NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release Contact: David Jordan Harris

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 ***Looking for God in Drag***

**Minneapolis**—The *Rimon* Artist Salon Series opens its thirteenth season with *I Sing for Bathsheba: Looking for God in Drag* onSunday, November 24 (2 p.m.) at Studio Z (275 E. 4th Street, Suite 200, St. Paul). The performance/dialogue features playwright and performance artist Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus in conversation with artist-scholar Noam Sienna. Admission is $12 ($6 for ages 36 and under) and may be reserved by contacting the *Rimon* office at 952-381-3449 or at [www.rimonMN.org](http://www.rimonMN.org). Sign language interpretation is available upon request with 10 days advance notice.

Queer theater artist Max Brumberg-Kraus is drawn to drag as a way to subvert conventional gender roles and rules and to provoke critical self-awareness. Embracing the fluid and incongruous in his monologue series *I Sing for Bathsheba*, Max explores the intersection of drag performance and iconic texts from the Hebrew Bible—especially the voices of women as written by men. Max invites audiences into his heightened performance of gender and his search for the sacred, while considering marginalized voices in our midst and in our past.

Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus is a playwright, poet, and performance artist currently based in the Twin Cities. He graduated from Beloit College with majors in theatre and classics. He received departmental honors in theatre for his play, *Henosis,* about the after-lives of the ancient poet Sappho and 20th French gay pornographer J.D. Cadinot.  In 2014 he co-founded the House of Larva Drag Co-Operative, and from 2015-16 he served as the Artistic Director of Beloit Independent Theatre Experience. Since moving to Minnesota, he has engaged in a number of theatre projects--from performing as a queer Isaiah the Prophet for Day of the Dead Poet Slam and the Book Worms puppet show at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre to drag acts with Patrick's Cabaret, Pangea, 20% Theatre Company, and others. Max was a member of the 2017-18 [Arts Organizing Institute at Pangea World Theatre](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.pangeaworldtheater.org%2farts-organizing-institute&c=E,1,1B2ifBGlTVPrd76dCuZFwRkMh9mGzlM1WcPYeSqmGDaunYorTQA-3-i7W_7FJ_xct0Fd4e-iu344IP5Uxqr4F1UUYoX54HZxT8WKV5QSELaox54d5aoBHiTvfw,,&typo=1) and is one of six Emerging Leader Fellows with ARC (Arts, Religion, Culture). He works in marketing at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities where he is pursuing an MA in Theology and the Arts.

Noam Sienna is a Jewish educator, artist, and doctoral candidate in Jewish History and Museum Studies at the University of Minnesota. He also holds degrees in Anthropology and Religious Studies from Brandeis University and the University of Toronto. He has taught and lectured about Jewish cultural heritage at academic and community venues around the world, and he has published articles about Jewish history, culture, and art in both scholarly and popular journals. He is the editor of the recent publication, *A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969*.

The *Rimon* Artist Salons have been called “one of the leading series of Jewish events in the country.” Since 2007, Salons have investigated dance, photography, slam poetry, popular music, puppetry, glass arts, fiction, papercutting, multimedia installation, film, architecture, theater, painting, video, and non-fiction.

The series is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. It is also funded in part by gifts from Bruce Goodman, the Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt Foundation, and an anonymous gift in memory of David Tychman.

*Rimon* is an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.

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