

PLAYBILL®

The Hudson Mainstage Theatre
TomorrowLand Productions & Pop Up Theater
Hollywood, CA



**TomorrowLand Productions & Pop Up Theater
The Hudson Mainstage Theatre**

PRESENT

DOPE QUEENS

Written by
Grafton Doyle

with

**Donzell Lewis
Michael Antosy
Malaya**

Scenic Design
Tom Buderwitz

Artistic Direction
Melanie Weisner

Sound Design
Cricket S. Myers

Lighting Design
Andrew Schmedake

Stage Management
Kajal Ardestani

Costuming
Sasha Markgraf

Produced by
Julio Lopez Velasquez
John Reyes
Melanie Weisner

Dramaturgy
Elizabeth Wong

Casting
Harley Kaplan

Directed by
Grafton Doyle

CAST

Cast Members

Goldie Donzell Lewis
Blake Michael Antosy
Angel Malaya

THE REALNESS OF DOPE QUEENS

DOPE QUEENS takes us to real places inhabited by characters inspired by real people, grappling with hardcore real-life problems tempered by practical survival strategies masterfully (and humorously) explored by Playwright Director Grafton Doyle in his dark comedy about three misfits living hard on the margins.

The backdrop of DOPE QUEENS is real. If you are heading to an upscale mall or to a well-known San Francisco theatre or museum, you may well quicken your pace to pass quickly through the gritty streets of The Tenderloin District, notorious haven for prostitutes, drug dealers, and transients. The TL is also on the National Registry of Historic Places.

It is a diverse place with a long history as a center of alternate sexualities predating even the Castro District. It's the site of historic confrontations such as the Compton Cafeteria riot that took place in August of 1966 when police tried to arrest a popular drag queen. This uprising initiated the formation of the Gay Activist Alliance, and predates the seminal Stonewall Riots in New York City by two years.

Doyle sets his play in The Loin because it's also a place of second chances with the possibility of redemption. When night falls in the TL, transgender women can find acceptance, belonging -- and work! A 2016 study showed that sex workers who identified as transgender women and trans women of color were adept at overcoming discrimination while working the streets of the TL in the sex trade.

(FYI, the other big employer of transgender people happens to the U.S. Military, with an estimated 15,000 active duty, and an estimated 138,000 trans veterans, despite President Donald Trump's March 2018 memo banning trans people from military service.)

If you aren't reading this, you are probably looking at the set, which is a recreation of a room that also exists in real life. It's located on Polk Street in a Single-Room Occupancy hotel. Such rooms can be rented for short terms, usually on a week-to-week basis. Known as S.R.O.s, these hotels can be the most affordable choice for new immigrants, low-wage earners and transient labor. This type of housing can make all the difference in the lives of recovering addicts and alcoholics, domestic abuse survivors, and folks just down on their luck struggling to get back on their feet. The character of Goldie is besotted by such a place. For her, it's chance at a real home, a good place in which to nest and create a family of her own choosing. And here's the million-dollar question --

Can a romantic idealized notion of the chosen family become a reality?

And here's another million-dollar question:

Can this seedy and blotch-stained room be a real home?

A typical S.R.O. is a single 8 x 10 foot room with a small washbasin, no kitchen, with a shared toilet, and showers down the hallway. Rules usually restrict occupancy to two people. Which forces residents to sneak in extra friends or relatives -- an idea Doyle uses as an effective story complication in the play, when the transgender character of Angel, after a stint in jail, arrives to stay. Can Angel and Blake change their lives and live their dreams? Will they? These are questions posed by the play, and the playwright has us rooting for them to succeed.

THE REALNESS OF DOPE QUEENS

Adding to this realness, and to the humanity -- a donut shop! It's featured prominently in the play. BOB'S DONUTS is located at 1621 Polk Street, famous for their apple fritters and specializing in the bigger-than-your-head gigantic donut dipped in chocolate with multi-colored sprinkles. In the play, there's a nightclub called DIVAS -- also a real place, this one located on Post Street. DIVAS only just closed for good in April of this year, after 31 years in business.

