

*For Immediate Release*



SEPHORA



## **NASTY WOMEN UNITE FEST ANNOUNCES 2018 FESTIVAL LINE UP**

**Program includes: Special Guest Amber Tamblyn, screening of the Tribeca Film Festival's *A Suitable Girl*, art by original Nasty Woman t-shirt designer Amanda Brinkman, comedy by *Crazy Ex Girlfriend's* Emma Willmann, and many more.**

**New York, NY [May 9th 2018]** – This morning, the team behind Nasty Women Unite Fest, in association with Fractured Atlas and sponsored by the Sephora Union Square and the 14th street Y, announced their line-up of artists for this year's festival. This exciting slate showcases the breadth of contemporary artistry across a range of styles including short film, spoken word, comedy, dance, and music. Taking place over four themed nights at Theatrelab and Stonestreet Studios, the festival will celebrate the work of individuals who identify as women, trans, femmes, or non-binary and who are part of the Nasty Women community.

"The idea of being a Nasty Woman is a concept, not an identifier. We are all Nasty Women - individuals who live proudly in the face of those who would rather silence us," defined the team in their official festival video, which launched exclusively at [Hellogiggles](#) last month.

The Festival today announced the entire slate of art across all four nights; **BELONGING**, a night on the topics of identity, **ATTACHMENT**, a night on the topics of love and loss, **STRIVE**, a night on the topics of career and power, and **BEING**, a night on the topics of health, mind and body. After receiving over 100 entries, the festival's team of programmers, led by founder and president Allison Brzezinski and vice president Kate Moran, carefully curated an inclusive, diverse, and provocative program which will showcase 40 artists across the four nights. The 2nd annual Nasty Women Unite Festival takes place June 5th - 8th.

Today's announcement includes 10 films, 21 live performances, and 8 comedic acts.

"We are incredibly impressed and proud of this year's roster of talented and diverse artists. Each night consists of special and unique works of art of all mediums, including short film, comedy, spoken word, puppetry, and more. It was extremely difficult to make our selections as we had so many wonderful submissions, but we are so excited for our extraordinary artists who will be featured. Their work is innovative, exciting, and on-message with what NWUF stands for, and we couldn't be happier with the final line-up," says Kate Moran, Vice President of Nasty Women Unite Fest.

This year, the official 2018 design will be designed by [Amanda Brinkman](#), the artist who created the original Nasty Women t-shirt following the infamous 2016 debate where the term was coined. The festival team has partnered with Brinkman to create an exclusive design for merch for the producers, partners, sponsors, with a few pieces to be raffled off - all proceeds going to the ACLU and Times Up movement.

Additionally, there will be art on display from 8th Grader [Sasha Matthews](#); a cartoonist and activist who following the 2016 election created a collection called "Everyday Superheroes" which raised over [\\$11,000 for the ACLU](#). She has been a guest on NBC's "Little Big Shots," was recognized by Crain's "20 Under 20," and featured by Microsoft as a kid who makes the world better through art. Her political cartoons have been published by Boing Boing, The Mary Sue, Hyperallergic. Local bookstores starting selling her first comics when she was in 5th grade.

"Two of the major focuses we have for this year's festival are accessibility and resource education. We want as many audience members from various backgrounds, ages, classes, races, ethnicities, areas etc. to be able to attend the event. When selecting venues, we wanted to make sure all had elevators, all were located near subway and bus stops and that everyone could come to a central location. Also, we are going to keep the ticket prices at \$15, because we understand that even though this is a fundraising festival, that people may be donating elsewhere or not have the funds at this moment and we do not want to keep anyone that wants to be there from attending, due to financial circumstances," says Allison Brzezinski, founder and president of NWUF.

The festival days and artists are as follows:

### **BELONGING - A night on topics of Identity (June 5th)**

#### **How to Have a Black Friend, (Andrea Coleman)**

Jokes and storytelling about what it takes to actually have a black friend if you're a white person. The difference between having a black movie sidekick acquaintance and real friend, is in the willingness of everyone to get real about race.

#### **New Neighbors, (Lorena Russi)**

After moving apartments, a skeptical queer couple meet all of their new neighbors. Although they prepare themselves for the worst, what they actually encounter, they could have never prepared for.

#### **In Search Of...(Dir/Writer: Kate Moran)**

After receiving unexpected news about her biological mother, Amy must confront how she truly feels about her adoption, her history, and self-identity.

#### **Stand Up, (Maria Shehata)**

Maria Shehata is an award-winning comedian featured on Comedy Central, Showtime, and BBC. She is winner of Best Comedian at the Hollywood Festival of New Cinema, Best Comedy at the Miami Web Fest, and named one of the Five Best New Performers at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe by The 99 Club. Her writing has been published in British Comedy Guide, The Reading Lists, The F Word, and the New York Times.

