



The Unhushed Theatre Collective Presents...

UNHUSHED

Swallow This Skin

Who do you dance for?

It's 7pm in downtown Toronto where a run-down strip club gets ready to open for a usual night. As the hours go on, the workers regular schedule becomes interrupted as an old dancer comes back to visit, a lingering customer stays around, a love obsession distracts the room, and more. By the time we reach the closing hour of 4am, the dancers discover themes of identity, sex, religion, sexuality, desire, fetishization, girlhood, what femininity means as a woman of colour, and much more as a collection of poems, monologues and stories are shared throughout the night.

The Unhushed Theatre Collective was founded from past members of York University's V-day Club, where it was decided for the first time the club would not do "The Vagina Monologues" but rather create a brand-new show focused on exploring the intersectionalities missing from Eve Ensler's aforementioned play. This action was spearheaded by Megan Legesse, the creator and director of Swallow This Skin. The team of artists met every week for a period of 8 months to write poems, stories, monologues, and scenes where they were encouraged to explore their identities. Megan specifically wanted the IBPOC artists to write as full and vulnerable as possible. To enjoy writing the stories she wished she heard in "The Vagina Monologues." After a few drafts of the show, the collage of all these stories in Swallow This Skin is now ready to be heard!

Swallow This Skin was originally created to be a staged play with movement/dance being incorporated throughout the show. However, with having to adapt to a digital format. STS became an audio play. With this show being a collage of stories, the audio format surprised us with how much more vulnerable the text has become, and how the show can continue to shine in this unexpected format.

The Unhushed Theatre Collective

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

Swallow This Skin

Written by: Mackenzie Saliola, Megan Legesse, Zoe Marin, Tamara Mobarak, Naomi Lopez Morales, Brie Bennett, Kathleen Ballangan, Sanya Josephs, Ky Wellington.

Directed by: Megan Legesse

Sound design by Nick Beardsley

STS Features the poems: "A Poem for my Mother" by Aleria McKay, "Rhymes with Bike" by Melanie Thompson, "A Trilogy" by Hope Van Der Merwe, "Chucha" by Mercedes Clunie

Opens **July 21 – 31, 2021**

Online at <https://fringetoronto.com/digital-fringe/show/swallow-skin>

Tickets and Memberships:

Patrons can purchase online at fringetoronto.com

Toronto Fringe Communications Manager: Claire Wynveen, communications@fringetoronto.com

Your Media Rep Contact: Abriana Lashley

Your Media Rep Phone: 289-980-0177

Your Media Rep Email: aglashley7@gmail.com