More realness. There's a prison often mentioned in the play. A real place located in San Jose, California -- Elmwood Correctional Facility, which includes Elmwood Men's State Prison, housing approximately 2,800 medium and minimum-security male inmates. Elmwood has a women's prison, and it provides protective custody housing for gay men, T-Girls, and other vulnerable people who need separation from the general prison population.

(FYI. In real life, nearly 1 in 6 transgender people, including 21 percent of transgender women, have been incarcerated at some point in their lives. Black transgender women, 47 percent. A recent statistical study showed that black trans women are victimized and abused by other prisoners at a rate 10 times higher than prisoners in the general population. And transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, face the highest rates of murder and homelessness.)

(FYI. In real life, there have been ten murders of trans women of color this year 2019. Ashanti Carmon and Ashanti Carmon killed in the same Maryland neighborhood. Muhlaysia Booker was found dead in Dallas after a brutal mob beating. Two weeks later, and less than a mile away, Chynal Lindsey found murdered. Claire Legato was shot in the head in front of a Cleveland, Ohio home. Other trans women killed this year -- Michelle Tamika Washington, fatally shot in Philadelphia; Paris Cameron, shot in Detroit; Chanel Scurlock shot in June in North Carolina; and Laylee Polanco, an Afro-Latina woman found dead while in solitary confinement at Rikers Island Jail in New York. The danger for trans women and trans women of color is all too real.)

Also very real -- the two trans women in the play -- they exist.

They are out there, somewhere.

WHO'S WHO



Donzell Lewis

as Goldie

is an actor, comedian, drag queen, and educator originally from Richmond, VA. He holds an MFA in Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University and graduated from the improv programs at iO West and Upright Citizens Brigade, Los Angeles. He was a cast member of Second City Hollywood's inaugural Bob Curry Diversity Fellowship and Showcase, and is currently on the Second City house team *Bandwagon*. Recently, he had the honor of winning the honorable mention award for Excellence in Theatre Education from the American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards. He also won grand prize in UCB's Drag Race competition as his queen Layali Sunshine, the warrior princess of drag, whose specialty includes show-stopping lip syncs and performing martial arts in heels. You can catch Donzell recurring as Matt in Brat TV's comedy series, *Boss Cheer*. In his free time, Donzell trains in martial arts and cross-fit while listening to Britney Spears.



Michael Antosy

as Blake

is thrilled to be part of the world premiere of *Dope Queens*. LA Credits: *Arsenic and Old Lace* (The Odyssey), *Face Divided* (Hollywood Fringe), *Sexual Lives of Savages* (Skylight Theatre), *Sovereign Body* (The Road). Michael's TV/Film credits can be found on his IMDB page. Much appreciation to Melanie, Kajal, the cast and crew for your work and dedication that went into creating this story, and especially Grafton for creating this story, guiding me, and trusting me in this role. Love to my family + kin for all of your continued love and support, especially Mom & Chelsea. Stay in touch!
@michaelantosy



Malaya

as Angel

is making her theatrical debut in *Dope Queens*, but is no stranger to Hollywood, with appearances in film and television such as Warner Bros.' *Batman and Robin* (dir. Joel Schumacher), *Do You Wanna Dance* (dir. Michael A. Nickles), and HBO's *Arli\$\$* to name a few. Malaya's mother brought eight out of ten of her siblings from Vietnam to the U.S. in order to give them a better life. She started performing for family and friends as early as five years old, eventually doing talent shows whenever she had the opportunity at school. Malaya was 15 when she performed in *The Music Man*. Scholarships opened the door for her to venture out of Denver to Los Angeles, where she was able to dive deeper into her crafts through training at The Beverly Hills Playhouse, The Groundlings, The Professional Actors Workshop, Scott Sedita's Acting Studios, Mariko Ballentine's Casting Workshop, and Edge PAC.

