

TORONTO
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

AFENI
Access Guide



June 30 - July 12, 2026
Factory Theatre Main Space

This guide uses plain language to provide audiences, particularly neurodiverse audiences, with specific sensory details of programming in advance to help guide your experience.

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About AFENI

In April of 1969 Afeni Shakur along with 20 other Black Panthers were arrested in late night raids under false charges concocted by undercover cover police connected to COINTELPRO. Bail was set at a record breaking \$100,000 in an attempt to keep the Panthers silent and behind bars. Afeni, who had joined the Black Panthers as a solitary type, a high school drop out who enjoyed working alone as one of NYC's first female letter carriers, becomes the person who takes the Panther's coalition building the most to heart. She ends up creating the networks needed to get her comrades out from behind bars, speaking truth to power. She also acts as her own attorney during the trial, allowing her to face the undercover cops who had caused her violent arrests and besmirched her name. The trial is arduous and includes many twists and turns, but it is mostly long as the state tries to wear down the defendants. Three years after the arrests, a very pregnant Afeni Shakur is finally free after winning her case. Her actions help inspire other activities to come together and expose COINTELPRO. Soon, she gives birth to her son, who she gives an indigenous name, so that he will always be reminded that his struggles are not something that will be his alone, not something solitary, but shared. He is named after the Peruvian King and revolutionary Túpac Amaru II.

Run Time

60 minutes with no intermission

Content Warnings and Advisories

Please be advised that Afeni includes/mentions/references/depicts...

Racism, racialized violence, state violence against minorities, harm caused by police, descriptions of sex work.

Cast and Characters



Onika Henry plays all roles including Afeni Shakur

Set

The set is a chair that the actor will move and use to create other spaces with.

Costumes

Onika Henry wears an all black outfit reminiscent of the clothes frequently worn by the Black Panthers.

Get in Touch

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

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Phone: a phone number can be given after an email is received.

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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Thank you for coming to the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival.