



For the Program: What is Outworks?

Outworks is a celebration. It is a reflection, a magnifying glass, a conversation, a presentation. Outworks is a new play festival with a focus on new work in relation to LGBTQ issues and events. Over the past nine years, Outworks has striven to put the spotlight on the ever-changing conversation concerning queer theory in theatrical performance. In doing this, both our theatre department and our community learn new things from these new works.

Why I am putting more emphasis on the idea of new works, rather than on them being LGBTQ specific, is because that is what is truly spectacular about this festival. Very few state institutions have a set forum for discussion and dissection of new dramatic work. Here, at LSU, we strive to discover where the conversation is going, what it is about, and insert ourselves into that conversation. (If this sounds like something your professor would say, it's because it is.) That is the nature of academia, and Outworks is an amazing example of putting that idea into practice.

The performance is composed of six new plays written by playwrights of all ages, backgrounds, and geographic location (like New York, Chicago, and San Francisco). We receive over 200 submissions annually which leads to strong competitions and posterity for the productions selected. The festival is directed, designed, performed, and produced by students for the community.