

La MaMa
Experimental Theatre Club

presents

La MaMa's Squirts 2026



The Club
74a East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
June 4-7, 2026

La MaMa's SQUIRTS 2026

Curator Paris Alexander

Producer Buffy Sierra

Stage Manager and Audio Technician Gloria Gomez

Stage Manager Kyle b. Co.

Lighting Designer and Technician WhimZee Hanna

Production Assistant Majo López

Set Designer Devante Melton

Set Installation Assistant Yannik Couture

Imagery by MTHR TRSA and Paris

Graphic Designer Tim Bergen

Modeled by Crackhead Barney and Justice Smith

Funded in part by The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust
and the American LGBTQ+ Museum

La MaMa's SQUIRTS 2026

This year SQUIRTS transforms La MaMa's Club into a chrome Memory Palace, a space akin to "the future" which constantly unfolds in front of us, moving towards the vision of queerness ever on the horizon. The Memory Palace is reminiscent of our disco ancestors, of Andy Warhol's factory, and 90s music videos set in reflective boxes.

Our guest artists have shown time and again the ways in which the personal necessitates the political, and how their voices can be used to enact change. Chiquitita opens the festival performing a section of Cecilia Gentili's "Red Ink", and has an extended conversation with her friend, the irrepressible heart, Lady Bunny. RuAfza stars in her play "Show, Girl"—followed by a conversation with her drag mother LaWhore Vagistan, with special guest—the legendary Bijli! And this year we pay tribute to Agosto Machado and Diana Oh / ZaZa D—two bridges amongst themselves within our queer community who we celebrate, as we celebrate one another.

Agosto Machado was contacted to advise Paris in making a collective / community shrine, in light of the recent passings of Diana Oh (ZaZa D), Eileen Dover, Ozzie Rodriguez (La MaMa's Archivist for decades), and Miss Major—to name a few. Agosto passed away the same day he was contacted. In his absence, we have made the shrine to honor him and the others. Located in The Club's lobby throughout the festival, guests and visitors are encouraged to place small items, mementos, pictures and tchotchkes there, to honor queer loved ones that has passed. At the end of the festival, the shrine will live on in the La MaMa Archive.

June 5, 2026

**RuAfza
LaWhore Vagistan
Bijli**

show, girl by RuAfza

Followed by a conversation between
RuAfza and Lawhore Vagistan and a performance by Bijli

show, girl is a multimedia theatrical work that merges drag, live performance, video projection, and film to interrogate the contemporary figure of the showgirl. Once a working-class theatrical laborer, the showgirl has increasingly been appropriated by elite and corporate cultures for her glamour, while the labor, precarity, and bodily cost of performance are rendered invisible. As an immigrant trans drag performer, I approach the showgirl not as fantasy but as work: a body that is watched, consumed, and celebrated onstage while remaining disposable off it.

At a time when trans and immigrant lives are hyper-legislated and hyper-visible, performance is often expected to either “represent” marginalization or to triumph over it. I am uninterested in either mode. *show, girl* stages the messiness in between: the contradictions of survival, the exhaustion of endless performance, and the absurdity of navigating bureaucratic systems in bodies that are never meant to belong.

The work confronts themes of immigration, gender, healthcare insecurity, fatness, and commodification, but insists on absurdity, humor, and excess rather than didactic solemnity. It is a project about beauty, transness, and labor in the United States, but it refuses respectability. It insists on spectacle, pleasure, and collapse.

Hosted by LaWhore Vagistan

Performance by
RuAfza, Mak Charade, Laura Marina Ulerio, Isaiiah Miguel and Kalani Perez

Sound by JAAN-E-HASEENA

Costume by Nikita Shah with help from Sunaina Rao

Featuring Original Music by RuPaul, Lifafa, Vishal-Shekhar, Katy Perry

Special Thanks to Nava Dance Theatre, La MaMa, Cmon Everybody, Paris, Buffy, Gloria, WhimZee and Bijli and all of you for supporting me <3

RuAfza (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist and drag performer born in India and based in Lenapehoking/Brooklyn. Her work explores the figure of the showgirl as a site of spectacle, labor, and survival under capitalism, drawing on her trans, desi, and immigrant identity and her collaborative worldmaking in nightlife spaces. Working across live performance, photography, sound, and installation, she uses glamour, humor, and camp excess to examine how bodies are marketed, disciplined, and desired. She is a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, where she received two Bachelor's degrees in New Media and Studio Art. Her work has been presented at La MaMa, The Flea Theater, and The New York Historical, and she was featured in PAPER's NYC Theater Portfolio in 2024.

LaWhore Vagistan is everyone's favorite overdressed, overeducated, overopinionated South Asian drag aunty. She has performed at the Wilbur Theatre and La MaMa with Sasha Velour, as well as at the Austin International Drag Festival, Asia Society, AS220, Queens Museum, Jack Theater, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Not Festival, Links Hall, and ART Oberon. Her music videos have screened at the Mississauga South Asian Film Festival, Austin OUTsider multi-arts festival, Hyderabad Queer Film Festival, and San Francisco 3rd i film festival. You can find her on YouTube delivering a TEDx Talk titled "How to be an Aunty" and on Instagram at @lawhorevagistan. LaWhore is the founder of the annual all-South Asian drag showcase DRAGISTAN, and her new book *Lessons in Drag A Queer Manual for Academics, Artists, and Aunties* is now available from Brandeis Press..

