



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Misfit Choreographer Turned Comedian Presents 1st Show at the PIT

“Gay Stuff” features sardonic sketches, stand-up, sassy walks & political subtext

New York, NY - Comically inclined choreographer **Jamie Benson** joins forces with **Peoples Improv Theater** (PIT) to present **Gay Stuff** on May 15, 2018, from 10-11pm (\$8 tickets). Benson, and his outsider comedic team, are debuting 3 sketches, 2 stand-up sets, and some sassy/stupid walks for the PIT's *Striker* main stage. *Gay Stuff* will dissect internalized homophobia, oppressive bro prerogative, and marginalizing gay cliches, but like, with dick jokes.

“It shouldn't, and may not, work. You'll have a ton to talk about either way.” Jamie Benson

Debuting 2 sketches, Jamie Benson will present **Gay-splainer**, a new app for people who desperately need a bitchy best friend, and **Avenue WTF**, a couples counseling session that takes non-binary to a whole new level.

With the goal of bringing fresh funny bones to his team, Benson scouted for oddball creatives in local improv and sketch writing classes over the past 6 months. This new comic team originates from the D.C. political scene, modern dance landscape, evangelical Christian world, and more. **Christine Driscoll**, an environmental policy fugitive, will present **Mother's Maiden Name**, a performative rant about password security microaggressions. **Experimental Bitch**, Hannah Goldman, will introduce a stand up set and the sketch **Safe Space**, exhibiting bro culture as both endangered and homoerotic- performed entirely by women.

Bored with the pretense of hot moves and high art, Benson, steeped in both modern and commercial dance cultures, may be more of a comedy nerd than dance-lover. After attending a modern dance-based school in Seattle, and auditioning with sexy ass music video types in Los Angeles, Benson has felt continually miscast in his own life. This is the first time he's venturing away from dance to write, produce, and perform a purely comedic, live event.



Jamie Benson, proclaimed “one of the strongest, hottest contemporary dancers of his generation” by critic Lewis Segal, and “crazy” by The Dance Enthusiast’s Christine Jowers, is a choreographer and Cornish College of the Arts drop out. Called “Chaplin-like” by Backstage West, Benson danced in LATC’s *Shag with a Twist*, the film *Rent*, McDonald’s *Mario Art* commercial, TV show *Dance360* and Rudy Perez Ensemble. Described as “insightful and irreverent” by LA Weekly’s Ann Haskins, Benson’s lowbrow meets highbrow choreographic work has been presented at the Luckman Complex, Highways Performance Space, Bootleg Theater, NY Transit Museum, Triskelion Arts and Proctor’s Theater. Jamie Benson has been featured in the New York and LA Times, Dance Magazine, Good Magazine, Phaidon Press’ *Wild Art*, and awarded funding from the Brooklyn Arts Council. His films are official selections of the Cinedans Film Festival, 2015 Athens Video Dance Project, Video Danza Havana, and Bucharest International Dance Film Festival. Learn more at jamiebenson.com.



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Deemed "*Best Improv Classes*" by New York Magazine, the **Peoples Improv Theater** is dedicated to fostering the art of comedic theater through coursework in performance, professional writing and production. The theater presents original comedic shows seven nights a week; and a corporate and educational workshop program that offers team building, leadership, and business training.

The PIT was founded by Ali Reza Farahnakian in 2002, in a small black box theater located at 154 W29th Street. After outgrowing its original home, They moved to 123 E 24th Street on December 31, 2010, opening the PIT Striker and PIT Underground theaters. In 2015, the original PIT theater on W 29th Street was renamed The PIT Loft, officially becoming their third theater.



Hannah Goldman is an actor, writer, director, voiceover artist, and style influencer based in Brooklyn. She has trained at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Goldman has performed at the Magnet Theater, WOW Cafe/Theater, Greenpoint Gallery, and HappyLucky no.1. She is currently working on a web series about the millennial lifestyle, as well as a dystopian podcast series about the Kardashians. Goldman is also a proud member of Experimental Bitch Presents.



Christine Driscoll is a podcast producer who worked on Gimlet Media's *Every Little Thing* and Surprisingly Awesome. She is currently producing the first season of a musical advice podcast to come out this summer. Before working in podcasts, Christine was a sustainable policy consultant in D.C. where she wrote about renewable energy, climate agreements, and how to make and sell a more sustainable diaper. She has been performing for nearly three years but still has not reached the high theater of the Congressional Subcommittee hearings that inspired her to enter comedy. Learn more at christine-driscoll.com.

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