



TORONTO  
**FRINGE**  
**FESTIVAL**

Toronto Fringe Festival 2026  
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## U UP? : Synopsis

*U UP?* is a fast-paced, satirical, and highly interactive play that takes a sharp, comedic look at geopolitics, national identity, and the absurdities of border control. Set against the competitive backdrop of the United States-Canada border, four border officers are caught in a bureaucratic limbo filled with competition, romance, and heartbreak.

The four border officers who share the tight checkpoint space are:

**Chuchkee**, a defiant Canadian with a heart for poetry.

**Schmidt**, a patriotic Canadian with a heart for Chuchkee.

**Pepper**, a moralist American officer who has a crush on a Canadian.

**Milgram**, a rule-obsessed American with zero tolerance for workplace romance.

The audience is subjected to personal queries, psychological mind games, and cultural litmus tests all in the name of Canadian and American national security. But the monotonous routine of the checkpoint will not last for long as passion builds and threatens to burst the officers' fragile existence.

Chuchkee and Pepper develop a romance. Unfortunately, they are working for the opposite side of the world's longest undefended border. This love is not accepted by the more patriotic officers whose rivalry gets quite heated. Schmidt and Milgram are obsessed with outperforming one another, and find themselves caught in a smuggling conspiracy.

The lovers, unable to continue the dreadful not-so-long-distance relationship are faced with two options: a broken heart or a broken border. Choosing the latter, they declare sovereignty and found a nation with the help of the audience. Each performance a new nation is created, and not a single show would be like the one before.

Together with the audience, the officers will challenge their own perception of boundaries. Even though borders are imaginary, does it mean they don't matter? If boundaries matter, to what degree do we enforce them? *U UP?* explores the meaning of being the other and offers the people in the boundaries of the theatre to feel like they belong.