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# THE BUTLER CENTER

## NEWSLETTER

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### IT'S GIVING C\*NT - DRAG AT CC!



**By Thecla Shubert**

This year, the QTC collaborated with local drag queen, Anna Cuntour, to host the "Drag it Out Workshops," a series designed to help students explore the history of drag and the practical skills that go into performing. As the culmination of this, the QTC and Butler Center hosted our inaugural annual drag show "It's Giving C\*nt (In honor of Anna Cuntour herself). The show was a lively and courageous celebration of Queer identities and drag culture. In drag culture "serving c\*nt means to bring fierce "realness" or - as the legendary RuPaul has rebranded the term - to bring Charisma, Uniqueness, Nerve, and Talent. All in all, the theme invited our drag queens and kings to shine and celebrate their inner selves. In their introduction, the Butler Center's own Deka Spears explained just how important it is to have these opportunities to celebrate Queer culture - especially in the aftermath of the Club Q tragedy and the recent closure of ICONS, both of which have left Colorado Springs without a designated safe public space for Queer joy and community.

April 16th, 2024

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The show was hosted by Anna Cuntour who opened with her own punk-esque take on drag - complete with head banging and floor work. Androgenous drag king Mariowanna stunned with their live vocals and body-positive show while the incomparable Hysteria Brooks dazzled with her internationally award-winning drag-lesque dance. Finally, to conclude the professional performers, Felony Misdomener truly brought the roof down with her spirited performance of "This Aint Texas."

The show was also an opportunity for our students - many of whom had attended the "Drag It Out Workshops," to perform for the first time! We were dazzled by an impassioned and unflinchingly spunky performance by the "bad bitch" duo Neva Titties [Ben Ruddock] and Ruth Lezz [Galy Berthon]. Ava Lache [Stecy Mwachia] gave us an ethereal and joyful performance inspired by Grecian aesthetics. Miss Iridessa [Brailey Harris] performed a stunning dance number that included splits, leaps, and a death drop that was met with truly thunderous applause. Finally, DJ Paradise [Mikey Richardson] concluded with a surprise dance performance!

All in all, the event - of which over 200 people attended - was loud, raucous, joyful, and affirming. My personal favorite part was seeing the ways in which our professional drag queens and kings created such a welcoming and supportive environment for our budding performers. Seeing the confidence they rocked, hearing their encouraging words, and having their assistance with last-minute costuming crises created a space in which our student performers could thrive, blossom, and celebrate themselves with confidence and unlock their own Charisma, Uniqueness, Nerve, and Talent!



## IT'S GIVING C\*NT - DRAG AT CC!



Thank you to the ACE grant and the Cultural Attractions Fund for sponsoring, as well as Chaplin Kate, Rebecca Parker from Arts and Crafts, Grayson and the Campus Safety team, and Kris, Rich, and the Facilities team - all of whom this event would not have been possible without! An additional thanks to Jamie Cotten photography services.

### PHOTOS:

Page 1: Mariowanna\*

Page 2: Ruth Lezz (Galy Berthon) and Neva Titties (Ben Ruddock)\*

Page 3 (Collage): Row one, left to right: Ana Lanche (Stecy Mwachia), Felony Misdomener, Mariowanna

Row two, left to right: Anna Cuntour\*, Mariowanna, Felnoy Misdomener

Row three, left to right: Hysteria Brooks, Ava Lanche and Miss Iridessa\*, Miss Iridessa (Brailey Harris)

This page, left to right: Ava Lanche, Miss Iridessa, Ruth Lezz, Neva Titties.

\*Indicates photos by Jamie Cotten. See more photos on our Instagram!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### Oziel Cime

He/Him

International Political Economy

#### What is your role at TBC?

I'm a Culture and Identity Programming Intern

#### What are you studying and what do you want to do after CC?

I'm an International Political Economy major and the goal/dream is to become a foreign service officer. That or do something with foreign policy!

#### What is one interest you have outside of school?

I've been training boxing lately and spar occasionally!

#### What does ADEI work mean to you or why did you get into this?

My high school was 90% Hispanic, so when I got here (CC) it was a huge culture shock. I felt pretty alone my first semester, but one of the groups that made me feel the most welcomed on campus was the Butler Center. It made me want to bring that same comfort through the work I did and I find a lot of satisfaction in creating spaces for those normally without that much space.