Isaiah Miguel: 4 awards away from EGOT. Off-Broadway: *The Found Project*. Regional: HAIR (Woof), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince), *Carrie: The Musical* (George u/s Tommy), CATS (Mungojerrie), *Spring Awakening* (Moritz). Workshops: *Saint Sebastian* (Jamie). New York Comedy Fest Original Cast of *The Woke Woke West: A Gay and Straight Musical Comedy* (Non-Binary Proctor). Muchas gracias a mis amigos y familia for always pushing me to chase mis sueños! This is for Chenté. Xoxo IG: @_iissaiah

Makinrola Orafidiya or Mak Charade: avid vocalist, songwriter, producer, and performer. Rooted in rich vocal training and a deep love for storytelling, my artistry blends musicality, sensuality, emotion, and intention. With experimentation across sonic and visual mediums, I aim to create unique and immersive experiences through my expression. August 2025 saw the release of my debut single 'Banana' and I'm currently developing new material for my forthcoming debut EP. These projects mark an exciting step in my creative journey as I continue expanding into theater and dramatic performance. Find me wherever you listen to music and join the parade! @makcharade

Kalani Perez (They/them) is an NYC based actor, singer and musician who graduated from NYCDA. He's presented at the New York Comedy Festival, Cmon Everybody and now, La MaMa. The partner of Ru Afza, Kalani has seen this show grow from single scenes into a fully fledged production. They couldn't be more proud of Ru for putting together an incredible performance and is so proud and honored to be apart of it. Love you so much baby! Don't slip on the blood ;)

Laura Marina Ulerio is stoked to be in RUAFAZA's *Show, Girl* - All thanks to their sunny disposition and unforgettable head of hair. They've played roles such as Mimi in *Rent*, and Mopso in *Head Over Heels*. One can often find them with their big headphones on, focusing on their latest piece of art, don't be afraid to say hi!

JAAN-E-HASEENA/j3h is an anti-doll from Lahore, Pakistan who uses sound to ground neuroplasticity in chic, indic-shia, psychoanalytics. In this episode she curates a set of unreleased production-experiments and tracks from Middle-World counter-cultures that characterize her current artistic-moment influenced by fugitivity, scotomas and dolls who weld metals.

Bijli is a dancer from Heera Mandi in Pakistan based in Brooklyn. She is classically trained in Kathak and moved to New York from Pakistan in 1989. She's performed in New York for the past 3 decades and is a legendary queer performer touching the lives of many queer desis in the city. In 2005 she was featured in the award winning short documentary, *Bijli*, by Adnan Malik. She's an inspiration to us all for her tenacity, her courage to live her life on her own terms, and for her commitment to her artistry as a dancer and performer.

Paris Alexander is a visual performance artist, storyteller, curator, and conjurer. They have directed *La MaMa's SQUIRTS* since 2020. They believe that looking back helps you go forth. They have done, admittedly, a number of tribute shows and revivals of queer works lost to time- they have lip synced their late grandmother's voice in a song pleading Papa Legba to open the gates to the spirit world, put up an installation of their late mom's ephemera and mementos in a house on Governor's Island with Forest For Trees Collective, and used a flashlight in place of a spirit in a number of numbers past. Through *SQUIRTS* and *Visual AIDS* (separately) they have done archival research and created one night only revivals of plays by members of The Blacklips Performance Cult. From 2021-2025, with Voxigma Lo and Julie J, they led *Sylvester-* an afro/retro futurist experimental drag show at Purgatory, BK. Recent Credits: Actor in *Down & Out* by Ife Olujobi, Directed by Garrett Allen. Conceived and performed archival drag video pieces for *Life is Drag* by Rachel Rampleman, Produced by SoMad. A gogo dancer for a revival of Felix Gonzalez-Torres' *Untitled (Go-Go Dancing Platform)* at Hauser and Wirth, a dancer in a revamp of Tyler Ashley's 2014 dance piece *Kidnap Me*, now called *Don't Kidnap Us* at QNCC in May. — IG : @parisssssssssssssssss

One of their favorite quotes by La MaMa's founder Ellen Stewart:
"The Is is the Was, and the Was is the Is."

Buffy Sierra is a New York City-based artist and performer whose experimental work slips promiscuously between disciplines. A performance artist, dancer, choreographer, musician, producer, visual artist, writer, and curator, her live and recorded works of art are visceral and haunting. She creates ecstatic experiences that synthesize sex, death, divinity, horror, beauty, and technology through her transgressive transfeminist lens. She is currently producing an electronic album algorithmically composed using the medical data of her own transition. Buffy is a resident artist and company member with the Great Jones Repertory Company at La MaMa Experimental Theater Club, Producer for *La MaMa's SQUIRTS: Generations of Queer Performance*, Co-Producer for an experimental performance series called HOLE PICS, Event Coordinator at Creative Time, and an editor for *Women and Performance: a journal of feminist theory*. She has previously produced events and programs with The NYC Trans Oral History Project, The Park Avenue Armory, BOFFO Performance Festival Fire Island, and many individual artists. @buffysierra | buffysierra.com

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A full program with information on this production can be found on the La MaMa website page of *La MaMa's SQUIRTS June 5*

Scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to detailed information on this program.

LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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luzAzul

June 4-7, 2026

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