



The Gay Places Magazine

Featured Artist - New York - Natasha Lee Martin - August 7, 2009

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Well, the heat wave has passed. The summer is trying to maybe wind down a bit. What a great time to go out and see something unique in your own neighborhood or in some city that you may be visiting.

We have so many recommendations on our [website](#). You will have to stack things in order of importance. Our listings are all artist recommended. Who better to tell you where to go than someone who is really involved in the community that they live?

Have a look this weekend. You may just find something you have never seen, in your own back yard!

This week's artist is Natasha Lee Martin. She is an actress. A woman of many characters. I met Natasha on my trip to New York at a little place in Brooklyn for a benefit performance by some local artists. They were amazing! I had not seen my high school friend Gabi for a really long time! We picked up right where we left off. It was such a nice evening. Natasha sold me a raffle ticket and I WON! I won a wonderful gift certificate to the tea house.

We talked about the benefit and got to talking about Natasha as an artist and thought she was really great. So this week we are bringing her to you! Thanks Natasha for sharing your favorite things about New York City with us this week.

Spread the love!

Jen

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PS: Equality, it is what's right!

Featured Artist - Natasha Lee Martin In Her Own Words:

[Natasha Lee Martin](#) began her career at the age of 5 when she was cast in a radio play for WSAR Radio called "The Man in the Snow". Directed by her uncle David Tulli, this was to become a source of inspiration for many roles to come. In the years since Natasha has appeared in television and film roles on FOX, TLC, DISNEY, NIPPON TV JAPAN and many stages throughout Philadelphia, NYC and the east coast. Trained at the Actor's Studio Program in NYC, Natasha also lectures, teaches workshops and private acting coaching. She is a professor of Theatre at several colleges and universities in the tri-state area.

Natasha has performed in many productions over the years. In our conversation with her, she elaborated on portrayal of LGBT characters in theatre:

I played Garnet McIit (the butch dyke detective) in "The Well of Horniness" by Holly Hughes a few years ago. Holly Hughes came to see the show and had dinner with the cast and she was really lovely. When I asked her what she thought of my slapstick portrayal of Garnet and Holly said "I was drunk when I wrote it. I thought you did a great job" she was being very modest at the time.

There is also a role I played that would be cool to mention is when I was cast as Al/Kate Bornstein from "Hidden A Gender" (book- Gender Outlaw- She is now writing a new version "The Next Generation"; the role of Herculine was originally played by Justin Bond (Kiki and Herb) and directed by Noreen Barnes.)

Since I played such roles like the transgendered Al/Kate there has been a shift in consciousness through the accessibility of the once underground performance of LGBT and Queer characters with the development of festivals such as the fringe in NYC and Philly and the Humana some of which I have worked in. Now previously limited producible work is happening in the streets, cafes and found spaces. Media constructs such as twitter, facebook, etc, have enabled these artists to have a mass level of marketing and exposure to the mainstream previously unattainable.

It is so refreshing to see people like Justin Bond doing Kiki and Herb on such a grand scale touring the world. It is inspiring to see this visceral response by the community when they have an outlet for their voice in order to overcome those limitations once observed in a conservative theatrical regime.