

Brava! for Women in the Arts

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**WORLD PREMIERE OF KEVIN SEAMAN'S
*#femMASCULINE: A Queer Journey Through Digital Desire***

San Francisco Queer Artist Stages World Premiere of Interdisciplinary Cabaret Show Addressing Toxic Masculinity

(San Francisco, CA, September 2019) This October, San Francisco queer artist, cultural worker, and Brava Theater Center artist-in-residence Kevin Seaman will debut their first ever solo performance, *#femMASCULINE*, at Brava Theater Center's newly renovated storefront cabaret theater.

A combination of theatre, visual media, song, and dance, the solo performance brings to light the toxicity of the gay digital experience through the lense of Seaman's own journey exploring gender and sexuality alongside the evolution of online dating platforms.

The performance even features its own app – The MAN – created specifically for the performance with designer Jolene Engo. The MAN may seem like any other gay dating app, but it has been designed to reflect the rules of toxic (or patriarchal) masculinity that Seaman must navigate if they want to gain access to the hyper-masculine world of gay male sexuality.

With their personal stories woven into the script, Seaman's interactions with and through The MAN repeatedly face audiences with the halting, confusing, and hurtful effects that surface when internet anonymity and toxic masculinity collide. These interactions become even more complicated as Seaman layers in their experience over the last seven years as drag queen LOL McFiercen.

"Using a dating apps is like window shopping, and people can quickly become reduced to a series of pixels and code" said Kevin Seaman when asked about the environment most gay men enter into when cruising online. "Behind the safety of a digital wall, so many gay men use hurtful language to describe their desires and to engage in conversation. People turn to these apps to find love and community; not racism, misogyny and femme-phobia."

Seaman has also begun to craft community programs to address issues of toxic masculinity with the Community Events program at STRUT, San Francisco AIDS Foundation's community and wellness center at the heart of the Castro. *All The T About That D: Drag Queens Talk Trade* features LOL McFiercen alongside the male alter egos of local drag queens in conversation about dating, hook ups, and "the

apps.” One game asks the queens to say “Yass or Pass” on dating app language like “str8 acting” and “no strings attached.” - Kevin Seaman

Nonprofit counseling agency Queer LifeSpace has been another community organization deeply involved with the creation of *#femMASCULINE* – but on a far more personal level.

“Queer LifeSpace offered me much needed mental health services when I couldn’t afford them” said Seaman. “Working with their counselors on issues related to my gender identity and expression allowed me to better express and accept myself. Talk therapy is one of the most powerful tools for self transformation. The other, of course, is live performance.” - Kevin Seaman

Since its first preview performance as part of the National Queer Arts Festival in June 2017, *#femMASCULINE* has staged eight work-in-progress and excerpt showings at Brava Theatre Center, Groundswell Community and Retreat Center, STRUT, SOMArts, and THE TANK in New York. Developed while in residence at Brava, the performance has received support from the San Francisco Arts Commission and Theatre Bay Area’s CA\$H grant program.

#femMASCULINE opens on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at the Brava Cabaret with a special opening night party with DJ Rob Fatal.

Brava! for Women in the Arts presents & Diamond Wave present
#femMASCULINE

Conceived by Kevin Seaman
Written by John Caldon & Kevin Seaman

Creative direction by Beatrice Thomas
Theatrical and movement direction by Ryan Marchand

October 3-5 & 10-12, 2019
All shows at 8pm

Brava’s Cabaret
2773 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
brava.org

***#femMASCULINE* Description:** In the rigidly binary world of gay men, one horny drag queen wants it all! In their debut solo performance, Kevin Seaman (LOL McFiercen) mashes drag, media, song and dance to explore the toxicity of the contemporary gay digital experience. *#femMASCULINE* is a mixed media, millennial meme machine that takes a wrecking ball to gender norms, leaving no binary intact, save one: be there, or be square!

Dates/Times:

Thursday, October 3 – Opening Night + After Party with DJ Rob Fatal

Friday, October 4

Saturday, October 5

Thursday, October 10

Friday, October 11

Saturday, October 12

Tickets:

\$40 reserved table seating (\$50 on opening night)

This seating option gets you up close and personal, and is a great option for groups of two to four!

\$20 general admission (\$30 on opening night)

Available in advance at brava.org

More about Kevin Seaman: Kevin Seaman is an interdisciplinary performance artist and cultural worker exploring queer identity and drag culture at the intersection of gender and sexuality. They received the 2017 Americans for the Arts Emerging Leader Award, were named one of SF Weekly's 16 Artists to Watch in 2016, and participated in the Association for Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) inaugural Leadership Fellows Program. At home in nightlife venues, theatres and large-scale institutions, their work has been presented internationally at The Stud, CounterPulse, YBCA, Frameline, the Tank NYC, the Austin International Drag Festival, SATTELITE ART SHOW Miami, the National Queer Arts Festival, Stockholm's Proud Performing Arts (Stolt Scenkonst), the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and Yale School of the Arts.

More about LOL McFiercen: Queering girlish femininity in a frenzy of rainbows, unicorns and sparkles, LOL McFiercen has performed locally at venues like the Stud, Oasis, El Rio and The Edge as well as internationally at Mothership Reno, SQUERRRRL Los Angeles, the Austin International Drag Festival, the National Queer Arts Festival, Stockholm's Stolt Scenkonst, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. LOL's advocacy efforts (including her work championing for LGBTQ+ inclusivity with Lyft alongside The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and the National Center for Lesbian Rights) have also been featured in The Advocate, BuzzFeed and Vice.com.