

Back in September Gillian was going to some desperate lengths to try and get rid of what she thought was a very bloated stomach. Her lower abdomen was pushing out a lot, and nothing she did was fixing it. After a traumatic trip to the doctor's office and being told wild possibilities, then taken for an emergency ultrasound, and finally being told to bring a loved one for results, it was discovered that there's a pretty decent size FIBROID in her uterus. A fibroid is a benign tumour that grows in the uterus. 1 in 3 people with a uterus develop fibroids at some point, but the size is usually so small there are no symptoms. Gillian's fibroid is pushing her uterus out equivalent to a 5 month pregnancy, which as you can imagine brings on some challenges. Loving your body can be a very complicated relationship and while going through this experience, Gillian has had to unpack over twenty years of an eating disorder, body image issues, and self-worth. She did this through writing a new revue called *The Weight of It All*. *The Weight of It All* is an original solo sketch comedy revue written and performed by Gillian Bartolucci (*The Sketchersons*, *Just For Laughs*, *JFL42*) and directed by Carly Heffernan (*Second City Toronto*, *The Second City*, *She the People*). It takes you on a hormonal journey through fertility issues, conversations with a scale, what the new sex ed curriculum should teach you, food you can eat when you're a ghost, and workout videos your mother left behind, all while Mercury is in retrograde!!! *The Weight of It All* is a mission to normalize the stigma around mental health, periods, infertility, and eating disorders. It will make you laugh, cry, order fries, and write a Thank You letter to your body. This story is very personal, but it is being shared because it is most likely your story too.