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THRESHOLD THEATER PRESENTS

OUR PRIDE MONTH OFFERING IN THE 2023-24 NEW PLAY READING SERIES

“SERVICE INDUSTRY” by Ezra Brain & J. Andrew Norris

PERFORMING AT THE BLACK HART OF SAINT PAUL
1415 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55104

Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (May 1, 2023)—Threshold Theater announces full casting and production details for a play to kick off Pride month in our new play reading series in partnership with The Black Hart of Saint Paul. The play, “Service Industry,” written by Ezra Brain & J. Andrew Norris will take place on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7pm.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

Service Industry follows Lily, an aspiring comedian, as she takes a day job at Bases Loaded, a sports bar. She quickly falls into a relationship with Kristen, an actress who has drifted away from the profession, and spends more energy at her “money” job than her artistic job. Throughout the play, Lily is forced to reckon with balancing survival with artistic passions, ultimately asking the question everyone is forced to reckon with; when is it time to give up?

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS:

Ezra Brain & J. Andrew Norris met at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and have been collaborating ever since. Their work has been seen at Florida Studio Theatre, Passaic Preparatory Academy, the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol, UNC-Greensboro, Walking Shadow Readers Theatre, Montverde Academy -- where they served as playwrights-in-residence – and the Tank. Their play *Something’s Coming* was a Finalist for the 2020 Jewish Plays Project National Playwriting Contest, and their play *The End of the World and Other Small Tragedies* was a semifinalist for the Future of Playwriting Prize. They have also won awards for their work for high-school audiences in New Jersey and Florida. J. Andrew resides in North Carolina, and Ezra is based in New York.

Ezra Brain (She/They) is a transfemme multi-disciplinary artist and activist. As a theatre artist, her writing has been performed at the Tank, Walking Shadow Readers Theatre, Passaic Preparatory Academy, the New Masculinities Festival, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol, the Art Garage, Dixon Place, Texas A&M University, and Stay True Theatre. Her



Minneapolis, MN

play *Something's Coming* (co-written with J. Andrew Norris) was a 2020 Finalist for the Jewish Playwriting Contest from the Jewish Plays Project, and her play "Arden" was a 2021 FMM Longlist Prize for Works in Heightened Language, and "A Faerie Tale of New York" is a 2022 FMM Special Jury Prize Winner for Works in Heightened Language. Ezra's essays and articles have been published in 10 countries and 6 languages and can be read in *Left Voice*, *Howlround*, *La Izquierda Diario*, *TruthOut*, *Screen Speck*, *Litro Magazine*, and *Opposing Viewpoints*. As a filmmaker, Ezra's work has been accepted into multiple festivals around the world including *OutSouth* and *Queer Fear Film Festival*. She is a founding member of *Bread and Roses* and an editor of *Left Voice*.

J. Andrew Norris is a writer, teacher, composer, and actor. His works have been developed and performed with theatres such as Florida Studio Theatre, the Jewish Plays Project, *Walking Shadow Readers Theatre*, *Literacy Theatre*, and *The Studio Theatre at Tierra del Sol*. He took part in Florida Studio Theatre's Apprentice Program, serving as the Artistic and Directing Fellow in the 2019-2020 season. As a composer, he has written music for various short films; most notably for "What Being A Woman...", which had its premiere at the *OutSouth Film Festival* in Durham, NC. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he received his BA in Drama, with a minor in Musical Theatre. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, reading biographies, and looking at pictures of dogs on the internet.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

David Schlosser is a founder and Managing Director of Threshold Theater. Besides his work with Threshold, David has acted with many companies including *Theater in Round*, *Theater Unbound*, *The Flower Shop Project*, *Teatro Del Pueblo*, and *Park Square* to name a few. David has directed for *Joking Apart Theater*, *Freshwater Theater's Festival of Awkward Moments*, and *Cromulent Shakespeare Company*. David has also written the one man shows *Screwed²*, *Their Century*, and *The Real Christmas Carol*.

Schlosser will lead a cast features the talents of Heather Burmeister as Lily, Kate Cosgrove as Gabriella, Kaz Fawkes as Chris, Annie Hoffman as Kristen, and MJ Kedrowski-Leffler as J.

TICKET INFORMATION

SERVICE INDUSTRY

Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
at The Black Hart of Saint Paul (1415 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55104)

Tickets: \$10 at the door. Masks encouraged.

ABOUT THRESHOLD THEATER

Founded in 2019, we are committed to creating a place for the voices of the LGBTQ community to tell their story, no matter their age, race, religion, gender, ability or sexuality. Our history did not start in 1969. We have been around since the beginning of time, and we will be here until time's end. We are every religion, every race, from every nation, and we live in every state. Our stories are the stories of humanity. **To learn more about Threshold and its mission, please check out our website:**

www.thresholdtheatermpls.com

Support LGBTQIA+ theater. Support artists & new plays. Support Threshold!