

OUT DANCE PROJECT

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



CALL FOR RURAL LGBTQ+ STORIES: OUT Dance Project

Deadline for submissions: January 31st, 2021

What is a key moment in your story, and what was the soundtrack to that moment?

We are OUT Dance Project: building resilience by connecting rural queers through story and dance. In these times of great upheaval, transformation, and struggle, we've all gotten creative about building community and solidarity across distance. As queer folks living in rural Oregon we know how hard feeling like 'the only one' can be--even though we *are* here. OUT Dance Project seeks to combat that sense of isolation and build visibility and community by sharing and lifting up our stories.

We are looking for stories from LGBTQIA2S+ folks who live or have lived in rural Oregon. We will be selecting 6-8 of these stories that respond to ***why a specific song is significant to you and your experience as a rural queer person.***

Based on these stories and songs, we'll choreograph dances which will be shared, along with your story, in an online performance this spring (late March).

Writers of selected stories will be awarded \$100. Writers may be asked to work with our artistic team on story edits and will have the opportunity to read their own story during the online events if desired (and possible future in-person performance events).

Please note that though we will be selecting a few stories to inspire these dance pieces, all submitted stories will contribute to the documentation of Oregon's queer history by being added to the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN) (with the consent of the writer, of course).

We are putting out this call because we want to hear from you. Yes, YOU!

We invite stories of honesty, vulnerability, fantasy, epiphany, fabulousness, struggle, pain, loss, love, loneliness, alienation, connectedness, togetherness, discrimination, inclusion, confusion, depression, anxiety, clarity, release, communing with nature, surviving 2020 or 1968, or whatever else is inspiring to you.

See PAGE 2 for submission guidelines and some writing prompts to get you started.

Please direct all questions or inquiries about the project to boomandbust.info@gmail.com.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT:

OUT Dance Project is a community-engaged project that lifts up the personal stories of rural LGBTQ+ folks and the songs most deeply connected to them to build solidarity, connection, and community across distance. Inspired by the Queer Songbook Orchestra and created by artists Sophie Traub and Eliot Feenstra, the OUT Dance Project is based on the belief that hearing stories that reflect your experience is a critical part of addressing the loneliness that often accompanies being rural & queer. Sophie & Eliot live in the Illinois Valley in southwestern Oregon.

The OUT Dance Project is the third project of Beyond Boom & Bust, an initiative to cultivate economic resilience through the performing arts in rural Oregon. This project is supported by the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization. For more info visit beyondboomandbust.com.

These are some prompts to get you going. Take them or leave them -- there is no right answer here. This is about you. Use these prompts to get started if it's helpful and see where the story takes you.

1. What's your favorite song? What do you love about this song? Is there a particular moment you remember when that song was exactly what you needed to hear? Why was it so perfect for the moment? What was going on and how did the song carry the moment?
2. Think of a poignant life moment: a landmark, a time of great growth or transformation, something you've overcome, a hard time you've survived, an ecstatic time you've been liberated by...what is the song of that moment and why? How does the song relate to this moment for you?
3. What does it mean for you to be a queer or trans person in your community? Is there a story that could help convey those dynamics to someone outside your community? What song would you choose to describe that story?
4. Is there a song that has given you hope? What are you hopeful for? Has it delivered you from a limiting life experience? How? Has the song given you a sense of a better world? Describe that world.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Stories should be 1-2 pages, single spaced, size 12 font (~500-1200 words)
- Submit to boomandbust.info@gmail.com with the subject line "OUT Dance Project story submission"
- Deadline for submissions is **January 31st, 2021**
- **Selected writers will be notified by February 10th, 2021**