ATHE LGBTQ+ FOCUS GROUP

2022 CFP

- THE LGBTQ+ Focus Group of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education announces its call for:
  - Papers
  - Panels
  - Performances
  - Workshops
  - Other non-traditional, previously unseen ways of sharing work
- We encourage multi-disciplinary panels
- We commit to supporting alternate presentation models for sessions.

Queer Imaginations, Queer Futures

This year ATHE asks (among other things): “As we seek to reimagine, rebuild, and rise up, what are some new arrangements of the possible that we might pursue?” (link to full main conference theme: [https://www.athe.org/general/custom.asp?page=22conf_theme](https://www.athe.org/general/custom.asp?page=22conf_theme))

Trans performance artist Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi said during a recent lecture, “White Supremacy actually attempts to kill the imagination” When we are told that our imagined futures are impossible, we stop imagining them and eventually we stop being able to imagine them.  (Towson University, Sept 28, 2021, [https://www.ladydanefe.com/](https://www.ladydanefe.com/))

Are our imaginations the key to liberation and the key to change? How can we reclaim our imaginations, and the possible futures they envision? What role can our work as theatremakers, as scholars and academics, and as educators play in this imaginative process? How might we use this conference to (re)imagine our futures?

This year the LGBTQ+ FG calls on participants to stretch and/or radicalize their imaginations to imagine futures which may have been (or which we were told were) previously unimaginable.

- How does queer performance open up the possible bodies (of various sizes, shapes, abilities, races, ethnicities, genders, etc.) that are affirmed, centered, and celebrated in the theatre?
- How does queer performance imagine a theatre that values ingenuity over traditional and costly production elements?
- How can we imagine a pedagogy of theatre that embraces what society has tossed aside?
- How can we queer the idea of a conference itself and imagine new ways to express, challenge, embody, and share our work?
● How can we imagine ways that ATHE’s presence can more mindfully and meaningfully support, uplift, and invest in local artists, businesses, and the indigenous communities of our host city?
● How can we imagine alternate routes into, as well as alternate ways of working within, professional theatre?
● How can we imagine theatre as more than a career?
● How can we imagine a new “professional” theatre that centers and affirms all people, all bodies, all experiences, all perspectives?
● How does the history of LGBTQ+ theatre help us imagine the future of LGBTQ+ theatre?
● How do the historic connections between activism and performance in the LGBTQ+ community help us take action to make our imagined futures real?
● How can we imagine a theatre free from the assumption of Eurocentric values? Can we imagine a theatre that embraces intersectionality?
● How can we imagine a theatre that prioritizes the creation of community and the process of healing?

**Deadlines and General Info:**

● Single paper proposals due November 1st. Please submit to our Google Drive: [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wpXS6tZaqpzcD8krlM9RGOVMNOwVq5fj](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wpXS6tZaqpzcD8krlM9RGOVMNOwVq5fj)
● Panel proposals due December 1st. These must be submitted via the ATHE website.
● For multi-disciplinary panels, make sure to contact all possible sponsoring focus groups in advance of submission.