

The Leeward Lab Theatre Presents "Yes I Am: Leeward Edition"

JANUARY 29, 2014 BY [MIN SOO](#) — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Stories from the LGBT community on O'ahu have been collected and the original performance of *Yes I Am* was done last summer at Fresh Cafe but that's not where the stories end. This Thursday, January 30th at 8 p.m., The Leeward Lab Theatre with its resident theatre company, Playbuilders, is opening with a new edition of *Yes I Am: Leeward Edition*.

New interviews with members from the LGBT community were conducted by the cast members and devised into what Ronald Gilliam, Director of *Yes I Am: Leeward Edition*, calls a "meditation on the LGBT community." Similar to [The Vagina Monologues](#) or [The Laramie Project](#), the interviews have become the script and the stories have been categorized into themes to create the scenes. With 13-14 different scenes, the monologues aren't just spoken with singular voices. Some monologues are done alone and other monologues interact with one another while the cast interacts with different props and unlike *The Vagina Monologues*, the cast is not seated in chairs so they move to create space and pictures in the stories being told on stage.

Gilliam refers to one scene titled, *Undressed*, "It's about finally revealing yourself to other



Photo from *Ka Mana'o* by LCC staff photographer Jesse Butcher.

people although no clothes are taken off in the production, it's just an artistic way of what we're calling this scene." He continues and explains how in this scene, "it is about shedding yourself [casino online](#) and showing who you are, we use mirror props. The mirrors are used in different ways and each character when they're doing a monologue engages with mirrors differently and the ensemble forms pictures around them."

The intimate cast of four consists of Kahana Ho, a professional actor; Kristen Misaki, an alumni of Leeward Community College; Marizel Butin, a LCC student; and Jonathan Reyn, a leeward community member.

Playbuilders itself is the newest theatre company in Hawai'i and it's community-based also referred to as



community specific theatre which brings communities together to create performances which involve everyone from professionals, students, and those who just love the theatre.

Tickets are available for *Yes I Am: Leeward Edition* an hour before the performance (7 p.m.) at the door and are \$10. Performances are January 30, 31, and February 1, 8 at 8 p.m. Seating is limited. For more information about [Playbuilders](#) visit their website.

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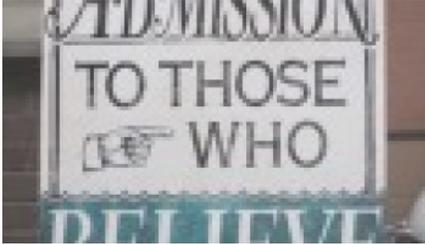


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