Malaya would like to dedicate her performance to all of the Angels and Goldies out there who have been rejected by their worlds. Malaya is a testament to what they could be if they were to have the love and support they deserve for living authentically, bravely, and freely in their truth.

PHOTOS



PHOTOS



Tomorrow Land & **POP UP THEATER**
PRODUCTION CO

DOPE QUEENS

PRESENT
**A WORLD PREMIERE
PLAY**

WRITTEN & DIRECTED
BY GRAFTON DOYLE

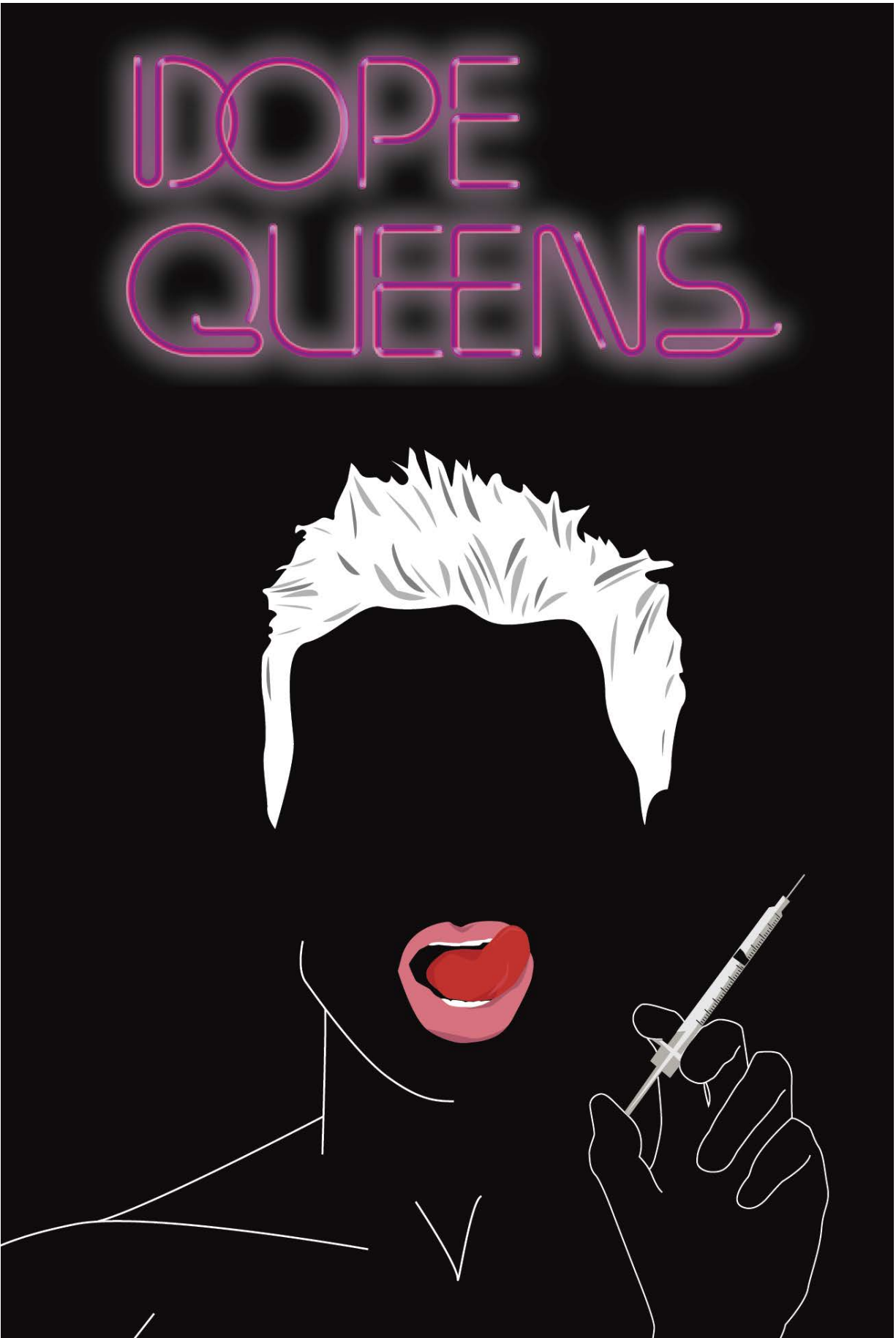
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RED CARPET OPENING NIGHT AUGUST 16TH

