly are," said Evasco. "Together, the bodies of work in the festival embody three specific core narratives: Let us love. Let us thrive. Let us be free."

With You Productions CEO and festival curator, Kat Evasco, is available for interviews by request to Dan McIntosh at dan@withyouproductions.com. Please click [HERE](#) for the With You Festival Press Kit.

For general information visit withyouproductions.com and follow With You Productions across social media:

Instagram: @withyou_productions

Twitter: @WithYouStories

Hashtag: #WithYouProductions #withyoufestival

TICKET INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

All performances are \$25 for Mezzanine seats and \$40 for Orchestra seats. Festival passes are also available at \$60 for Mezzanine and \$100 for Orchestra. An additional processing fee will be charged at the time of purchase. Tickets and festival passes can be purchased online at brava.org/all-events/withyoufest or during box office hours from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. on Tuesday - Thursday at 2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Tickets must be purchased in advance and assigned seating is required.

To ensure the safety of guests, performers, production crew, and staff, masks and proof of full vaccination is required. Full vaccination is defined as being up to date with COVID vaccines, having received all doses in the primary series and recommended boosters for your age range. If a patron is eligible for a booster, but has not received one, we will accept a negative COVID test, taken within 24 hours (for antigen tests) or 48 hours (for PCR tests). Read Brava's full COVID Protocol [here](#).

ABOUT THE PLAYS

Mommy Queerest (September 8-10)

Written and performed by Kat Evasco

Co-written by John Caldon

Presented by The Living Word Project, Brava, and With You Productions

In *Mommy Queerest*, a young pinay's world is shattered when it dawns on her that both she and her mother are lesbian. And that her mom has been raising her with a lesbian partner. And they own a house together. Plus they wear wedding rings. What's an unobservant budding young lesbian to do? Drawing on her experience as a stand-up comic and actress, Evasco narrates this unconventional mommy/daughter tale, tackling conflict with humorous insight, while illustrating the experience of being a Filipina lesbian, gay Christian, survivor of sexual abuse, and young American just trying to get some.

Not My First Pandemic (September 22-24)

Written and performed by César Cadabes

Presented by the GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), GAPA Fund and With You Productions

What kind of community can survive two pandemics? Cadabes' one man show takes a closer look at what a Gay Filipino man goes through traveling from Hawai'i to San Francisco. It is a journey where he discovers his most empowered self with a community that helps him survive the AIDS pandemic and enables him to thrive during the COVID pandemic. While there is now a COVID vaccine, there is none for AIDS after 40 years from the first reported cases. Self love, community love, romantic love and political protests intersect in César's important story. This is not just a one man show, but a bridge to a better understanding of the AIDS pandemic and its importance to the current pandemic.

Prieto (September 29-October 1)

Written and performed by Yosimar Reyes

Presented by the Living Word Project, With You Productions, and Jose Antonio Vargas

Prieto is an autobiographical one-man show. Known for his frequent exploration into themes of migration and sexuality, Reyes takes his audience on a journey into his experience growing up queer in the 'hood of East San Jose. Through the playful, lovably naive lense of an 8-year-old Reyes, Prieto tells the story of an overprotective grandmother who recycles bottles to support her family while her grandson wonders why they can't have money like his friends. It tells the story of chismosa vecinas (gossipy neighbors) who peek through their windows and watch as the neighborhood boys tease young Reyes for "acting like a girl." To escape from the taunting and the daily toil, 8-year-old Reyes creates an imaginary world for himself -- one made up of books and '90s R&B.

ABOUT KAT EVASCO

[Kat Evasco](#) is an award-winning writer, theater artist, comedian, and cultural strategist committed to honoring and celebrating the experiences of immigrants, women and LGBTQI communities. In 2020, Kat was awarded the Kenneth Rainin New & Experimental Works (NEW) Program [Grant](#) towards the premiere of her new play *Be Like Water* produced by Brava Theater in San Francisco. She is a 2018 Lambda Literary Fellow in Playwriting and her works have been featured on *Deadline*, *IndieWire*, *Vice*, *Shondaland*, *Bustle*, *The Advocate*, *Out Magazine*, and *NBC News Asian America*. Kat is the founder and CEO of With You Productions and holds a BA in Asian American Studies from San Francisco State University.

Evasco served as the Senior Program Director and Director of Artist Leadership at the [Center for Cultural Power](#), leading the design and implementation of the organization's core programs including the [Disruptors Fellowship](#). She continues to collaborate with the Center for Cultural Power on national cultural strategy initiatives including the [Reclaiming the Border Narrative Project](#), funded by the Ford Foundation. In 2014, she was invited to study with [Anna Deveare Smith \(ADS\)](#) at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts for a week-long intensive called Personal Narratives and Global Identities. ADS taught her that exploring our own personal narratives enables us to connect more deeply to the world. For the last 10 years, she deepened this practice and helped develop and produce five autobiographical solo shows, including collaborating and directing comedian Irene Tu in [RIP Irene](#), and poet Jason Bayani in [Locus of Control](#). Facilitating personal narrative storytelling workshops and helping others tell their stories in ways that recognize their own power is also a vital part of her artistic practice.

ABOUT WITH YOU PRODUCTIONS

[With You Productions](#) is a women-of-color owned company that centers the lived experiences and wisdom of storytellers and artists of color. Through collaboration and empathy, With You Productions aims to nurture the human spirit, strengthen connections between people, and cultivate collective power that informs change and culture for genuine liberation.

ABOUT THE LIVING WORD PROJECT

In the past 15 years, the Living Word Project produced some of the most exciting performing and visual arts projects in the country. Amongst these are *red, black and GREEN; a blues*, /peh-LO-tah/ by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, directed by Michael John Garces; *Tree City Legends* by Dennis Kim; *The River* by Richard Montoya; *Chasing Mehserle* by Chinaka Hodge; and *Alleluia* by Luis Alfaro, with Calshakes and Campo Santo, and *TRIBES* by Nina Raine (for Berkeley Repertory Theatre) - both directed by Jonathan Moscone.

ABOUT BRAVA! WOMEN IN THE ARTS

[Brava! for Women in the Arts](#) celebrates over 30 years as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, LGBTQIA, people of color, youth, and other underrepresented voices.

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