

TORONTO
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

He-r'tz
by 78 Productions



July 2 - 11, 2026
Video Cabaret

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About He-r'tz

He-r'tz is an original multidisciplinary physical theatre production about displacement, memory, and survival. As its centre is "Jo", not a single person, but the embodiment of a generation in diaspora shaped by political upheaval and the search for sanctuary.

Through stylized movement, high-tension soundscapes, and immersive storytelling, He-r'tz places the audience inside that journey. More than one story, it is a love letter to diasporic communities everywhere and a reminder that the body remembers what history tries to erase.

Run Time

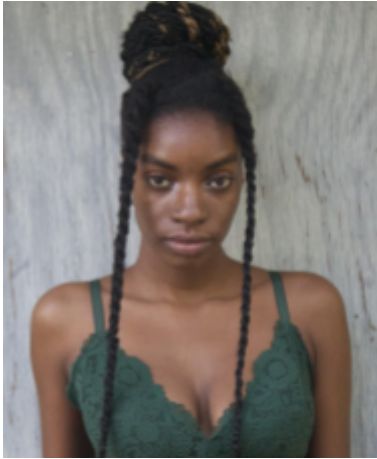
55 minutes with no intermission

Content Warnings and Advisories

Please be advised that He-r'tz includes

- Mature Language
- Gunshots
- Hazer
- Strobe Lights
- Abrupt Sound or Lighting Cues
- High-pitched Soundscape Warning

Collaborators



Alia Ettienne is an Afro-Caribbean multidisciplinary performer, actor, writer and facilitator from Toronto, ON. She graduated from the Sheridan College Performance Program going on to study Creative Writing as well as Arts/Entertainment Marketing. Her solo piece, *YellowZoned* premiered in The 2016 Toronto Fringe Festival then remounted as a part of Hamilton's Mental Health Theatre Festival *MindPlay*. She is currently writing her second show *Allow For Release*. She most recently graduated from the Toronto Film School Acting Program (with honours) and won Best Actress (Short Film) for her role in dance film *Dance With Me*.



Irene Leung (she/her) is a Hong Kong–Canadian multidisciplinary artist working between Hong Kong and Toronto. A graduate of York University's BFA Dance program, specialising in performance and choreography, she brings a strong foundation in classical music and dance to her work as a performer and educator. She is active in Toronto's dance and theatre scene, with appearances at the Fringe Festival and The Garage Show, and has performed with companies including City Contemporary Dance Company, The Parahumans, York Dance Ensemble, and Moonlight Ballet. Alongside her artistic practice, Irene works in arts management, coordinating workshops, rehearsals, and productions for Moonlight Ballet and Ballet Reveries.



Jessica Li (Cheuk Yan Li) is a Hong Kong-born, Toronto-based performer working across dance, media, and contemporary performance. Trained in jazz, contemporary, and Chinese dance, she has performed in both stage and festival settings in Hong Kong and Canada. Her practice explores movement as a form of emotional expression and storytelling, with a growing interest in physical theatre and interdisciplinary work. Jessica is also a television host and arts professional, currently working in a gallery environment that deepens her engagement with contemporary art and cultural narratives.



Lilly Battista is a Toronto-based actor who specializes in work in classical, devised, and musical theatre. Since attending the Acting program at the University of Windsor, she has spent the past few years working on expanding her horizons in the field. She is a passionate performer with a love for bold, collaborative storytelling. She has appeared in a variety of independent theatre projects, workshops, and community productions, most notably in the New Ideas Festival at Alumnae Theatre, performing *Heel* (dir. Dana Fradkin). She would love to thank her fellow collaborators in this production for giving her the opportunity to help tell this beautiful story. Instagram: [@brave_heart_lilly](#)



Wai Liu is a Hong Kong born movement artist based in Tkaronto. Wai's practice mixes imagery, sensation, and a knack for turning little stumbles into choreography. Drawing from contact improvisation and contemporary, modern, and Asian movement forms, they create work that's joyful, grounded, and deeply responsive to the environment. Proud York Dance Ensemble member, she's collaborated with Syreeta Hector and Jessica Runge. As community builder, performer, or curiosity rambler, Wai creates magic where bodies and tales meet. She's all about sharing connections through spontaneous dances or chats. Choreographed and performed at Edinburgh Fringe; performed at Toronto Fringe and PorchView Dances.



