

Provocative new comedy makes its **2026 Toronto Fringe Festival** debut challenging accent discrimination and the pressure to “sound more Canadian”

In ***The Improper Identity***, actor and playwright **Miho Suzuki** explores immigrant identity, belonging and linguistic bias through comedy, fantasy and theatrical absurdity

Toronto, ON – June 2, 2026

Japanese-Canadian performing arts company **@mihyonvision** presents ***The Improper Identity***, a bold, satirical and emotionally resonant new work created by actor and playwright **Miho Suzuki** making its **2026 Toronto Fringe Festival** debut from **July 2** to **July 12** at **Native Earth's Minogitooon Workspace Giizis Studio**. Inspired by lived experience and rooted in comedy, fantasy and sharp social commentary, the 55-minute production explores the immigrant experience through the lens of language, belonging and the pressures surrounding assimilation.

Written and directed by Suzuki and based in part on her own lived experiences, ***The Improper Identity*** follows *Ai*, a Japanese immigrant actress navigating life and work in Canada while confronting the realities of accent discrimination and linguistic bias. After struggling to secure opportunities because of how she speaks, *Ai* becomes involved with an inventor's experimental device known as the “Pronunciationizer,” a fictional technology designed to erase accents and make speech sound more “standard.” What begins as a hopeful solution quickly unravels as the device distances her from her relationships, identity and authentic voice, revealing the emotional and cultural cost of conformity.

Blending satire, absurdity, physical theatre and multimedia performance, ***The Improper Identity*** uses surreal humour, tongue choreography and theatrical invention to tackle serious questions around who gets heard, who gets believed and who decides what is considered “proper.” Equal parts hilarious and thought-provoking, the production flips the narrative surrounding accent discrimination, arguing that the problem is not how people speak, but the systems that reward sameness and quietly penalize difference.

“In Canada we often celebrate multiculturalism, yet many immigrants still feel pressure to sound a certain way in order to be accepted, trusted or successful,” says creator **Miho Suzuki**. *“This show comes from my own experiences and observations navigating language, belonging and identity. While **The Improper Identity** is comedic and absurd, underneath it asks a serious question: what happens when we try to change ourselves to fit systems that were never designed to fully embrace us?”*

Presented by **@mihyonvision**, ***The Improper Identity*** arrives at a particularly timely cultural moment. As conversations around immigration, belonging and artificial intelligence continue to shape public discourse, the production asks whether technology and assimilation are truly solutions or whether they risk reinforcing the very biases they claim to solve. Through comedy and satire, the work highlights how accent bias remains one of the more invisible forms of discrimination, quietly influencing who gets hired, heard and considered credible.

A multidisciplinary artist and performer, Suzuki brings wit, vulnerability and theatrical experimentation to the stage, creating a work that is deeply personal yet universally relatable. Through fantasy, humour and emotional honesty, ***The Improper Identity*** celebrates the richness of linguistic and cultural diversity while reminding audiences that identity is not something to be corrected and that every voice deserves to be heard on its own terms.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS:

The Improper Identity

2026 Toronto Fringe Festival

Company: @mihyonvision

Creator/Director: Miho Suzuki

Runtime: 55 minutes

Venue 8 – Native Earth's Minogitooon Workspace Giizis Studio
585 Dundas Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 2B7

SHOWTIMES:

Wednesday, July 2 – 9:45 PM

Friday, July 4 – 7:15 PM

Saturday, July 5 – 4:00 PM

Wednesday, July 8 – 9:15 PM

Thursday, July 9 – 4:30 PM

Friday, July 10 – 7:15 PM

Saturday, July 11 – 9:30 PM

Sunday, July 12 – 3:15 PM

Cast: Miho Suzuki, Mladen Obradovic, Kent Penaranda

Video Cast: Kyohei Irie, Mihály Szabados, Shay Yamini and Yayoi Hirano

Dramaturg: Carly Heffernan

Stage Manager: Kitty Zhang

Design: Victoria Schupp

Creative consultant: Alia Ceniza Rasul

Producer: Bon Dos

About Miho Suzuki

Miho Suzuki is an actor, improviser, and multidisciplinary artist best known for her lead role in *Warigami* (a **Cannes International Series Festival** nominee, **The CW/CBC**), her voice work in *Assassin's Creed Shadows* (Ubisoft), and appearances in feature films such as *Cosmic Dawn*.

Originally from Tokyo, she began her career in theatre and has performed in numerous productions. Her work with various troupes has earned recognition including the **Patrons' Pick Award** at the **Toronto Fringe Festival 2025**, the **Spirit of the Fringe Award** at the **Vancouver Fringe Festival 2016**, and the Grand Prize at the **Japan Young Theatre Directors Competition 2014**.

A graduate of **Tama Art University** and **The Second City**, she is a true creative force and produces across a wide range of mediums. She placed 5th in the **World's Biggest Improv Tournament 2025**, highlighting her comedic and improvisational talents.

She has been deeply dedicated to her theatre production *The Improper Identity* for the **2026 Toronto Fringe Festival**, which she wrote, directs, performs in, and choreographs, while also creating the music, paintings, and costumes for the show. A former competitive rhythmic gymnast and **Guinness World Records** holder, she brings remarkable discipline, versatility, and passion to every aspect of her artistic practice..

Discover more of her works on Instagram and [@mihyonvision](#) and IMDb: <https://www.imdb.me/suzukimiho>

For tickets, please visit:

<https://fringetoronto.com/fringe/show/improper-identity>

Available for Interviews:

Miho Suzuki

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