Embodied Resilience: Cartographies of Virtual Resilience

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School of Cities Virtual Symposium
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DJ Zehra
Meet Our Cast

DJ ZEHRA (She/They)
is a community organizer and a community legal worker based in Tkaronto (Dish with One Spoon Wampum Covenant treaty). She’s the autonomous parent to an amazing resilient Sagittarius baby who teaches her about joy, abolition and abundance! Aruna has been a community DJ and facilitator for years and is an abolitionist that believes in the beautiful possibilities that 2SQTBIPOC

Meet Our Cast

Allysin Chaynes (She/Her)
is a Toronto drag performer and pop cultural sponge, specializing in all things subcultural, queer, camp, strange and unusual. In a non-pandemic world, she can be seen across the city in drag bars Crewe and Tango’s and Woody’s in the Village, and regularly at the Beverley and the Gladstone Hotel in the West End of Toronto. She’s a time travelling, anachronistic rockstar, a DJ, live musician, and a unique and stylized performer. Over the last year Allysin has joined up with Lizzie Renauld and has become a part of the team behind Speakeasy TV, a queer twitch channel collective of artists working on live streaming and digital content with shows every day of the week, which can be found at speakeasy-tv.com

Meet Our Cast

Zyra Lee Vanity (She/Her)
Zyra Lee Vanity, also known as Canada’s Urban Divine, is a multi award-winning international burlesque entertainer based in Montreal, Canada. She’s performed at several festivals and events throughout Canada, Central America and the USA, including the Las Vegas Burlesque Festival, Animex North, The New York Burlesque Festival and Montreal Comic Con. In 2018 she won “Best of the Ball” at the New Orleans Burlesque Festival and “Best Burlesque” at the Arizona Burlesque Festival. In 2019 she was crowned Panoro Queen of Burlesque at the Panama Burlesque Festival, was a featured performer at the “Crystal Burlesque Expo!” and headlined the Winnipeg Burlesque Festival. Zyra Lee Vanity was also voted as one of the top 10 burlesque figures in Canada in 21 Century Burlesque Magazine for the last three consecutive years and one of the Top 50 Worldwide for 2020.

Meet Our Cast

Youth with the Truth (They/Them)
Thunder Sharma is a 20-year-old, multi-race person from Saugus Ojibwe Nation territory. Their pronouns are they/them/theirs. They started singing through Anishinaabe style hand drumming as a child and have been shaking the earth at her roots ever since. They are a multi-disciplinary artist with a focus on mixed-media visual and vocal art styles. They are the Children and Youth Community Engagement Coordinator at Sacred Seeds Collective, a non-profit, two spirit-led garden stewardship and seed saving collective.

Meet Our Cast

Lady Kunterpunt (She/Her)
Lady Kunterpunt is a spooky clown practitioner operating from somewhere in the sewers of Toronto, Ontario. An odyssey of Toronto’s West End and a member of The Diet Ghosts. Kunterpunt is known for her creative video explorations that deal with a variety of topics, ranging from emotional reflections on her own trans experience, to ASMR whispering on livestream, to cursed VHS tapes with a 3D stereoscopic twist. You can also find Lady Kunterpunt on OutTV’s “Drag Heals Season 2” available to stream now! Kunterpunt does not take responsibility for any clown-related nightmares you may experience post-show.

Meet Our Cast

Paromita Kar (She/Her)
Paromita started her artistic journey with classical Indian Odissi dance in India. Her Canadian adventures led her to pursue a Master’s and PhD in Dance Studies at York University Department of Dance. She is today a fulltime performer of Central Asian and South Asian dance, as well as Co-Artistic Director of Ensemble Topaz, a Toronto-based integrated dance and music ensemble dedicated to performance traditions of these regions. She is also currently the Executive Director at the Community Folk Art Council of Toronto.
Meet Our Cast

Sanna Wani (She/Her)
lives between Mississauga and Srinagar. Her poetry and essays have been published by Poem-A-Day, BRICK and Flypaper Lit. You can find her @sannarey on Twitter or through her website, sannawani.com. She loves daisies.

Meet Our Cast

Ayo (They/Them)
is a visual artist originally from Ghana and Lesotho. Their primary mediums include film, photography and illustration. Their work explores questions of home, invisibility, liminality and unbelonging as they relate to Black queer and trans* African diasporic subjectivity.

Meet Our Cast

The Geetika Dance Co.
Starting in 1989 and spanning across Guyana to Canada, Geetika Dance Co. shares its legacy with the rich Caribbean community in Toronto and abroad. Geetika Dance Co. specializes in Nagara, Bollywood, Aerial Cirque and Odissi Classical dance, as well as dance theory and archiving.

Meet Our Cast

DJ Mirass + Buster Highman
is the Jamaican Drag King of your dreams! Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Buster brings his Caribbean flavour to the Drag King world! He was featured on WhattaWeekend's first season of Drag Me King! This lovely man is looking for a way into your heart. His sweet charm and smooth moves will sweep you off your feet!

Meet Our Cast

Atif Khan (He/They)
is a writer, researcher and curator based in what is currently called Rexdale, Toronto. His research driven practice intersects key themes of transnational human warfare, surveillance systems, human death and critical visual studies.

Meet Our Cast

Tifa Wine (He/Him/She/Her)
is the producer and curator of Embodied Resilience. He/she is an artist, educator, performer, and researcher based in Toronto, Canada. His aesthetic and scholarly work interrogates queer Indo-Caribbean diasporas, Caribbean feminisms, Afro-Asian intimacies, legacies of indenture, performance, embodiment, and popular culture as archives of erotic self-making and place-making in Toronto and New York City. He also organizes with the Caribbean Equality Project and Quarcibbean Toronto.