Zahshanné began her acting career as Sophia Sheridan in the Made for Stage production of *Mamma Mia!* in Lahore, and most recently appeared as Harnaam in Harleen Singh's One Act Play and Sita in *New* by Pamela Sinha at Alumnae Theatre. Her theatre work spans International Theatre Festivals across Europe, Pakistan, and Canada including original plays *The Universe Inside You* and *Jawab Dena Hoga*. A trained Kathak and commercial dancer, choreographer and female winner of Pakistan's All Styles Clash Battle, she has performed with Atif Aslam and Mahira Khan, appeared on Coke Studio for two consecutive seasons, and led Oxford Literary Festival Opening Ceremonies through Kathak and narration. Blending movement and narrative is where Zahshanné comes alive as an artist.

Production Team



SUKI CHEUNG, CREATOR & DIRECTOR

Suki is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist from Hong Kong whose work spans Asia, the UK, and Canada. She made her international Fringe debut at the 2018 Edinburgh Festival with *Painted Skin*. *Return*, earning acclaim for her cross-cultural musical composition. Passionate about creating innovative and immersive theatre, Suki recently wrote, directed, and produced the original Cantonese drama *1+2+3*. Staged in an unconventional local café, the work was praised by Jeff Ho as “poignant, timely, emotionally vulnerable, and funny.” Suki is also the Founder of 78 Productions, an arts management and production company. Drawing on a rich tapestry of corporate and arts leadership experience, her recent work includes collaborating with Claire Hopkinson at Theatre Museum Canada.



CARMEN LEARDI, CHOREOGRAPHER

Carmen Leardi is a dance and theatre artist from Amherstburg, Ontario, currently based in Toronto. Her choreography can be seen in music videos, musical theatre productions, public installations, and she's especially passionate about sharing her love of dance in the classroom with students of all ages. Select creative credits: *Where the World Ends* (West End Performing Arts Company/Fringe Windsor), *The Addams Family* (Randolph Kids Performing Arts, dir. Sarah O'Brecht), *Broken Branches* (CreateTruth Productions, dir. Philip McKee). Alumna of Randolph College for the Performing Arts, and Toronto Metropolitan University (Creative Industries). She's proud to have worked with the He'r-tz team to bring this physical theatre show to life. XO to Blake and her family.



WAI LIU, LIGHTING DESIGNER

78 Productions is proudly having Wai to be the production team as lighting team.

SUKI CHEUNG, COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

78 Productions is proudly having Suki on the production team as composer and sound designer.

ZAHSHANNÉ MALIK, CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

78 Productions is proudly having Wai to be the production team as co-choreographer.



KARI PANG, ASM & SOUND OPERATOR

Kari Pang is a production student, currently based in Toronto, ON. She is currently in her second year of performance production and design at Toronto Metropolitan University. She is passionate about working in Live event and Concerts production specifically, she puts herself in different opportunities in theatre production as much as possible to grow her skill faster, learn from others, expand her network, and enrich her experience in the industry. In 2025, Kari volunteered as crew, lighting crew in three different theatre productions outside of school in the Summer, and in 2026, Kari volunteered as lighting designer and sound operator in 4th year student's final year project showcase STEMS and Prod Cabaret 2, and volunteered as ushers and venue helper for Kpop boys group Close Your Eyes 's concert Beyond Your Eyes in Toronto. She adopted skills that she learned from school and observed more hands-on experience. Select credits from her time at TMU include RISE '25, Choreographic works '25, Marriage, Attempts On Her Life, Hedda Gabler, Rhinoceros and Alchemist.



VANESSA ROMANO, MARKETING SPECIALIST

Vanessa Romano is a Toronto performer with foundations in dance and a passion for musical theatre. Alongside her performance experience, Vanessa works as a Project Manager in the Health Care Innovation industry and is excited to be supporting He-r'tz as the Marketing Specialist.



HANSON LAW, PHOTOGRAPHER

Recent graduated film studies student at York University, specializing in directing and screenwriting. Worked as director, writer, actor, photographer/videographer and editor in individual projects. Hanson had desired to join the film and media industry since high school, with the inspiration of his peers. He is always fascinated by how the cinematic language could tell a story. Hanson has multiple on-set experiences, including script supervisor, assistant camera, and grip. Other than that, he also has rich experience in creating promotional campaigns on social media. Instagram: @chocohim48





Get in Touch

If you have any questions or concerns about this access guide or planning your visit to He-r'tz at the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival, please reach out.

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If you want to tell the Fringe about your experience or have feedback that you would like to share, you can call, write, or send an email to the Fringe.

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100 Broadview Avenue, Suite 300
Toronto, ON
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Our email address is:

access@fringetoronto.com

Our phone number is:

416-966-1062

Thank you for coming to the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival.