

SYNOPSIS

Synchronize your watches. Award-winning sketch comedy duo The Templeton Philharmonic ("Best Duo" - LA Comedy Festival, "Producer's Pick" - Toronto Sketchfest) will take you on a darkly comedic odyssey through the ages. The pair are known for their surreal brand of comedy and tongue-in-cheek dance sequences. Their new revue pokes fun at humanity's foibles throughout history. Ambitious? Yes. Hilarious? Definitely.

"About Time" is co-written by Gwynne Phillips and Briana Templeton, who develop their work through a mix of improvisation, sketch comedy techniques, and traditional playwriting methods. As with several of The Templeton Philharmonic's past productions like "Unbridled & Unstable" (performed at Next Stage Theatre Festival in 2015) and "An Evening In July" (staged at Toronto Fringe in 2014 and SummerWorks Performance Festival in 2015), the pair also direct and star in the show. They will be joined by guest performer Thom Stoneman (Robert in "An Evening In July"), who functions as an occasional narrator, male presence, and unexpected voice of reason.

Templeton and Phillips began performing sketch comedy together in 2011. They studied classical theatre, but were drawn to sketch comedy by the possibility of playing a large assortment of characters in one show. The medium also serves as an excellent outlet to demonstrate their love affair with period pieces and different film genres. Their new show "About Time" allows them to experiment with both by having the actors play a flurry of offbeat characters from Stone Age women, to Renaissance men, to uptight Victorian ladies at a tea party that is heavily laden with sexual innuendo.

The production starts by inviting the audience to partake in a goofy but meditative exercise about the concept of time. The narrator asks them to imagine "time as a cake", "time as a pile of laundry", "time as a herd of bison", and a variety of other objects - each with its own set of philosophical peculiarities. Finally, he invites them to imagine "time as a clock" and asks "Does that feel restrictive? If so, why?". The show has several similar interstitials that play with the construct of time and horology. These all frame a wildly funny, chronological ride through history with stops in different time periods.

The production does not promise to be a historically accurate in any way or to cover the history of every culture in every century (the show is only 60 minutes after all). Instead, it aims to be an entertaining series of sketches that hopscotch through different eras... like a misinformed, pun-filled history textbook that has had a few too many dry martinis. The sketches play with tropes of different time periods, and poke fun at contemporary society by viewing it through the distance of a historical lens. The end result is a hilarious comedy revue full of sketches that have a delightfully unnerving tone and a distinct feminist bent.