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CREW WHO'S WHO



Tom Buderwitz

Tom Buderwitz (Scenic Designer) has designed scenery for Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Wallis-Annenberg Center, The Kennedy Center, The Second City, The Goodman, The Shakespeare Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, Intiman Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Chautauqua Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, Artists Repertory, Laguna Playhouse, PCPA TheatreFest and Utah Shakespeare Festival among many others. He's received six LASA Ovation Awards (31 nominations), three Emmy Award nominations, Art Directors Guild Award nomination. Adjunct faculty at U.S.C. School of Dramatic Arts. Proud member United Scenic Artists 829.



Andrew Schmedake

Andrew Schmedake (Lighting Designer) is a Los Angeles-based lighting designer for theater, dance and live events. Recent credits include designs for *The Last Five Years*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2018 LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award), *Dogfight* (After Hours Theatre Company), *Carmen* (Opera Modesto), *Native Son* (Center Theatre Group), *Beyond the Fluffy* (Gabriel Iglesias), *Steel Magnolias*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The 39 Steps*, *33 Variations* (2017 LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award) (Actors Co-op), *Native Son* (2018 LA Drama Critics Circle Award) (Antaeus Theatre Company), and *The Art Couple* (Sacred Fools). Andrew holds an MFA from the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University and teaches as a guest lecturer in lighting design at UC Santa Barbara.

www.schmedakelightingdesign.com

CREW WHO'S WHO



Cricket S. Myers

Cricket S. Myers (Sound Designer) has earned a Tony Nomination and a Drama Desk Award for her sound design of the Broadway production of *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. She also has designed regionally at the Geffen Playhouse (*The Untranslatable Secrets of Nikki Corona*, *Underneath the Lintels*), The Mark Taper Forum (*Bent*, *Steward of Christendom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*), La Jolla Playhouse (*The Squirrels*, *Guards at the Taj*, *Sideways*), South Coast Rep (*Sweeny Todd*, *Kings*, *A Doll's House*), The Kirk Douglas Theater (*Mutthouse*, *Endgame*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*), Pasadena Playhouse (*Real Women*, *Stoneface*), The Wallis Annenberg (*Sisters in Law*, *Blues in the Night*). Cricket has earned 22 Ovation Nods, as well as winning The Ruth Morley Award from the League of Professional Theater Women, The Kinetic Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatrical Design, an LADCC and a Garland Award in Los Angeles. www.cricketsmyers.com



Sasha Markgraf

Sasha Markgraf (Costume Designer) is an award-winning costume designer who graduated from Columbia College, Chicago in 2016. Sasha has worked in film, TV, and theater. He is so excited to be making his debut as costumer designer for Tomorrowland Productions. Some of Sasha's other work includes *Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles*, *Teen Wolf*, *Cabaret* and *Godspell*. Working with the *Dope Queens* cast and crew has been an amazing honor, and he looks forward to an amazing run. Sasha also would love to thank his amazing parents and boyfriend.



Melanie Weisner

Melanie Weisner (Artistic Director) is thrilled to be joining the talented creative team for *Dope Queens*. She is a co-creator, producer, and director for Pop-Up Theater, which strives to combine the power of theater with the intimacy of film through innovative, immersive performances in the Los Angeles area. She has directed sold-out runs of productions for Culver Studios (*Becky Shaw*, *Pterodactyls*) and Thyme Arts (*Seminar*). She graduated from New York University's musical theater program and in addition to her artistic talents is an internationally-acclaimed professional poker player. www.melanieweisner.com

CREW WHO'S WHO



Kajal Ardestani

Kajal Ardestani (Stage Manager) has been the resident Stage Manager for Pop-up Theater Inc. since 2016. She has studied Stage Management at the California Institute of the Arts and her Professional work spans over 13 years including *Pterodactyls* and *Seminar* with Pop-up Theater Inc., *Puppetzilla Puppet slam* and *Octoberfest Puppet slam* with Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry, and *Godspell* with Cathedral Center of St. Paul. Kajal is honored to be working with this group of talented artists.



