

## Ryan G. Hinds COMPLETE BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario, Ryan G. Hinds is a uniquely gifted theatre artist and cultural innovator. From 2005 until 2010, Ryan co-founded and operated The ARTWHERK! Collective, a multi-disciplinary art collective which made space and provided opportunities to young and emerging LGBTQ artists in gallery, performance, and club spaces. Identifying roadblocks and institutional barriers in the way of the burgeoning careers of these artists, Ryan oversaw ARTWHERK!'s incredible growth from an initial exhibit in a bookstore attic to showing at the Art Gallery of Ontario. ARTWHERK @ the AGO marked the first official Pride Toronto event at the internationally renowned gallery, with line-ups along Dundas Street and coverage from MTV Canada, CTV, and all Toronto-based print media. Ryan's work with the ARTWHERK! Collective helped young LGBTQ artists with school placements and residencies, provided artistic opportunities to newcomer Canadians, fostered relationships between artists and different communities, promoted artists of color, ensured wheelchair accessibility of spaces, and created social and work spaces that were accessible and welcoming to all, regardless of age, gender, ability, or sexuality. In ensuring that LGBTQ artists of color had a place in Toronto's various art-related spaces, Ryan's efforts through the ARTWHERK! Collective have been unique and effective, helping to launch or solidify the careers of many LGBTQ artists, among the photographer Tanja Tiziana, Nuit Rose founder James Fowler, multi-racial dance crew Ill Na Na Diversity Dance Company, Dora-winning performance artist Tawiah M'Carthy, singers Amai Kuda and Troy Jackson, celebrated visual artists Luis Cisneros, Leo Zuniga, Luis Cisneros, Heather Quinsey, JuliEduard Buxton, Emma Feltham, Hannah Taylor, Matthew Gibson, Claro Cosco, Matthew Walsh, Steve Khan and many more. For the entirety of ARTWHERK! Collective's existence, Hinds and co-founders Christopher Hayden and Chris Jai Centeno operated it on a volunteer basis.

Additionally, Ryan has also provided, donated, discounted, or lent his services as an emcee, performer, speaker, fundraiser, or volunteer to Supporting Our Youth, T.E.A.C.H. (Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia), AIDS Committee of Toronto, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, International Human Rights Day, Salaam Peace Iftar, Blackness Yes, No-One is Illegal, CLGRO/Queer Ontario, the Olivia Chow Gala, Pink Triangle Press, The Crystal Ball Gala 2011, Guelph Queer Equality, Japanese Earthquake Relief, Good For Her, Alameda Theatre Company, student groups at University of Toronto, Ryerson, George Brown, University of Guelph, and Cawthra Park Secondary School, the Public Space Alliance of Canada, Embracing Intersectional Diversity, Racially Visible Action, and many more (including countless independently run special events and fundraisers).

Ryan's performance career spans theatre, musicals, cabaret, dance work, solo shows, collective creation, and spoken word; he has found both critical and audience acclaim in Canada, the US and Brazil, often tackling important subjects such as race or gender through powerful theatrical storytelling

Starting in 1998 with a simple piano cabaret and moving forward through his current two-year stint as Artist-in-Residence, Ryan has a 19-year history with Buddies in Bad Times, (the world's largest and oldest LGBTQ theatre complex). He has collaborated onstage and in workshop with some of Canada's leading theatre artists, such as Sky Gilbert, Daniel MacIvor, Brendan Healy, Evalyn Parry, Montreal duo Gigi L'Amour and Pipi Douleur. As part of his successful two-year Artist residency at Buddies, Ryan created a number of shows, two of which went on to greater acclaim: "Starry Notions", an autobiographical solo show which became a hit at the Annex The-

atre in Summer 2015, and “#KanderAndEbb”, a personal collection of music and monologues that premiered in 2014 and was subsequently remounted in Toronto prior to touring to Montreal’s Mainline Theatre, New York City’s legendary cabaret venue Don’t Tell Mama, and Orlando Fringe Festival.

Ryan became the first black actor to play the lead in the popular punk-rock/musical theatre hybrid “Hedwig & the Angry Inch” (also notable is that Ryan is one of only a very few people to have been in both the movie version and a stage production of this popular musical.)

Both audiences and critics have praised the daring, original, and skillful theatre he has brought to our stages, including “We Will Rock You” at Magnus Theatre, “MacArthur Park Suite: A Disco Ballet”; lemonTree creations’ “MSM [men seeking men]”; Sky Gilbert’s Dora-nominated “The Bewitching of Max Gunther”; “MacArthur Park Suite: A Disco Ballet”; “Bent”; Ken Gass in “The Trial of Ken Gass”; and “The Wiz” with David Warrack; assisting Brendan Healy on “Little Pretty & the Exceptional” at Factory Theatre;

In 2007, Ryan was commissioned by Nuit Blanche and the Art Gallery of Ontario to co-create a continuous 12-hour live-music installation performance with Ina unt Ina and Will Munro. This performance installation set an AGO attendance record: 16, 000 in a single night, earning its creators rave reviews. In 2012, he returned to Nuit Blanche for another marathon 12-hour performance in Douglas Coupland’s critically-acclaimed Museum of the Rapture.

He has toured festivals extensively, including Vancouver’s Sunset Beach Festival, LA Pride; and six cities in Brazil, culminating in a performance at Rio de Janeiro’s 70,000-spectator Sambadromo venue during Carnival.

As a writer, Ryan served as Editor of CrewMagazine.com, and for 5 years, his column “Toronto at Night” was a popular feature of the newspaper Xtra!. His popular live talk show ran for a year and a half at the Flying Beaver, and he is the former curator of the weekly queer performance salon Granny Boots at the Gladstone Hotel. He co-hosted six annual editions of the Feminist Porn Awards, and is featured in Vivek Shraya’s film and book “What I Love About Being Queer”; the portraiture book “Human Canvas Project”, and the inaugural edition of “10x10”, for which he was photographed by Tanja-Tiziana. He has performed with Liza Minnelli, Todrick Hall, Debbie Reynolds, Lady Bunny, and many more.

He has been recognized with 6 BroadwayWorld Award Nominations, an Arts & Culture recognition from Mayor Barbara Hall, 1996’s Music Theatre Mississauga Award, 1998’s Mississauga Citizen of the Year (Youth), 2004’s Youthline Arts & Culture Award, 2011’s Community One Foundation \$10,000 Steinert & Ferreiro Award, 2013’s Inspire Award Nomination (Person of the Year), and in 2015, Summerworks’ Theatre Centre Emerging Artist (Honorary Mention).

Throughout his career, he has prioritized finding ways to make art/theatre opportunities easier to access for emerging artists, creating stories that could bring to the forefront both artists of color and LGBTQ artists, and balancing a consistent commitment to equality and diversity paired with an equally consistent commitment to artistic excellence.