

# WEIRDO NIGHT



STARRING DYNASTY HANDBAG DIRECTED BY MARIAH GARNETT

WITH PERFORMANCES BY

PATTI HARRISON WITH SASAMI + VAGABON BLASIA DISCOTECA

SMILING BETH MORGAN BASSICHIS VIDEOS BY HEDIA MARON SARAH SQUIRM

SHOT ON LOCATON AT ZEBULON, LOS ANGELES, CA 2020

"Fucking wonderful, best apocalypse yet."

- Kathleen Hanna

"LA's queen of weird." - Atlas Obscura

"Lowbrow + Brilliant" - New York Magazine

# WEIRDO NIGHT

created by Jibz Cameron, dir. Mariah Garnett, 2020, 43min, HD video, color, sound.

A film version of LA's beloved queer/feminist/POC-centric monthly live disaster variety show featuring comedy, music, performance art and other stuff, hosted by Dynasty Handbag.



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# SYNOPSIS



*Weirdo Night* begins with Dynasty Handbag dancing wildly onto a lit stage, backed by Miles Davis's *On The Corner*. Dressed in a black suit, bowler hat, garish misapplied 80's green eyeshadow and smeared lipstick, she gyrates and flails with gusto. As the music tapers off, she welcomes the audience and begins a standup set. The camera cuts to a wide angle, revealing she is alone in the club. This 43min film is presented as a four camera comedy special, but everything is a little off. Shot during COVID, *Weirdo Night* is a stand in for the eponymous, wildly popular underground club night in Los Angeles, which centers queer, female and POC voices. Hosted and curated by Dynasty Handbag, the show assembles misfits from the comedy world, live bands, dancers and performance artists in a variety show that goes regularly and intentionally off the rails. Dynasty Handbag lovingly heckles the acts she has invited to the show, pretending to talk on the phone or sleep through their acts, apologizing to the non-existent audience for their poor performance, all the while tooting her own discordant horn. The first act is Patti Harrison with Sasami and Vagabond, as "Dildo Police," a punk band that vacillates between singing the national anthem and unpacking Patti's family's sexual history. They are followed by Blasia Discoteca, an LA based drag performer and dancer, and the final live act is Smiling Beth, a four piece band fronted Jeanne Delkhaste, whose mellifluous voice and piano virtuosity is offset by her slamming her head into the keyboard and blacking out her teeth. Also featured are three videos - a psychedelic Rodney Dangerfield impersonation by Sarah Squirm, a commercial length indictment of her mother by Hedia Maron, and an instructional ballad sung from inside Morgan Bassichis' bathroom. Dynasty Handbag intersperses her own acts, ranging from stand up comedy to weird performance art, to a dread filled dance to the *Democracy Now* theme song. Through Dynasty Handbag's singular cathartic performances and a diverse catalog of artists, *Weirdo Night* takes the anxiety and alienation of the current moment and transforms it into a collective, hilarious and even joyful experience.

## LEAD ARTIST BIO



*Jibz Cameron*

*aka*



*Dynasty Handbag*

**Jibz Cameron** is a performer, video artist and actor. Her multi-media performance work as alter ego Dynasty Handbag has spanned over 15 years and has been presented at arts venues such as The New Museum of Contemporary Art, MOCA LA, PS1, The Broad Museum, The Hammer Museum, REDCAT, The Kitchen, BAM, Centre Pompidou among others. She has been heralded by the New York Times as “the funniest and most pitch perfect performance seen in years” and “outrageously smart, grotesque and innovative” by The New Yorker. She has written and produced 7 evening length performance pieces, dozens video works and 2 albums of original music. Jibz also produce, curates and hosts *Weirdo Night*, a popular monthly comedy and performance event in Los Angeles. In addition to her work as Dynasty Handbag, Jibz Cameron has acted in films, theater and television. She has also worked as a professor of theater, performance and comedy at NYU Tisch Performance Studies and Cal Arts as well as lecturing internationally. She is a 2020 Creative Capital Grant awardee for her upcoming live production *Titanic Depression*, in collaboration with artist Sue-C. She recently sold a short series to FX network titled *Garbage Castle*, which is on hold due to Covid. She lives in Los Angeles.



