

SYNOPSIS ~ THE MERKIN SISTERS

Pina Bausch meets punk rock, dance meets object puppetry, a Bette Midler Diva as drawn up by David Lynch: this is the universe they are conjuring.

Stephanie Morin-Robert and Ingrid Hansen like to work together because, "We challenge each other creatively to UP the ANTE!" says Hansen. They want to create an audience experience that is a visceral rollercoaster of laughter and emotions, and subverting traditional theatre expectations. "If you're not clenching your cheeks in anticipation at some point during our show, we have not done our job," says Robert. Their show 'The Merkin Sisters' is a no-holds-barred physical comedy about a strangely hilarious sibling rivalry: two fallen socialites endeavour to create the Ultimate Piece of Art, using any means necessary. A mash-up of uncensored comedy, theatre, dance and puppetry, 'The Merkin Sisters' may just be the most outrageous show to hit Toronto's Fringe in years.

The Merkin Sisters celebrate and demystify everything about the human body, at its most divine, it's most disgusting, it's most vulnerable and virtuosic. The sisters are fascinated by the juxtaposition of feminine clothing with the grotesque, the bodily, the animal, the strange. This show chews up themes of hyper-femininity and hyper-masculinity, our relationship to concealing/revealing skin, and the secretive worlds created by siblings. Part stunt, part story, part contemporary dance piece, 'The Merkin Sisters' has been called "Wild, unimaginable, and PISS-YOUR-PANTS FUNNY," by the press.

