

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 30th, 2021

PR Contact: Sabrina Wenske

sabrina@nakedempirebouffon.org

(510) 858 - 9930

**NAKED EMPIRE BOUFFON COMPANY PRESENTS
HOW TO CATCH A KAREN
VIA VIDEO-ON-DEMAND FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

Oakland, CA. (October, 2021). Back by popular demand, Naked Empire Bouffon Company is delighted to present their hit production from the Summer of 2021, **HOW TO CATCH A KAREN**, for a limited time only. From December 13th through January 16th, viewers can watch this original, one-person comedy that satirizes white supremacist delusion among progressives. Stream **HOW TO CATCH A KAREN** via Video-On-Demand with your family this holiday season and add new meaning to dreaming of a white Christmas.

HOW TO CATCH A KAREN brings you into the home of the immortal trickster witch, Baba Yaga, while she leads viewers through an irreverent hands-on tutorial in Karen “catching”. But she’s not just looking for any generic Karen; Baba Yaga’s specialty is finding the most insidious, in-denial Karens of all: the progressive Karen. With sage advice and cautionary tales, she whisks spectators to familiar worlds where progressive Karens thrive unchecked, like instagram feeds, kinky parties, immigrant households, college campuses, tech conferences, and even tear ducts themselves. **HOW TO CATCH A KAREN** is a tour de force of shapeshifting, charm, and savagery as Baba Yaga makes it clear that catching progressive Karens is dangerous, wildly fun, and crucial for a more just future.

HOW TO CATCH A KAREN is available as Video-On-Demand Monday December 13th, 2021 until Sunday, January 16th, 2022.

Co-creator and performer, **Sabrina Wenske** says, “I am excited to make a show that complicates the popular stereotypes of a ‘Karen’. We all have seen the entitled tantrums, that iconic wedge haircut, and the weaponization of whiteness. Many of us believe we’d never emulate these traits. This show challenges that belief and looks at the potential for Karen-like tendencies inside all of us.”

The creative team for **HOW TO CATCH A KAREN** features **Sabrina Wenske** (co-creator/performer), **Nathaniel Justiniano** (co-creator/director), **Lindsay A. Jenkins (L.J.)** (collaborative dramaturg), **Lena Sands** (costume design), and **Leanna Keyes** (streaming producer and designer).

Sabrina Wenske is a multi-award-winning theatre actor and deviser in the Bay Area. She is also a queer, first generation child of Polish refugees tapping into her cultural roots and personal experience in order to craft this fresh take on Baba Yaga, and the many characters she conjures up. As Naked Empire's Program Director, she produced and performed in a two-year series of original monthly shows called TOO SOON. With Naked Empire in 2017, she co-created and performed in YOU FUCKING EARNED IT, winning best of SF Fringe and the Artists' Choice Award at Edmonton Fringe. She has also performed in many devised ensemble works, including BEND THE RULES, EAT THE HEAD which won Best of the 2015 SF Fringe and Official Selection in Berkeley's inaugural BLAST Festival.

Nathaniel Justiniano is an actor, movement designer, educator, and the founding Artistic Director of Naked Empire Bouffon Company. He is also a gay, white-passing professor delighted to have his experience living in San Francisco and Boston reflected in some of the sharpest critiques in the show. With his leadership, Naked Empire has become North America's premier bouffon company, introducing audiences across the continent to new works and training intensives since 2009. The company uses this rarely-seen form of highly physical, image-driven satire to undermine apathy and inspire discourse on today's juiciest dysfunctions, leading the Huffington Post to praise the work as "devilishly dangerous theatre."

Lindsay A. Jenkins (L.J.) is a dramaturg, producer, and educator based in Los Angeles by way of Dallas, TX. She is also the Founder and Executive Producer of Maroon Arts and Culture, an organization that creates both physical and virtual safe spaces where marginalized voices, artists and individuals, are free to express themselves, to tell their origin stories, and share their visions of the future. Currently, L.J. is developing a project that explores Afrocentric methods for putting research into the body. She has worked with organizations of various sizes including Critical Mass Performance Group, Cornerstone Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, and the Playwrights Foundation. Her work in film and television includes the film *Judas and the Black Messiah* and the Netflix show, *Astronomy Club*.

Lena Sands is a costume designer, collage and puppet artist, and scenographer for live performance, installation, and film. Using a variety of materials and methods to create bold and distinctive visuals, Lena collaborates with ensembles and communities to investigate bodies, histories, and the divine. Her recent projects include SITI Company's *Bacchae*, which portrayed androgynous anarchy in battle with male hierarchy, and four larks' *Frankenstein*, a meditation on flesh and obsession, for which she received the Ovation Award for Best Costume Design. Lena has designed for companies including Deaf West Theatre, East West Players, Cornerstone Theatre Company, The Equus Projects, and Watts Village Theatre Company, and her work has been seen at venues including The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Guthrie Theater,

The Wallis, The Kirk Douglas Theater, The Getty Villa, The Skirball Cultural Center, and REDCAT.

Leanna Keyes of Transcend Streaming is a multi-hyphenate theater professional. Her most well-known digital productions are *Today Is My Birthday* with Theater Mu in Minneapolis, *Downtown Crossing* with Company One in Boston, and the 2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival with Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco. She specializes in shows that are fully live: the way we're meant to be. As a playwright, you can find her play *Doctor Voynich and Her Children* in *The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays* (May 2021). Leanna co-edited this first-of-its-kind anthology of trans plays by trans playwrights about trans characters.

Video-On-Demand Dates: Monday, December 13th Until Sunday, January 16th

Purchase tickets at: nakedempirebouffon.org/karen

Ticket pricing options:

\$10 General Admission - Individual
\$30 Give A Little Extra - Individual
\$45 Watch Party - 5 or more people

Upon purchase, a link to watch the show will be provided and available to view for 48 hours.

Press Contact: Sabrina Wenske
sabrina@nakedempirebouffon.org
(510) 858-9930

Instagram: [@nakedempirebouffon](https://www.instagram.com/nakedempirebouffon)
Twitter: [@nakdemprbouffon](https://twitter.com/nakdemprbouffon)
FB: [facebook.com/bouffonempire](https://www.facebook.com/bouffonempire)

Photos available as of November 7th: nakedempirebouffon.org/karen

###