

Unmatched - Synopsis

Part stand-up and part verbatim theatre, *Unmatched* follows comedian Drew's unlucky experiences with first dates. The catch? They may or may not have invited a first date to their show. In a stall for time, Drew takes the audience through the dramatization of their own dating history, all the while hoping their date eventually shows up. (But really, who invites a first date to watch them perform?) With text pulled directly from interviews about real first dates, *Unmatched* explores the struggles of modern dating through a queer lens and asks: what does - or doesn't - make a good match?

The creation of this show stems from the overwhelming sense of curiosity you feel when you realize that a first date is happening right in front of you. It also stems from living through a time where connecting with other people, platonically and romantically, has become a universal struggle. We discovered that through our interviews, we were giving individuals an opportunity to share their stories. And through the rekindling of shared connection, we realized not only that most people have at least one memorable first date story, but they also share a desire to keep trying and experiencing first dates to find "the one."

Additionally, we have specially focused on collecting the stories of queer people. Too often queer characters are add-on stereotypes whose entire personalities are based on being queer. In the rare cases queer relationships are depicted, they often end in tragedy. Through our work, we endeavour to be part of the change in how queer characters are represented in theatre. By highlighting lived queer dating experiences, we aim to normalize the presence of queer relationships in theatre. Through the choice of having our main character date people of all gender identified and expressions, *Unmatched* embraces the diversity of relationships and connects with audiences who fall outside of the cis-heteronormative narrative that is traditionally presented on stage.