Elizabeth Wong

Elizabeth Wong (Dramaturg) is a playwright and director, who has done dramaturgical work on *A Piece of My Heart* (New York University, Manhattan Theatre Club), *Slavs!* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *The Survivor: A Cambodian Odyssey* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), and *American Tet* (Alice Austen Theater). As the 2019 artist-in-residence at SUNY Geneseo, she'll be directing *American Tet* there this Fall. Her recent plays include *Tam Tran Goes To Washington* (East West Players) and *Code of Conduct* (First Flight Productions, 2018 O'Neill Theatre Center finalist). Elizabeth was a Disney Writing Fellow, a Los Angeles Times Op-Ed columnist, and staff writer for the ABC sitcom *All-American Girl* starring Margaret Cho. She holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a BA from USC. She first met Grafton when she taught undergraduate playwriting at USC, and is privileged to be witness to the emergence of this important theatrical voice.

www.elizabethwong.net



Julio Lopez Velasquez

Julio Lopez Velasquez (Producer) is a filmmaker, writer, actor based out of Beverly Hills and Silicon Valley. The founder and CEO of TomorrowLand Production Company, dedicated to telling gripping, emotional, compelling stories for multi-cultural audiences. His films include *Buck Run* starring James Le Gros, Kevin J. O'Connor, Jim Parrack, Nolan Lyons, Amy Hargreaves, Alicia Goranson, Angus Macfadyen; and *Wolfmother* starring Tom Sizemore. Julio is currently producing and developing multiple projects including *Dope Queens* the play and the film, *Prodigal Son*, *Last Call*, *The Boy Who Sold Rocks*. Lopez Velasquez is co-founder and CEO of Intuition Films Productions. In addition to running multiple businesses, including the artisan hot sauce company Formosa, and the real estate firm Global Group Realtors, he is a trained actor, having graduated from The Meisner Technique Studio in San Francisco and holds a degree in computer graphics design and desktop publishing.

CREW WHO'S WHO



John Reyes

John Reyes (Producer) is an organizational management executive with extensive experience in proceduralizing operations. John has been deploying programs in marketing, sales, and operations for over a decade. Working primarily in the professional services sector, his diverse background includes successful partnerships with nationwide legal practices, engineering groups, accounting firms, and television/film production companies. He has worked with public and private organizations ranging from Shriners Hospitals for Children to The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and The California State Bar. He pursued a B.S. in Cognitive Science at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has coached and consulted in effective communication, leadership development, and navigating change. John takes a performance-minded and systems-based approach allowing his broad experience to meld various perspectives into a comprehensive vision.



Grafton Doyle

Grafton Doyle (Playwright/Director) began working as an actor in theatre in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit and Boston. Acting credits include: Becky Shaw (Pop Up Theater), Three Days of Rain (Epsilon Theatre), Spike Heels (Pop Up Theater), The Cottage (Americana Theatre Co.), Almost an Evening (Gennitti's Detroit), The Curious Savage (Mirror Theater), Give It Back (Atwater Playhouse). Serving as Founder & Artistic Director for Pop Up Theater, he has also directed and produced shows that include: Seminar, The Woolgatherer, Becky Shaw, Three Days of Rain, Pterodactyls, and Pizza Man. He has previously worked in creative film development for NBC/Universal at Marc Platt Productions, Warner Bros. at MadChance Productions and Gunpowder & Sky. He holds a B.A. in Narrative Studies and Screenwriting from USC and is currently an MFA 2021 Dramatic Writing Candidate at USC. He is attached to direct the film version of the story of Dope Queens.

LA STAGE ALLIANCE

Let's Create LA.

QUEENSPEAK & GLOSSARY

QUEENSpEaK SPoKeN HErE

The play is salt n peppered with yummy words and juicy conversations specific to the trans world.

“I like to call the dialect Queenspeak, for it’s my intention to communicate the level of vibrancy and regality of this marginalized world.”

-- Grafton Doyle, playwright.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADDERALL – A medication used in treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and used as an aphrodisiac.

ALBINO – A rare congenital disorder causing the lack of melanin in the skin. Absence of pigment in skin, hair, eyes.

BABS – Barbara Anne "Babs" Bunny is a cartoon character from the Warner Brothers animated television series, *Tiny Toon Adventures*. She is the main character of the show along with her best friend, Buster.

BACKPAGE.COM – A classified advertising website. Largest marketplace for buying and selling sex. The FBI shut down the site last year, April 2018.

BENJAMINS – Slang term for the Benjamin Franklin \$100 dollar bill.

BENJAMIN BRATT – Peruvian-American actor and activist. Born in San Francisco. Roles: Demolition Man, Clear & Present Danger, Bound by Honor.

BUICK – Buick is a division of the American automobile manufacturer General Motors.

BUSTER BUNNY – A cartoon character from the Warner Bros. animated television series, *Tiny Toon Adventures*. A main character of the show along with the character of Babs Bunny.

BUSSY – Boy pussy, anus, butthole.

C.O. – Initials for Correctional Officer.

CELLIE – Cellmate.

CLOCK-A-FOOL – To tell it like it is; or to keep a guy in line; or to control a situation with a “client.”

CHINCHILLA – A rodent native to the Andes mountains in South America. Also refers to a type of coat made from the fur of the Chinchilla.

CHROMO – Prison slang for child molester; also sex offender.

CRANK – Low-quality methamphetamine; usually smoked or injected.

DROPOUT – A school-to-prison pipeline that pushes high school students out of class and into the juvenile and criminal justice system.

QUEENSPEAK & GLOSSARY

E & J BRANDY – An American brandy. \$9.99-24.99/bottle.

ELMWOOD – A state prison where certain inmates at risk in the general population are placed; a correctional facility for men and for women.

FRISCO – Colloquial for San Francisco. (Which locals hate).

GLIDE – A social service agency in the Tenderloin providing food, housing assistance, healthcare, family service. They work to stabilize lives and meet basic needs. Also connected to the GLIDE Church.

GREY GOOSE – A brand of vodka produced in France. \$27 to \$47/bottle.

HOLY MACKEREL – The phrase is a euphemism for Holy Mary! To soften the taking of the Madonna's name in vain.

HOMES – Hispanic slang for Homeboy; a male friend from the neighborhood.

JANICE MIRIKITANI – Founding President of GLIDE Memorial Church, poet laureate of San Francisco, with four books of poetry, an activist dedicated to the poor, having created some 87 social programs. Growing up she was interned at a camp in Arkansas with her parents. She is a UCLA graduate.

JOHN DONNE – English poet and cleric in the Church of England. He is considered the pre-eminent representative of the metaphysical poets. His works are noted for their strong, sensual style and include sonnets, love poems, religious poems, Latin translations, epigrams, elegies, songs, satires and sermons.

MARICON – Crude Spanish word for faggot or fairy. Used also to question the masculinity of straight men.

NAMBLA – The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) is a pedophilia and pederasty advocacy organization in the United States.

NAOMI CAMPBELL – An English supermodel, actress. Discovered at age 15. Her runway walk is legendary -- with lots of swaying hip action, grace, and swagger!!!

NATIVE SON – A novel written by the American author Richard Wright. It tells the story of 20-year-old Bigger Thomas, a black youth living in utter poverty in a poor area on Chicago's South Side in the 1930s.