#### What is one thing you'd like to see changed about CC or our local community?

I wish the student body cared more about campus engagement. I feel like this campus cares so little about the event everyone is putting on unless it has food, or is majorly funded.

#### What is one fun fact people might not expect about you?

Maybe that I don't have a coffee addiction even though I love staying up way into the early morning.

April 16th 2024

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A black and white portrait of Angela Davis, an older woman with voluminous, curly grey hair, wearing glasses and a dark blazer. She is resting her chin on her hand. The background is dark with scattered musical notes.

**CC** COLORADO COLLEGE  
**The Butler Center**

Sponsored by the Departments of  
Anthropology, Asian Studies, English,  
Feminist and Gender Studies, History, Italian,  
Political Science, Religion,  
Race Ethnicity and Migration, Sociology,  
Spanish and Portuguese, and Theatre and  
Dance, the Butler Center, ADEI/ACE Grant  
and CCSGA.

Seats Limited  
RSVP Required



*Angela Davis*  
Blues Legacies and Black Feminism

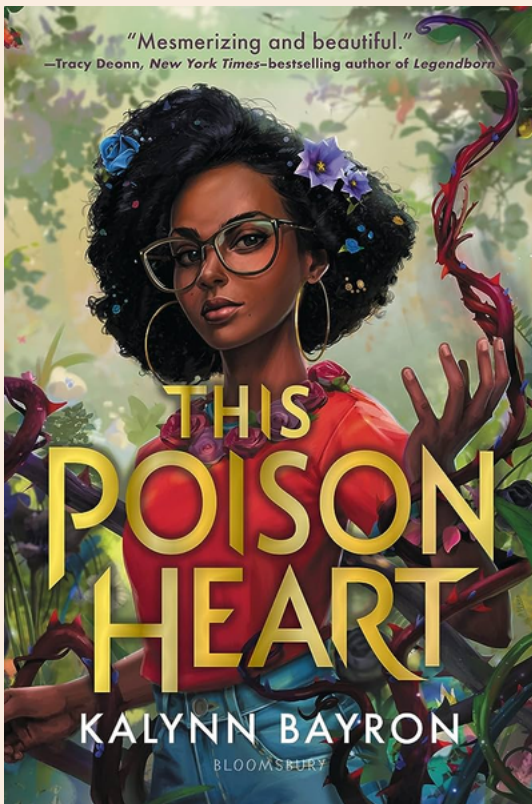
April 26 - Shove Chapel  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Lecture begins at 7 p.m.

Smoking and weapons are not permitted on Colorado College property. Parking along Cache La Poudre with overflow parking in Robson Garage.  
Contact tshubert@coloradocollege.edu for accessibility information or requests.

**RSVP via the QR  
code or click  
here**

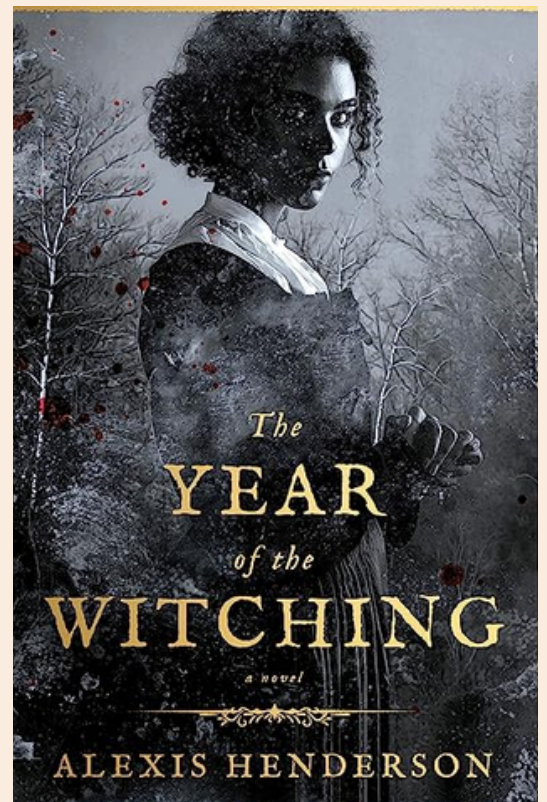
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## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - BLACK FANTASY HEROINES

