

A first for Toronto – queering masculinity through discussion, art, performance and fashion – Superbutch is coming to town.

April 11, 2016, TORONTO

In an era of (white, moneyed, thin, able-bodied) ultra-feminine celebrity lesbians and same-sex “respectability,” where are the fabulous images of butches? Through live music, a fashion show, a panel, projected photographs, and a dance party, Superbutch looks at the many past meanings of butch—including the history of working-class butch-femme culture in Toronto—and (re)presents contemporary female masculinities, Two-Spirit women, trans masculinities, and bois as desirable, powerful, and complex.

Starting with a free panel, Superbutch is a conversation about what it means to identify—or not—as butch. What does butch mean in this time and place? Who does it work for, and who does it alienate? How do we understand and address its racialized, classed, cis, and colonial dimensions? Rather than thinking of it as a fixed, singular category, what can butch be?

Superbutch is serious and playful, one small show and larger than life. Against Dinah Thorpe’s hot voice and cool beats, local superqueeroes will walk the runway in clothes for queers made by queers. After the fashion show, the audience will have its chance to strut on the dance floor and in a photo booth. A pop-up shop is taking place from 1-5pm at Supermarket, 268 Augusta Avenue on Sunday, May 15th, to give Torontonians a unique opportunity to meet the designers and buy clothes from designers that understand and fit their identities.

Participating artists include Michèle Pearson Clarke (panel moderator), Jack Jackson (organizer, sponsor and founder of alljackedup and the Ties to Love™ Campaign), Janet Kimber (photographer), and Dinah Thorpe (organizer and live music). Superbutch is part of the Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts.

Participating local and international designers at time of print – [alljackedup](#), [Kirren Finch](#), [NiK Kacy](#), [Sharpe Suiting](#), [Sun Sun](#) and [Thúy Custom Clothiers](#).

Panel 6:00-7:30pm. Live music and fashion show 8:30-10pm. Dance party to follow. All of the events on Saturday, May 14 take place at The Great Hall, 1087 Queen Street West. The Great Hall is fully wheelchair accessible and offers all-gender washrooms.

For more on Superbutch, including details of participating artists, panelists, and designers, check out [superbutch.ca](#).

Co-sponsored by [alljackedup](#), [CUPE Ontario](#), [Inside Out LGBT Film Festival](#), [McLean Clinic](#) and [Shameless magazine](#).

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