**Dreamers** (Lindsay Heatley & Jess Costa)

Lindsay Heatley and Jess Costa are two New York based filmmakers. *Dreamers* is their co-directorial debut. They created this film to humanize those who are directly influenced by the repeal of DACA.

**Faces of a Wild Woman** (Jypsy Jeyfree)

Faces of a Wild Woman is a Performance Art piece that confronts mental illness, depression and anxiety. The piece is a theatrical interpretation that speaks to every wild woman at heart. Using mirrors, original songs, and handmade masks to tell the story of shedding and self discovery.

**A Choose Your Own Gender Gender Adventure** (Lara Americo)

Gender is an illusion that we create everyday with our bodies. This time you get to create gender with my body. Using makeup, clothing, and synthetic hair, we can create gender.

**Family of Mirrors** (Neo Cih)

Friends are the family you choose, family are the strangers you grow up with: But what does that say about you? This piece is about the people we surround ourselves with and how that reflects in us, in them, and in the beyond.

**Welcome Home** (Isabella Tan)

A young asian woman brings her girlfriend home for the first time over Chinese New Year. They stand together in the face of scrutiny and traditional ideals of who they should be.

**ATTACHMENT -A night on topics of Love and Loss ( June 6th)**

**A Suitable Girl** (Sarita Khaura)

Filmmaker, producer, and educator Sarita Khaura will bring scenes from her feature documentary [A Suitable Girl](#) - which premiered to fantastic reviews at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival and won the festival's Best New Documentary Director Award. The film follows three young and modern women in India looking to get married - some desperately, some reluctantly. Over the course of the 90 minutes (and four years), we get to know Dipti, Amrita, and Ritu and watch as they juggle family, career aspirations, and friends, all while experiencing an intimate look at the practices and traditions of arranged marriage. Khurana's work often focuses on South Asian stories, and explores female subjectivities; migration, memory, marginality, community, territory, and sexuality are common themes in her work. She is also the co-founder of Cine Qua Non Lab, an international development lba for narrative feature films, based in Mexico and the U.S.

**Muerte**, (Tessa Ramírez-Keough)

A mom and her daughter reunite over the traditions of Día de Muertos, but not how they expected at all. In her short film, Tessa uses her Mexican heritage to explore how we talk to our family, and how we interact with death.

**Stand up**, (Ziwe)

Ziwe Fumudoh is a stand up comedian and writer on The Rundown with Robin Thede. She has new episodes of her webseries, *Baited with Ziwe* on YouTube.

**Quinceañera 2.0** (written by Noemi de la Puente, performed by Ashley Alvarez)

A 30 something woman is tired of not being appreciated by those around her, and decides to give herself her own Quinceañera party (2.0 because of her age), because every chapter of life should be celebrated, not just the first chapter.

**Nothin' Left to Lose: Moving from Pain to Peace Through Music** (Meghann Wright + various special performance guests)

Singer-songwriter and activist Meghann Wright invites fellow female-identifying and non-binary artists to share their works born of by suffering caused by attachment. Through their process, they come to catharsis and healing and inspire others to find peace through artistic outlet and human connection. Featuring live performances by activist artists working towards intersectional feminism.

**Our Heroine: The Legend**, Emilyn Kowaleski and Diane Chen

*Our Heroine: The Legend* is a poetry short film that posits a new myth for our time: the collective fury of womyn will destroy our world so that it may be reborn.

**My Love Won't Go Anywhere** (Robin Irene Moss)

This song celebrates the importance, solidity, and value of strong female friendships. Written on the brink of a drastic life change, it asserts how sisterly love has been and will be a consistent throughline amidst changing circumstances. Robin Irene Moss is an internationally touring songwriter with a vast catalogue of relatable yet innovative music that makes you feel and leaves you thinking.

**Winter Beach** (Tracey Breese)

Winter Beach tells the story of two women that meet on a remote beach, during turbulent times in their lives. They spark a friendship based on a search for a lost ring. The film was shot in the beautiful North Fork of Long Island.

**Y'all Don't Mourn Right...or Maybe You Do** (Gabrielle Shea)

People mourn differently. I thought my people were doing it right all along only to realize that I may have been wrong. As a mom, guiding my daughters through the grief process, after losing their grandmother, I'm learning as I go so that i can help them get to the other side unscathed.

**The Crash Years** (Jeena Bloom)

A story of extreme downward social mobility. Based on actual, terrible events. Ostensibly funny.

**Under Belly** (Robin Bady)

When Robin was 18, she was living in her first apartment - in a strange city with a new job, plus three male roommates she didn't know well who were constantly coming on to her. Her only friend was a 35 year man who owned an antique shop near her work, who listened to her like a big brother. Until he invited her on a date, and everything changed.

