

# Shane SHAYSHAY KONNO

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## WRITER ★ DIRECTOR ★ PERFORMER

I'm an Irish-Japanese-American non-binary writer, director & performer with 10 years experience of writing for theatre and live performance, currently expanding from stage to screen. My work explores Queer & Trans Identities, Asian Diasporic Experiences, & the Intersections of Race & Queerness. My mixed heritage has gifted me a transatlantic style that speaks directly to global audiences. I transform underrepresented narratives into fast-paced, colourful stories that remain accessible to a wide audience. My work with The Bitten Peach, a queer Pan-Asian cabaret collective, was the focus of the Iris-prize nominated documentary [Peach Paradise](#) (Netflix, 2022).



## ACCOLADES

2025	BBC Writers: Voices (London)
2024 - 2025	BFI x Trans+ On Screen's "The DarkRoom"
2024	Criterion Theatre Story Development
2024	Hollyoaks Trial Script Programme
2023 Finalist	Golden Script Competition - TV Pilot
2023 Longlist	Sister Pictures & South Of The River's "Screenshot" Competition
2023	New Earth Theatre Writers Academy Plus
2023	Criterion Theatre New Writing
2023 Shortlist	New Writers Collective, Edinburgh TV Festival
2022 Runner-up	<i>The Witches of Oz</i> , Best Immersive Production, BroadwayWorld UK Awards
2022 Nominee	<i>The Witches of Oz</i> , Best IDEA Production, Off West End Awards ("The Offies")
2022 - 2023	The Network, Edinburgh TV Festival
2022 - 2024	London Associate Artist at The Pleasance Theatre
2021 - 2022	Soho Theatre Writers Lab
2021	The Yard Theatre's Live Lab with Katie Mitchell

## THEATRE

### ***The Simple Life & Death, Co-Writer/Co-Director/Performer***

***The Pleasance, Nov-Dec '24***

A murder mystery spin on seminal reality TV show "The Simple Life", starring Paris Hilton & Nicole Richie.

★ *"The ingenuity of the writing is effortlessly carried by Konno and Sinclair... Seamlessly moving between wholesome, witty and irreverent, Konno and Sinclair are consistently funny."* - ☆☆☆☆☆, Spy in the Stalls

★ *"The Simple Life and Death is thus the murder-speckled drag parody of the century."* - ☆☆☆☆½, The Reviews Hub

★ *"The real skill of this show is in it's bringing together of different strands of performance: a bit of sketch comedy, some panto, a bit of British drag, some American, a large spoonful of cabaret - it tries to do everything at the same time, and for once, it really works. Through this hybrid, they've created a queer pantomime for the community by the community, and that is a political act."* - ☆☆☆☆, All That Dazzles

### ***The Witches of Oz, Writer/Director/Choreographer***

***The Vaults, Sep '22-Jan '23***

A fully queer re-imagining of *Wicked/The Wizard of Oz*, including a nonbinary Dorothy & a Tin-trans-woman.

★ *"ShayShay's script is hilariously topical, touching on a multitude of important topics throughout, including gender, sexuality and politics."* - ☆☆☆☆☆, Lost In Theatreland

★ *"Joyful queer panto infused with gender euphoria... it's anti-capitalist and explicitly queer, revelling in subverting society's gender expectations."* One of the "Top 50 Shows of the Year." - ☆☆☆☆☆, The Stage

## **THEATRE** (continued)

### **Mulan Rouge, Writer/Director**

***The Vaults, Oct '21-Aug '22***

Trans re-imagining of the legend of Mulan set in Paris' Moulin Rouge. A sellout success that extended from a 4-month run to a 10-month run.

★ "The room was electrified with a celebration of identity." - ☆☆☆☆☆, London Theatre Review

★ "This show upturns everything you think you know about Disney's Mulan and Baz Luhrmann's Moulin Rouge... Creating an electric atmosphere with its exploration of love and life." - ☆☆☆☆☆, The Independent

### **Aladdin & The Feast of Wonders, Writer/Director**

***The Vaults, Sep 2019-Jan '20***

Panto/immersive dining experience reimagining the tale of Aladdin to critique cultural appropriation and champion queer identity.

★ "An immersive dining experience, and besides being the most interactive and well written one I've seen so far, it is also the filthiest I've seen to date ." - ☆☆☆☆☆ LDN LIFE

## **ACTOR & PERFORMER**

- Consulting Dramaturg for Anders Duckworth's *Little M*, The Place (2023)
- Performer in Lewis G. Burton's *Transphoria*, Institute of Contemporary Arts (2022)
- *Peach Paradise* directed by Shiva Raichandani, Netflix (2022)
- Drag queen/Cabaret performer (2015-2022) - Hosting parties, brunches, weddings, karaoke & bingos
- Opening Act for *Tom Rasmussen sings Robyn*, The Clapham Grand (2020)
- Actor in episode 1 of *Trigonometry*, BBC2 (2020)
- Gogo-dancer for queer club nights and music festivals (2015-2020) - Glastonbury, Wilderness, Homobloc, Mighty Hoopla, Bestival, Royal Academy
- Dandy Minion in Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, The Barbican Centre (2018)
- Dancer for live music acts Charli XCX, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Honey Dijon, and Years & Years
- Opening Act for *Bourgeois and Maurice's Style Over Substance*, Soho Theatre (2017)

## **RESIDENCIES, TRAINING & EDUCATION**

- The Dark Room (BFI & Trans+ On Screen)
  - Masterclasses w/ Nida Manzoor, Charlie Covell, Kayleigh Llewellyn & more
- Edinburgh TV Festivals' The Network Development Programme (2022)
  - Hollyoaks drama writing workshop with Josie Day (Script and Story Executive)
- Let Us Raze You, Raze Collective (2022)
- Artist Residency, Palm Heights, Grand Cayman (2022)
- The Glory's Artist Support Programme (2021)
- BA in Communications from University of California, San Diego

## **OTHER SKILLS & EXPERIENCE**

- Podcast Host - Bitten Peach Pod (2021), Get It! With ShayShay & Bees (2020)
- Korean Pop music expert (since 2009) - Vast knowledge of the history, industry, and dance style
- Historian and descendent of WW2 Japanese Internment in America

## **References**

Available upon request.