



Theatre Oculus presents its inaugural production *Venus & Adonis* at the 2021 Toronto Fringe

Created by Theatre Oculus co-directors Rohan Dhupar and Macayla Paris in collaboration with a multitude of emerging artists from across the country, *Venus & Adonis* is inspired by the William Shakespeare poem of the same name. This production is a vital modernization of a classical theatre piece to re-contextualize its Eurocentric origin, making space for interdisciplinary collaboration and social discussion. Imagery from the original poem layered with elements of contemporary dance, electronic music and glam-pop aesthetics come together in a poignant commentary on the glorification and romanticism of predatory behaviour in classical literature and modern-day pop culture.

Theatre Oculus is an emerging artist-led company working at the intersection of text, music and movement, and is based out of Mississauga and Etobicoke, Ontario (Treaty 13). After launching in February 2020 with a series of self-produced digital projects, *Venus & Adonis* marks the company's first production on a larger scale.

Venus & Adonis features new text by Kelsi James, direction and dramaturgy by Macayla Paris, direction and choreography by Rohan Dhupar (associate artist with Frog in Hand, Mississauga Arts Award winner for Emerging Dance Artist), choreography and rehearsal direction by Sarah Di Iorio (Red Sky Performance, Canadian Stage), composition and sound design by Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski (Dora Award winner for *Box 4901* with timeshare performance and *Buddies in Bad Times Theatre*), and cinematography and editing by Drew Berry (Guelph Dance Festival, Dora Award winner with *Rock Bottom Movement*). Cast includes Isabella Boaretto, Lyndsey Britten, Emily Butler, Sadie Cahill, Katie Couchie, michael derworiz, Jasmine Huang, Hailey Lewis (Mirvish Productions), Sydney Keir (Boston Dance Theater, Canadian Opera Company), Gabrielle Lowe, Maria Riano (The Playground Project) and Eilish Shin-Culhane.

After a full year of online and remote development for *Venus & Adonis*, this marks the second stage in adapting the entire poem into a full-length dance theatre production.

Theatre Oculus in association with **The Toronto Fringe Festival** presents

Venus & Adonis

Directed by Rohan Dhupar & Macayla Paris

Text & Voice-Over by Kelsi James

Inspired by *Venus & Adonis* by William Shakespeare

Choreography by Rohan Dhupar & Sarah Di Iorio

Dramaturgy by Macayla Paris

Composition & Sound Design by Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski

Cinematography & Editing by Drew Berry

Cast & Collaborators: Isabella Boaretto, Lyndsey Britten, Emily Butler, Sadie Cahill, Katie Couchie, michael derworiz, Jasmine Huang, Hailey Lewis, Sydney Keir, Gabrielle Lowe, Maria Riano and Eilish Shin-Culhane

Supported by the Mississauga Arts Council and The School Creative Arts, with the cooperation of ACTRA Toronto.

Runs **July 21-31, 2021** online at fringetoronto.com/digital-fringe/show/venus-adonis

Tickets can be purchased online at fringetoronto.com

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