**Pudding Day** (Kelli Dunham)

Pudding Day is an irreverently reverent account of life, love and physician-assisted suicide, part stand up comedy, part sit down tragedy, with love and body fluids in the cracks in between.

## **STRIVE- A night on topics of Power and Career (June 7th)**

### **Any Man, ([Amber Tamblyn](#))**

Writer, activist, actor and director Amber Tamblyn will be in attendance, in anticipation of her debut novel *Any Man*. This narrative piece, which follows six men, is a groundbreaking work that challenges our understanding of rape culture and the experience of human trauma. In addition to this new piece, Amber is the author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Dark Sparkler*, has been nominated for Emmy, Golden Globe, and Independent Spirit awards. Tamblyn reviews books of poetry for *Bust Magazine*, is poet in residence at Amy Poehler's *Smart Girls* and is a contributing writer for *The New York Times*. Her work has appeared in *Glamour*, *Teen Vogue*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Iowa Review Poets & Writers*, *PANK*, and elsewhere. She is an avid proponent of equity and a founding signatory of *Time's Up*. *Any Man* publishes on [June 26th, 2018](#).

### **Stand Up, ([Emma Willmann](#))**

Emma Willmann made her late night debut on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* in 2016 and has also performed standup on Fuse's *Uproarious*, AXS TV's *Gotham Comedy Live* and was cast in *Crashing* by Judd Apatow after seeing her play *The Guest List*. Emma beat out hundreds of comedians to be named one of the 10 Funniest Comics as part of Caroline's New York Funniest competition in 2014. She's also been named one of the 10 Funniest Women in NYC by *Time Out NY* and one of the 100 Women We Love by *GO Magazine*. In 2016, Emma was featured in *Elle Magazine's Women In Comedy Issue*.

### **NAPS, (Regina Hoyles)**

Maya, a Black millennial woman fresh out of college and aspiring writer/director tries to adult through the everyday mess of life while simultaneously managing her natural hair.

### **MeToo (Mahima Saigal)**

Mahima is an artist from India who came to the States to pursue her lifelong passion of acting- on stage/on screen- everywhere. But her innate need to tell stories compelled her to write what was most important to her and create work that can be relatable to women not only in New York but also back home. Her poem *Sincerely, Me Too* is dedicated to her sisters everywhere who have bravely stepped up and decided to turn their silence into action.

### **Badass of Science: Merian and her Butterflies (Creator: Kelley Selznick, Director: Mindy Escobar-Leanse, Collaborator: Vicki Ocegueda)**

This piece celebrates all the nameless women who have contributed their brilliance to the field of Science. For this festival, we will focus on the amazing tale of Maria Sybilla Merian, a renaissance woman who used her ingenuity to get her incredible paintings and prints published and recognized when such a thing as a woman being published was unheard of! Merian is an explorer, the mother of entomology (the study of bugs), and it's time for her name to be known, using puppetry and humor, get ready to learn all about this Badass butterfly lover!

### **I am Meant to be This Way (Elizabeth Ebbert)**

Two Astoria women talk about the challenges of being activists and organizers in a post Trump world. Their advocacy is complicated by motherhood and pregnancy, but who said women aren't warriors?

### **#ladyboss Stand Up (Rosalind Grush)**

Rosalind is thrilled to be celebrating her highly anticipated stand-up debut as part of the Nasty Women Unite Fest. She runs a theater. Dudes think she's their mom, or their therapist, or their masseuse, or their potential girlfriend; meanwhile, dudes on the internet who claim to be woke are totally freaked out by a woman who doesn't *have* a boss, but *is* the boss. A saga of not getting respect and not getting laid, told in a "tight five" as they say in the movies.

**Basic Witch** (created by Kim Blanck, Janna Emig, Jessica Frey, Claire Rothrock, Annie Tippe and Ryann Weir ) Being a woman in New York City is a nightmare, especially if you're a witch. Penelope and her cohort of #basicwitches are trying their best to "lean in." Around them, people scoff at their pointy hats, sexualize their broomsticks and pay them 75 cents on the dollar; but enduring these daily indignities and summoning the strength to overcome them is where these witches' true powers lie.

**When I Throw My Hands Up** (Thoughtress)

When I Throw My Hands Up is a series of poems centering around my identity as a queer, nonbinary and black artist. It is an exploration of current events and personal experiences woven together on a journey through feeling more grounded within my identities, hiding in a turtle shell of their protection and having to scream to the universe because I just can't deal with compartmentalizing for another second.

