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BUTCH BALLET, a World Premiere Work of Movement Theatre, Brings Queer Joy and Masc Visibility to Outside In Theatre This June



Written and Directed by gina young
Performances June 26 - June 30, 2026

Los Angeles, CA (May 2026) — Who gets to dance, and why? BUTCH BALLET, a new movement theatre work created by award-winning writer and director gina young, puts butch lesbians, trans men, and nonbinary mascs center stage in a series of private moments and pedestrian dances exploring tenderness and queer joy. Premiering at Outside In Theatre (June 26-30), this project is a co-production between SORORITY and Outside In Theatre.

The piece is not a traditional ballet. A series of interwoven scenes using ballet elements like pas de deux and pas de quatre, the work features an ensemble cast lovingly dubbed the “Corps de Butch,” (as opposed to the traditional “corps de ballet.”) The near-wordless vignettes take place in spaces where butches would normally be the minority, perhaps even feeling unsafe—a locker room, a hiking trail, a ballet barre—instead getting to be among themselves as the majority, showing each other love and care. By

centering butches, the work asks: who gets to be seen as beautiful, and who gets to dance? Despite existing in a moment where over 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced across the United States (source: the ACLU), BUTCH BALLET does not center violence and fear. It creates and gives space to see queer and trans bodies in tenderness, in softness, and in unison.

“Seeing queer and trans bodies in joy and tenderness is, in itself, a political act,” says creator gina young. “As a nonbinary femme/queer woman who partners with butches and mascs, I wanted to create a love letter to them. This sort of representation is sorely lacking. Butches should be treated as the most beautiful thing in the world, because they are.”

“Over the years, I’ve had the pleasure of watching gina young continue to push artistic boundaries while remaining deeply committed to advocacy and inclusion,” says Jessica Hanna, Producing Artistic Director of [Outside In Theatre](#). “BUTCH BALLET is a beautiful example of the kind of work we want to champion at Outside In; bold, deeply human, and centered on communities that deserve to be seen in their fullness. We specifically designed the ArtSpace with movement-based work in mind, including a sprung floor to support dance and physical storytelling, so it’s exciting to see this production fully utilize the space in the way it was intended”.

Rae Eubanks, a cast member, says “It’s very rare to not be the only trans or gender non-conforming person in a production, and because of that, there’s a kind of shorthand we’re able to share. I think it’s really specific to this piece, and to experimental and devised theater more broadly that we get to perform both as others and as ourselves throughout the piece.”

“The excitement of seeing this part of myself reflected back at me,” says cast member Denise Jones, “the notion that there are more of us out there and we can live in joy and celebration of being butch and queer. I hope BUTCH BALLET inspires that kind of spark in the audience.”

BUTCH BALLET will run June 26 through June 30, 2026 at 8:00 PM and 3:00 PM on June 28, at Outside In Theatre, located at 5317 York Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90042.

BUTCH BALLET’s performers, drawn from Los Angeles’ dance, theatre, and drag king communities, embody a wide spectrum of identities, including butch women, masc lesbians, transmasculine and nonbinary masc identities. The work embraces “butch” as an expansive and evolving notion, resisting rigid definitions and celebrating its expression in multiple forms. The design team brings together artists working across sound, movement, and design to build an intimate, responsive world around the performers, and features composer Ames Bessada (*Black Mirror*), movement architect Codi Gentle (*Loved Ones*), and X. Hill (New York Times Critic’s Pick *The Carolyn Bryant Project*). Featuring: Maze Felix, Anna Mocerì, María Jurado, Rae Eubanks, and Denise Jones

gina young’s body of work has explored butch/femme dynamics and relationships for almost two decades. In 2006 her music video for the song BUTCH/FEMME, created with her performance art pop duo TEAM GINA, went viral on YouTube with over a quarter of a million hits. In 2013 her play *Femmes: A Tragedy* reimaged Clare Booth Luce’s *The Women*—in a production with all femme lesbians and queer femmes, and no butches. BUTCH BALLET, ironically, now turns the lens on butches and mascs.

BUTCH BALLET is nearly ten years in the making. Originally created for REDCAT's New Original Works Festival 2017 and further developed through a residency at the Santa Fe Art Institute, BUTCH BALLET is the winner of a MAP Fund Grant and supported by the Center for Provocative Thought.

ABOUT GINA YOUNG

gina young (she/they) is an award-winning writer and director whose work has been presented by The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), The Hammer Museum, REDCAT, USC's Visions & Voices, and The Los Angeles LGBT Center. young is a recipient of the Humanitas/PLAY LA Prize, the Jane Chambers Award, and a MAP Fund Grant, and is a two-time finalist for Center Theatre Group's Sherwood Award for boundary-pushing theatre artists.

ABOUT SORORITY

Founded, curated, and hosted by playwright and director gina young, **SORORITY** started in 2016 as a late night k-hole for new short works by women, trans, nonbinary, and queer performing artists. Exploding almost overnight from a small Los Angeles salon into a huge and supportive community of creators with a cult following, SORORITY has gone on to produce staged readings, cabarets, and events that defy description at venues including The Hammer Museum, Rockwell, Los Angeles Performance Practice's LAX Festival, Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles.

ABOUT OUTSIDE IN THEATRE

Outside In Theatre is a new non-profit theatre in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. An evolving force in equitable and transformative storytelling. Through multi-platform theatrical experiences, we create art that speaks to our intersectional communities. We have a focus on new work, both Scripted and Unscripted, developing new plays as well as creating improvised stories that will lift up the voices of the Global Majority, Queer, Disabled and other traditionally marginalized groups and their allies. We live at the intersection of Live & Digital performance, with infrastructure for cameras and streaming that will create greater access to the work of local artists. We believe in making Brave Spaces for All, building the world we want to see by producing daring, dynamic, and authentic untold stories by unheard voices. Outside In Theatre is building the world we want to see by creating, producing and supporting daring, dynamic, and authentic untold stories by unheard voices. www.outsideintheatre.org

CALENDAR LISTING DETAILS

WHAT:

BUTCH BALLET, created by gina young, is a movement theatre work built from a series of intimate vignettes centered on tenderness, care, and queer joy among masculine-of-center performers. The piece runs June 26–30 at Outside In Theatre.

WHO:

Written, directed, and created by gina young

Featuring: Maze Felix, Anna Mocerri, María Jurado, Rae Eubanks, and Denise Jones

Creative Team: Ames Bessada (Composer), Codi Gentle (Movement Architect), Tatum Anderson (Sound Designer), X. Hill (Costume Designer), Laura Ochoa with Joseph Brunelle-Potter (Scenic Designer), Risa Kurosaki (Stage Manager), Erica Ammerman (Lighting Designer), Scarlett Kim (Producer)

In partnership with Center for Unclassifiable Technologies and Experiences

WHERE:

Outside In Theatre
5317 York Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90042

WHEN:

Opening: Friday, June 26, 2026
Closing: Tuesday, June 30, 2026
Performances June 26, 27, 29, and 30 at 8pm & June 27 & 28 at 3pm

TICKET PRICES & HOW TO GET TICKETS:

<https://outsideintheatre.org/butch-ballet/>

General Admission: \$30, Student/Senior: \$15

HASHTAGS & HANDLES

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