

### ***Background on Peterson Toscano:***

As a gay man, Peterson's journey out of the closet has been long and complicated. After years of submitting to reparative therapy through counseling, ex-gay support groups, and even three exorcisms, Peterson enrolled in the ex-gay residential program, Love in Action. He graduated successfully from the program nearly two years later, but in January of 1999 he finally came OUT and fully accepted himself as a gay man.

Later in 1999 Peterson founded p2son productions and began performing his one-man play, Footprints--An Inspirational Comedy. A comic character actor and a playwright, Peterson often draws on poetry, the Bible and other texts as well as extensive interviews to inspire his theater work. Known for his flawless character transformations, Peterson literally changes the way his whole body and face appear on stage along with his voice and accent.

He made his professional acting debut in the Peter Hanke play Kaspar at Cafe Bustello, NYC (1989). His film credits include "Star Queen--A Star is Bored" (2002), Eli Parker's Getting Married? (2001), Fish Can't Fly (2005), Chasing the Devil: Inside the Ex-Gay Movement (2008), Cure for Love (2008) and is slated to appear in the documentaries This is What Love in Action Looks Like (2008) and For Such a Time as This (2008).

Peterson has been featured in the US Media including The New York Times, People Magazine, the Montel Williams Show, Public Radio International, Logo TV, and The Tyra Banks Show. Peterson has also presented his work internationally in Canada, Cameroon, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, England and Wales. He is featured in German and Swedish Wikipedia and has been interviewed on radio and Television in Europe and the UK.

Peterson's published writing credits include pieces he has written for The New Statesman, New York Blade, and Planet Out.

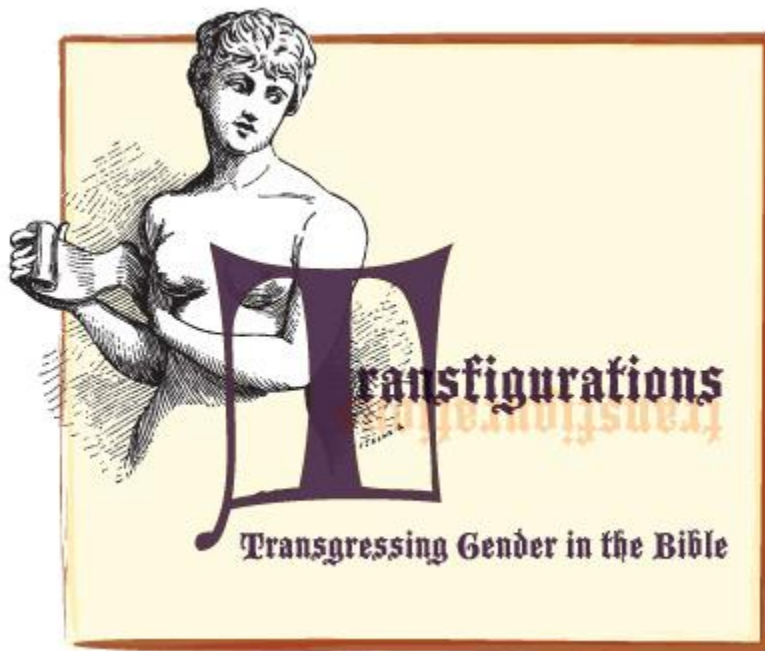
In 2007, along with fellow ex-gay survivor, Christine Bakke, he created Beyond Ex-Gay (bXg), an on-line resource for ex-gay survivors. Together with SoulForce and The University of California at Irvine, bXg hosted the Ex-Gay Survivor Conference--Undoing the Damage, Affirming Our Lives Together.

Also in 2007 Peterson premiered two new theater pieces, The Re-Education of George W. Bush--No President Left Behind and Transfigurations--Transgressing Gender in the Bible. He has begun work on his next piece which will explore race relations in the US, the Arab-Israeli Conflict and

Father/Son issues through the story in the Hebrew scriptures of Abraham and his servant Elieazar.

As someone who lived nearly 20 years as evangelical Christian, Peterson connects regularly with evangelical and conservative Christian around lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender concerns. Now a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), he travels in the ministry with a travel minute that expresses the goals and mission behind his work. Peterson currently lives in Hartford, CT.

***Background on Peterson Toscano's play "Transfigurations":***



Transfigurations is a play written and performed by Peterson Toscano. In this one-person play, theatrical performance activist, Peterson Toscano, unearths transgender Bible characters--those people who do not fit in the gender binary, and who in transgressing and transcending gender, find themselves at the center of some the Bible's most important stories.

Drawing on inspiration from one-on-one interviews with transgender and genderqueer individuals, Peterson weaves their experiences with the stories and lives of transgender, genderqueer and gender-variant people right on the pages of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Hilarious and

moving, Toscano deepens well-known (and lesser-known) Bible stories as he presents an array of characters with an array of genders.

Peterson has done his exegesis and this is play is an opportunity to learn parts of biblical history from Peterson that you may never have heard of anywhere else. Who are these transgender Bible heroes (and sheroes)? You will just have to see *Transfigurations* for yourself!

He has previously performed *Transfigurations* at Freedom Friends Church (Salem, OR), The True Colors Conference (UConn, Storrs, CT), University of Massachusetts Amherst, The European Forum of LGBT Christians, Transforming Faith/Divining Gender Conference, Ikon (Belfast, Northern Ireland), Holy Trinity United Church of Christ (Memphis, TN), Gender Odyssey (Seattle, WA), Warehouse #8 (Marsa, Malta), Imago Dei MCC (Glen Mills, PA), Adelphi Friends Meeting (Adelphi, MD), Trinity United Church of Canada (Vancouver, BC), University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC), [Transgender Day of Remembrance 2008 \(Seattle, WA\)](#), Bard College..

***Background on Peterson Toscano's play "Doin' Time with Peterson Toscano":***

Spend an evening with Peterson Toscano and his zany, heartwarming characters. A comic actor, playwright and theatrical performance activist, Peterson presents one-person shows throughout North America and Europe that are both hilarious and deeply insightful. For one night only in Seattle you will see the "Best of Peterson Toscano" as he presents excerpts from four of his plays including "The Re-Education of George W. Bush" and "Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House." Peterson will also share extracts from his newest play, "Transfigurations," which looks at the stories and lives of transgender Bible characters.

You will laugh yourself silly and no doubt walk away with a new insight about life, humanity and yourself.