

## **Newport Theater Values Statement**

The Newport Theater (The Newport) is a collaborative performance space run by Tight Five Productions, a non-profit organization. Our mission is to:

- Support artists by providing an affordable, premier venue with excellent resources and access to the necessary knowledge to utilize all capabilities.
- Feature a wide variety of content, voices, and perspectives, especially in the burlesque, variety, circus, drag, comedy, and other nightlife-based art forms
- Encourage our producers to hold themselves to a higher standard when it comes to inclusivity and representation onstage so that our venue as a whole reflects an environment of inclusivity and representation
- Take steps to ensure artists are safe and protected both onsite and offsite by following the BCAUS (Burlesque Community Against Unsafe Spaces) [Code of Conduct](#).
- Help support education/resources that can assist independent performers/producers pursue a career in these disciplines

The Newport Theater aims to meet these goals with the following practices/efforts:

- Our venue has a zero tolerance policy for racism, sexism/misogyny/sex-shaming, ableism, ageism, anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric/practices, or anti-immigrant content presented onstage. If shows present said content, the venue reserves the right to cancel the booking with no refund. This policy is clearly stated in all contract forms and through third-party venue listing sites.
- Publicly share our [incident report form](#) so that we can hear feedback on where we can improve, and utilize a tiered incident plan that addresses different levels of complaints and utilize a certified Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant to mediate complaints and determine necessary action per our [incident response plan](#).
- Provide theater/dance studio space to artists at a reasonable rate to encourage potential for artist income
- Have all producers sign an agreement saying they abide to the Newport Theater Values Statement and consent to the Incident Report Plan in the event of transgressions.
- Curate special programs to support marginalized voices and artists -
  - BHOF Bound - a scholarship program (co-created with the Chicago Academy of Burlesque) that provides a stipend to attend the Burlesque Hall of Fame through a series of donation-based educational events
  - Donate the space to a regular ongoing show designed to feature Black and other marginalized voices with all control/ownership placed in the hands of BIPOC/queer/marginalized producers. Mentorship from the production collective will be offered to set up new producers/performers to succeed.
  - Partner with The Chicago Academy of Burlesque to provide other low-cost opportunities like craft nights, "open mics" and other educational events to give resources and opportunities to new performers and seasoned professionals alike.