

November 2019 - Please include in your announcements and listings

Next Stage Theatre Festival presents

Literally Titanium

January 8 - 19, 2020 at Factory Theatre

Ophira Calof is happy to present her new show **Literally Titanium** as part of the 2020 Next Stage Theatre Festival January 8 - 19, 2020 at Factory Theatre Studio. **Literally Titanium** is a work of Disability Theatre, centring on Ophira's personal experience of disability and chronic illness.

In the age of body positivity, where does chronic illness fit? Playing her body as a character, who is finally getting their moment in the spotlight, Disabled artist **Ophira Calof** uses music, comedy and storytelling to explore the complicated relationship between her body and her mind as they navigate a world that was not built for them.

Directed by Sanja Vodovnik, **Literally Titanium** is a reclamatory, cabaret-esque show written and performed by Ophira Calof, with dramaturgy by Jessica Watkin. **Literally Titanium** pushes the boundaries of how folks experience theatre, weaving accessibility through the production.

Literally Titanium was initially presented as a ten minute piece for the University of Toronto FOOT Festival, before being further developed in the 2019 Buddies in Bad Times Emerging Creator's Unit.

Ophira Calof is a disabled writer, performer, and producer based in Toronto, Canada who creates content exploring illness and disability. She co-created the award winning sketch comedy revue Generally Hospital (Canadian Comedy Award Nominee, Patron's Pick, David Seguin Memorial Award), curated and hosted the 2019 Reelabilities Film Festival Comedy Programming, and was a featured performer of Sick and Twisted's 2019 Crip Cabaret in Winnipeg. Ophira graduated from Second City's Writing and Sketch Conservatory programs, performed in their 2018 Toronto Diversity Fellowship Showcase, and received the 2018 Tim Sims Encouragement Award. Ophira also has an extensive background as a vocalist, training through the University of British Columbia's opera performance program, and she has released a single and music video, titled: Still Standing. Additionally, Ophira has spoken in a variety of settings as a health educator, patient advocate, and accessibility consultant.

Literally Titanium

January 8 - 19, 2020 at Next Stage Theatre Festival
Factory Theatre, Studio
125 Bathurst Street

Tickets: On sale Monday, November 25, 2019

fringetoronto.com/next-stage/

Ophira.ca / https://twitter.com/Ophira_C / <https://www.instagram.com/ophira.c/>

History: Next Stage Theatre Festival was founded in 2008. It was created to encourage indie artists and artists who had previously been in a Fringe Festival to move beyond the summer festival model and showcase their work to a wider audience, including discerning artistic decision makers who could be interested in programming their shows on main stages across the country.

Finding its home in January at Factory Theatre, it quickly became the premiere winter theatre event in the city, filling in a void that the after-holiday season had created. Over the last 13 years there have been many shows that appeared at previous Fringe Festivals as well as many new works by established indie theatre artists who have demonstrated the passion and tenacity to take their work to the next stage.

In 2018 we removed the caveat that participants had to be a previous Fringe Festival artist and allowed anyone to apply. We recognized that as the Fringe is a lottery not everyone will have had a chance to perform in one and therefore would also not have the opportunity to apply to Next Stage. A jury of industry experts evaluate the submissions.

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