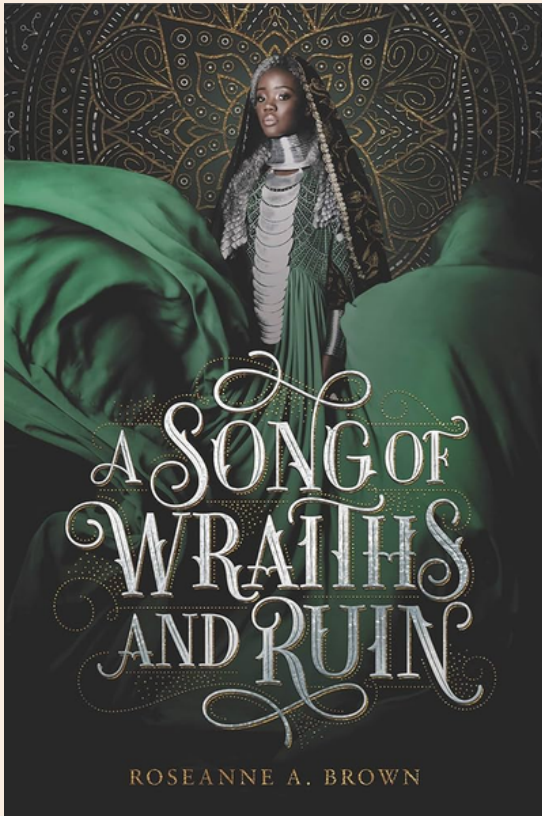


From the best-selling author of *Cinderella is Dead*, Kalynn Bayron presents *This Poison Heart*. When her aunt dies and wills Briseis's an overgrown estate in rural New York, it seems like the perfect opportunity to master her power - with which she can make plans blossom and grow. But not everything is what it seems - the hidden estate gardens are filled with deadly plants and dark dark secrets. This YA novel is a captivating urban fantasy and coming of age novel in which Briseis must master her own powers in order to conquer the darkness that threatens. Kirkus Reviews says that *This Poison Heart* "Brings much-needed inclusivity and contemporary flavor to the teen fantasy genre." Author Julian Winters says the book "Pulses with true Black girl magic."

*The Year of the Witching* is Alexis Henderson's stunning debut which centers on the puritanical society of Bethel. Immanuelle - a mixed-race girl - is viewed as a disgrace and blasphemy by the Church. Immanuelle tries to make up for this by loyally following the Holy Protocols, but a mishap lures her into the Darkwoods where ancient witches were once killed. There, she learns the secrets of her family and the dark truth about Bethel and the Church. This stunning book examines race, power, and religion in a haunting and unsettling story. *O Magazine* claims it "tells a universal, timeless story about women's power." Tamora Pierce calls it "A haunting, unique read I couldn't put down - a story that cuts to the heart."



## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - BLACK FANTASY HEROINES



A Song of Wraith and Ruin is Roseanne A. Brown's gripping fantasy novel inspired by West African folklore. Two young adults clash - Karina, the reluctant ruler of the Ziran who dabbles in necromancy to resurrect her mother, and Malik a refugee, oppressed by the Ziran rule who makes a pact to kill to save his sister's life. Karina wants Malik's heart for her necromancy skill. The two will clash forces in fiery cut throat enemies to lover adventure. Publishers Weekly calls it "An action-packed tale of injustice, magic, and romance." Kirkus Reviews calls it "Revitalizing and exciting, Brown's debut breathes life into ancient but still relevant folk stories."

In Namina Forna's enthralling debut *The Gilded Ones*, young Deka must face a blood ceremony to win her village's approval. But when her blood runs gold instead of red she fears ostracization. It is then that she discovers a secret - the gold blooded women are called alaki - near immortals - who are recruited to fight for the emperor's army. Thus begins Deka's epic journey where she leaves behind everything she knows for a future of dark secrets and new adventures. BuzzFeed says the book is for fans of *Blank Panther* and *Mulan*. Tor Books says "The girls are powerful, the ganger is real, and the characters are engaging and diverse. Forna has accomplished something really special here, equal parts subversive and fun."