**Anna O** (Performed by Kelsey Burns and Kathryn Wilson, Voiceover performed by Mathias Goldstein)

Sparked by Sigmund Freud's case study writings on patient "Anna O.", this piece aims to both complicate and give a body (or two) to this silenced woman whom Freud describes in great detail. Kelsey was struck by the combination of nuance in Freud's description with the almost complete absence of the subject's voice, and in collaboration with Wilson and Goldstein, built a miniaturized room/cage/world in which this woman (who might be any woman) could have a physical if not vocal presence.

### **BEING - A night on topics of Mental, Emotional, and Physical health (June 8th)**

**Stand Up Comedy** (Ashley Lauren Rogers)

Ashley Lauren Rogers is an award winning writer and trans rights activist based out of Brooklyn. Her work has also been presented throughout NYC, at City Theatre in Miami FL, and throughout the country in Wisconsin, Cincinnati, New Jersey, Detroit, and Minneapolis. Ashley was featured on Fusion TV's Peabody Award Nominated Sex.Right.Now, has appeared on multiple panels for Revry. TV she has written articles for [Cosmopolitan](#), and [The Mary Sue](#), and is the creator and Producer of the Is It Transphobic Podcast.

**Mental Maze**, (Katharine Pettit Creative, KPC)

Spotlighting domestic violence, "Mental Maze" takes us on a journey, a trial by fire, to achieve freedom. Penned and Performed by Jamaica, Queens native The Verbal Artisan, spoken word and movement connect to ignite conversation.

**Hair Freedom** (Mia Y. Anderson)

A black women's awakening to her own #blackgirlmagic, through listening to the defiant voice of her own nappy goodness.

**My Stars** (Jenny Hann)

A young woman's love for her grandmother, and her abusive relationship with her father, help her to make a challenging life decision. Featuring object puppetry, this solo piece was developed at The Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference.

**I Don't Know** (Nikhaar Kishnani)

Description: My uncle once told me if I ate enough potatoes, I'd turn into one. This is a story about how I wish that was true.

**I'm Just Fine** (Nina Mozes)

Nina Mozes wants you to laugh at her pain. After learning that medical care can fall short, she put jokes at the top of her treatment plan. So screw doctors, and treat yourself.

**The Fart Play (I'm Sad): A Dance** (Non Kuramoto)

A confession by a woman struggling with flatulence.

**I Will Be Heard & Sunflower Girl** (written by Lindsay M Bissonnette performed by Kimberly Hicks/ Elizabeth Taylor)

The experience of being silenced/ Youth finding its voice and learning to break free

**Breathing While Queer** (Brennan O'Rourke)

*Breathing while Queer* is a series of poems that explore sexual violence and isolation of queerness, particularly for femme-identifying trans/gnc folk. These poems are a product of imagining the healing process for queer victims of sexual violence. This series also examines what it means to present gender fluid in public space.

**About the Festival**

Nasty Women\* Unite Fest is multi-day festival aiming to amplify voices that are often not heard in the mainstream media, providing a much-needed platform for talented women and trans artists of all mediums. In addition, the festival will incorporate carefully curated panels and resource advocacy, fostering provoking discussion on many issues related to intersectional feminism.

**About Our Sponsors**

**14th Street Y** is a vibrant community center grounded in the belief that contemporary Jewish sensibilities can be a source of inspiration, connection, and learning for the individuals and families we serve throughout Downtown Manhattan. They focus on health and fitness, education and enrichment programs, and innovative arts and cultural programming. They are committed to the development of the whole person and bettering people's lives and strengthening individual and family connections by building an inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable communities.

**Affiliated Hosting Partners:**

**Stonestreet Studios** is a working independent film studio in the heart of Chelsea, Manhattan that has partnered with NYU Tisch School of The Arts as the exclusive screen acting and production conservatory. Acting as both provides its students with a unique and immersive training experience. Since opening its doors 25 years ago, Stonestreet has trained various actors such as Miles Teller (*Whiplash*, *Thank You For Your Service*), Rachel Brosnahan (*The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *House of Cards*), Camila Mendes (*Riverdale*), Beanie Feldstein (*Lady Bird*), Danny Ramirez (*Assassination Nation*, *On The Block*), Jack Falahee (*How To Get Away With Murder*), and many many others.

**TheatreLab** is an artistic laboratory dedicated to researching into the nature of live performance. Through the development of new and experimental work, including theatre, music, and visual arts, TheatreLab

supports New York City's diverse community of artists as well as the general public interested in seeing emerging new work. Theatrelab also focuses on audience development as a creative project. They regard the theatrical experience as a creative public assembly with the audience as an important partner in fulfilling their mission.

**Press Contacts:**

Lydia Snapper / 203.581.2603 / [press@nastywomenunitefest.com](mailto:press@nastywomenunitefest.com)