O.R. – Released on one's own recognizance. A judge allows a criminal defendant to be released from custody without posting bail.

OLDSMOBILE – America's oldest car company: rolled out its last car in April 2004, after 106 years in business. It was part of General Motors.

OLYMPIC CLUB – Oldest athletic club in San Francisco. Located on Post Street. The club was sued for excluding women and minorities in 1987, but the club accepted women in 1980 so the lawsuit was dropped. The Lake Course (one of three golf courses) will host the 2028 Ryders Cup.

QUEENSPEAK & GLOSSARY

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE – A 1813 romantic novel of manners written by Jane Austen. Austen's plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage in the pursuit of social standing and economic security.

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY – A type of incarceration that separates a person from the general prison population, to protect them from harm.

QUEEN VICTORIA – Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 until she died in 1901. The 10th longest-reigning monarch of all time. We've had 17 U.S. presidents during the time of her rule.

QUINCEAÑERA – An important milestone in a young Latina's life. Part birthday party, part rite of passage; symbolizes a girl's entrance into womanhood; showcasing her purity and readiness for marriage.

RC COLA – Short for Royal Crown Cola, a soft drink invented in 1905 and still sold today, bottled by Dr. Pepper Snapple Group.

RECOGNIZANCE – Released from custody without have to post bail.

RÉMY MA – Short for Rémy Martin, a brand of French cognac. \$33 - \$38.

RIG – Slang for the paraphernalia used in injecting drugs.

SAN JOSE – A city in Silicon Valley, center of the tech world, in Santa Clara County, California. Population: 1.035 million in 2017.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS – A morning daily newspaper published in San Jose, California. Fifth largest daily newspaper in the U.S.

SCRAPER CAR – Informal term to describe a modified American-made luxury or family car, usually a General Motors model.

SHANK – An improvised prison knife; also a verb meaning to knife someone.

SLAM – Mainlining drugs using a syringe.

STOCKTON – An agricultural city on the San Joaquin River in the middle of California's Central Valley. The city is 90 miles inland from San Francisco.

SUPPOSITORY – A solid form inserted in the rectum, vagina or urethra where it melts to deliver medication.

T-BIRD – Nickname for Ford Thunderbird. Models from 1955-1997, 2003-2005.

TANG PACKETS – A powdered drink mix that comes in packet form, and is poured into water to flavor it. Orange, grape and hibiscus tea flavors.

T-GIRL – A male-to-female transsexual person.

TWEAKER – Slang for someone addicted to methamphetamine.

TWO SPIRIT – A person who identifies as having a masculine and a feminine spirit.

WHACK-A-MOLE – An arcade game. Players use a mallet to hit toy moles randomly popping up from holes. Also, can be used as a euphemism for a crazy person who is all over the place.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dope Queens is a story of real love and friendship of three unlikely dreamers united by their desperation during one summer night in San Francisco. These characters come together because they long to make something meaningful out of their brokenness, hoping to change from their deep pain. It's also a narrative reconstruction of my own experience while living in the margins of society. I like to call the dialect Queenspeak and is my intention to communicate the vibrancy and regality of this decaying world. I do not support reifying stereotypes for the sake of entertainment, however, this was/is the reality for so many on the fringe. These are the kinds of people your parents told you to avoid, and yet, here I was being embraced and loved by this community, while at the same time mostly men of position and power sought to fetishize and exploit such desperation. The characters within this story are living under a unique vibration, something deeply visceral, clamoring for recognition. And it is my hope to convey the love and appreciation that carried me through this meaningful time in my life.

The use of 1950's Doo Wop/Motown Music is intended to reinforce the innocence and timelessness of these extreme lives. There is something dreamlike, a nostalgia for the past, burgeoning forth, calling for life to be reclaimed. Also, the music is just rad.

Grafton Doyle

DOPE QUEENS

Inspired by true events one summer in San Francisco

Find the story at
DopeQueensMovie.com

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Tomorrow Land

P R O D U C T I O N C O .