



dance
studies
association

LESBIAN DANCE-THEORY PARTY

In August 2022 a US Congress Woman, in resisting President Biden's student loan forgiveness, said that she did not want her tax dollars funding "Karen's daughters degree in lesbian dance theory." Yet, resistance to LGBTQIA+ materials, to queer theory, and to critical thinking are happening throughout the world. Dance is doing.

We know that policies that appear to be about gender are always already about race, and policies about race are always already about gender. So restrictions against critical race theory, and gender, queer and trans studies, are connected to attacks on trans rights and the US rollback on abortions rights. All of these aim to impede and control bodily autonomy and self-determination. As dancers and dance scholars we've created a field deeply invested in bodily autonomy. By celebrating our critical thought as a field, we recommit to the protection of these principles and celebrate them loudly in the spaces we work within.

Fun and funny but not frivolous. Part dance party, part celebration of lesbian dance theory - and as a resistance to current attacks on academic freedom. "Lesbian dance theory" is both a specific thing and an umbrella frame for the interlinked, anti-oppression of LGBTQIA+ people and ideas. A party for lesbian dance theory is also and always a party for queer communities of color and a critique of how whiteness polices dancing bodies and academic spaces.

The Dance Studies Association hosted a collaborative, spontaneous Lesbian Dance-Theory Party at the 2022 DSA conference (Vancouver BC). We are not done. We propose this party as a way to raise funds for DSA and its efforts to re-center minoritized voices throughout the field of dance studies, to amplify lesbian dance theory and theorists, and to bring scholarship to the party (and vice versa).

We see this as a series of regional gatherings, asking the least vulnerable among us to host. This Lesbian Dance-Theory Party is about solidarity and release on the dance floor. These events are a partnership between DSA, publishers, venues, DSA members as local planners, and in support of local queer dance communities. As the Dance Studies Association grows, we find that our platform has power and our message has weight. DSA is committed to the field of dance studies as a place of radical inclusion and political possibility. Our dancing bodies must enact stated values, drawing words off of paper and people into community.

WILL YOU HOST A LESBIAN DANCE-THEORY PARTY AS AN AFTER/PRE PARTY FOR YOUR FALL DEPARTMENT SHOW(S)?

**CAN'T PARTY, BUT WANT TO SUPPORT?
MAKE A DONATION TO DSA IN SUPPORT OF LESBIAN DANCE THEORY PARTYING.**

WWW.DANCESTUDIESASSOCIATION.ORG

#CITELESBIANDANCETHEORISTS



INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOSTING A LESBIAN DANCE-THEORY PARTY

- When is your fall departmental show?
- Who is your team of planners? The team should include DSA members (new members welcome!) so that this event is an ethical sharing of leadership responsibilities and in clear alignment with DSA's stated values.
- Is this an afterparty or a pre-party? We imagine that this event is approximately 1 hour in duration.
- Identify a local LGBTQIA+ organization to split funds raised (half to DSA/half to an organization you've identified).
 - The DSA funds will support general operations of the organization. To learn more about DSA, our values and our programs, visit our website. Membership starts at just \$25/year and we are working constantly to undo financial barriers to entry, but this means that we need to be strategic about income otherwise (and here we are, doing just that).
 - What should the other half of the funds go towards and how does that align with DSA's values/mission? How can DSA's platform hold up another organization - simultaneously holding space and offering money.
- Date and Venue. Let's just make sure that this doesn't interfere with any previously scheduled DSA events.
- Accessibility. One of the things that DSA's Board is working on throughout 2023 is clear policy and guidelines about accessibility as a social justice directive. This is a large part of how we gather. Let's think through the accessibility of your event together: including the space, the cost, communication to attendees, and more.
- Lesbian Dance Theory, itself. This dance party is periodically interrupted by brief readings of Lesbian Dance Theory. We think and we dance. We listen and then we move. DSA will provide you with these readings and also connect you with academic presses/publishers, who would be thrilled to support your event and promote their recently published Lesbian Dance Theory/theorists. We'll explain this further if you're confused. Trust us - it's awesome and fuels the dance floor.
- Music. We have a growing Lesbian Dance Theory playlist ready for sharing via Spotify, but also know that queer moving and music can be local and specific. Let us help if you need it, otherwise we can't wait to hear how you move.
- Marketing Materials. We got you! We will provide digital files for social networks, emailing, and printing. You are responsible for any printing that you choose to do. We will promote your event through our networks and help spread the word.
- Ticketing. This is, indeed, a fundraiser. Ticketing will run through the DSA website (at an agreed upon price for entry, as it will vary by event/location).
- Documenting. Photographer and/or videographer. Archive it as a matter of politics. We were here and dance endures.

EMAIL US NOW & LET'S GET STARTED!

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