## DIRECTOR BIO



**Mariah Garnett's** films deconstruct the conventional hierarchy between filmmaker and subject, a mode that has historically been the purview of directors who possess economic, racial and gender privilege. By including her own image, Garnett positions queerness in relationship to subject matter that on the surface may seem disconnected from LGBT identity.

Garnett was named a Guggenheim fellow in Film & Video in 2019. Sight + Sound called her first feature, *Trouble*, "one of the best documentaries of the year" (2019). She holds an MFA from Calarts in Film/Video and a BA from Brown University in American Civilization. Recent solo exhibitions include a 10 year survey show at Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Metropolitan Arts Centre, Belfast UK (Tate Network), Itd los angeles and Louis B James (NYC). Garnett's work has screened and exhibited internationally at venues including Hot Docs, CPH:DOX, NY Film Festival, BFI London Film Festival, The New Museum, SF MoMA, REDCAT, Ann Arbor Film Festival and the 2014 Made in LA Hammer Biennial. Her work has been featured in Sight + Sound, Reverse Shot, Bomb Magazine, Artforum, and The New York Times. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

## FEATURED ARTISTS



**Patti Harrison** is an American actress and comedian. She is known for her appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* where she made jokes about Donald Trump's ban on transgender people in the military. Harrison has a recurring role on the Hulu series *Shrill*. Harrison was named one of *Variety's* "10 Comics to Watch" in 2019.

**Vagabon** is a Cameroonian-American autodidact multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and music producer based in New York City. "Vagabon finds various ways to flood the senses. It'll either come in a harrowing lyric that sticks in the conscience, or it'll arrive from a soft drone that gradually envelops"- *DIY Magazine*.

**Sasami** is an American singer-songwriter and musician. She is signed to Domino Records and played with *Cherry Glazerr* prior to going solo in 2018.



**Blasia Discoteca** is a cross-cultural, intersectional experience that believes in the power of community and uniting with others of similar experience. She is a performer and drag artist who lives and works in Los Angeles.



## FEATURED ARTISTS



**Morgan Bassichis** is a performer who has been called “a tall child or, well, a big bird” by *The Nation* and “fiercely hilarious” by *The New Yorker*. Recent shows include *Nibbling the Hand that Feeds Me* (Whitney Museum, NYC, 2019), *Klezmer for Beginners* (with Ethan Philbrick, Abrons Arts Center, NYC, 2019), *Damned If You Duet* (The Kitchen, NYC, 2018), *More Protest Songs!* (Danspace Project, NYC, 2018), and *The Faggots & Their Friends Between Revolutions: The Musical* (with TM Davy, DonChristian Jones, Michi Ilona Osato, and Una Aya Osato, New Museum, NYC, 2017). They live in New York City.



**Sarah Squirm** (*No Respect*) is a comedian who has become known for her unconventional, and popular show, *Helltrap Nightmare*. She was most recently staffed on Netflix’s *MAGIC FOR HUMANS*. She was previously named one of *Vulture*’s comics to watch for 2018 and one of *TIME OUT Magazine*’s five comics to watch for 2017.

## FEATURED ARTISTS



**Hedia Maron** (*Another Movie About My Mother*) is a Toronto and NYC-based director and editor. Her directorial work has shown at the Berlin International Film Festival, Documenta, SXSW, Outfest, Tribeca Film Festival, as well as in venues such as New Museum, Anthology Film Archives, The Jewish Museum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Tensta konststall, and Queens Museum.



**Smiling Beth** is a post-goth absurdist gay piano demon looming over Los Angeles and toilets near you since 2014. They are also a band featuring keyboards, drums, two vocalists and a viola.



# CREW

## **Writer, Star, Creator**

Jibz Cameron

## **Executive Producers**

Jef Soubirian, Joce Soubirian, Jibz Cameron

## **Director**

Mariah Garnett

## **Line Producer**

Matt Doyle

## **Cinematographer**

Brandon Kelley

## **Assistant Director**

Kevin Luna

## **Additional Camera**

Christopher Slater

## **Lighting Design**

Connor Childs

## **Editor**

Melissa Burns

## **Hospitality**

Carmen Pieto

## **Sound**

Session Group Productions

Shot on location at Zebulon in Los Angeles.