

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**

**NEXT STAGE**

**LITERALLY  
TITANIUM**

Presented by:  
**Canadian Comedians**

# The Solitudes



photo: Tanja Tuziana

*eight recipes for transforming our solitudes,  
and an invitation to sit at the table*



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# HAPPY 2020!

Our little theatre festival is now a teenager. In this 13th year of Next Stage, we are presenting a clearer vision than ever before. This line-up offers you personal stories, incredible writing, a full musical, and a Fringe-fave clown duo.



I am so honoured to be able to share this work with you from this passionate group of artists who have worked so hard to bring you their shows. I hope you can pack in as much theatre as possible over the next 12 days and join us for our Fringe Fundraiser, a one-night-only event with Tallboyz, another #StartedAtTheFringe success story, on Saturday Jan 11th at 7:30pm. We will also have treats for everyone in the heated Steam Whistle Festival Tent and a late night party in the Studio theatre so come by then or any other night to say hi to myself and the Next Stage crew.

May this be the start of a 2020 filled with theatre and joy.

All the best,



Lucy Eveleigh  
Executive Director



It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the Next Stage Theatre Festival hosted by Toronto Fringe.



Now in its 13th year, the Next Stage Theatre Festival features 11 visionary shows that showcase a vision of innovative styles and formats and represent a vanguard of indie theatre makers in Toronto. These shows range from staged readings to fully realized productions that offer an enriching program while keeping the indie spirit alive.

I am delighted that wonderful events like yours are taking place in Toronto. Events like this festival promote and encourage residents to participate in their community, connect with each other and contribute to the community's strength.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,



John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto



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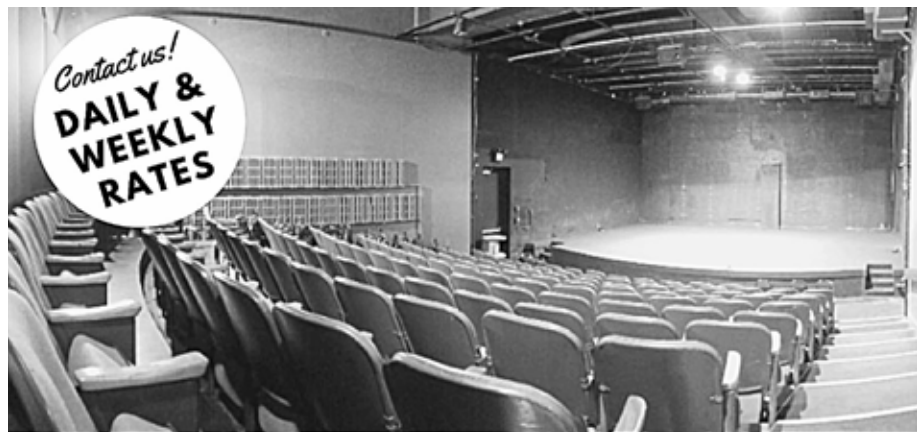
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# NEXT STAGE

## LITERALLY TITANIUM

Presented by  
**Canadian Comedians**

Creator & Performer	<b>Ophira Calof</b>
Director	<b>Sanja Vodovnik</b>
Dramaturg	<b>Jessica Watkin</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Connor Low</b>
Producers	<b>Alia Rasul &amp; Sabrina Friedman</b>
Deaf Community Consultant	<b>Akiva Blaine</b>

## **OPHIRA CALOF, CREATOR/PERFORMER**

Ophira Calof is a multi-award winning Disabled writer, performer, and producer based in Toronto, Canada. Her work brings together music, comedy, and storytelling, centering disability and chronic illness experience. She co-created the sketch comedy revue *Generally Hospital* (Canadian Comedy Award Nominee) curates the Reelabilities Film Festival Comedy Programming, and was a featured performer at *Sex and SexAbility* (Sick and Twisted). Ophira also has an extensive background as a vocalist, training through UBC's opera performance program, and in 2017 released her single, *Still Standing*.

## **SANJA VODOVNIK, DIRECTOR**

Sanja Vodovnik is thrilled to be working on *Literally Titanium!* She's worked and trained in Slovenia (ZIZ), Ireland (The Blue Teapot Theatre Company), Iceland (The Freezer) and Toronto. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto. Her interest lies in examining various outlets of staging and performing science fiction, focusing on its cultural history, dramaturgy, ethics, and the performance of SF fan communities.

## **JESSICA WATKIN, DRAMATURG**

Jessica Watkin is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto's Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. Her research focuses on Disabled Artists and their Creation Processes in Canada, as well as systems of support and training institutions and the effects on Disabled people. She is a multi-disciplinary Blind artist who works with movement, various craft materials, and performance to tell stories of disability and has consulted with Lemontree Productions, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, New College Library, Bodies in Translation, and more!

## **CONNOR LOW, STAGE MANAGER**

Connor is a faculty member, performer and the technical director at Bad Dog Theatre. Previously, he taught improv all across Eastern Canada. He was also in the Canadian Comedy Award nominated show *Entrances and Exits* and stage managed and was the technical improviser for the Dora award winning show *The Wonder Pageant*. Please note: he is not St. Louis-based teen guitar impresario Connor Low; instead, he is a different one.

## **ALIA RASUL, PRODUCER**

Alia is a Canadian Comedy Award nominated writer/performer. She is part of the multi award winning Tita Collective (*Tita Jokes*) and received rave reviews for her performance in *Generally Hospital* whose "outstanding ensemble" won Patron's Pick and the David Séguin Memorial Award at the 2018 Toronto Fringe. She understudied for 2 seasons of Second City's Mainstage hit show, *She the People*. She made her directorial debut with *Kwento*, an improvised Filipino folktale. Alia is currently inclusion director at Bad Dog Theatre.

## **SABRINA FRIEDMAN, PRODUCER**

Sabrina Friedman is a Canadian Comedy Award nominated comedian, singer, musician & voice actor ([www.voices.com/actors/SabrinaFriedman](http://www.voices.com/actors/SabrinaFriedman)). Sabrina's production experience comes from her work as a community theatre director and producer, choir director, youth programs director, and school music teacher. Sabrina trained in sketch and improv, was a writer/performer of the multi award winning *Generally Hospital* and is totally jazzed to be part of the *Literally Titanium* production team!

**THANK YOU'S:** We'd like to extend a big thank you to the Next Stage Festival for their support, along with all the generous supporters of our fundraising campaign!

### **CRIP THE SCRIPT:**

To challenge, reframe and reclaim language, systems, stories, and stages to centre "Crip", or Disability, identity and experience.

We're so excited to be weaving accessibility through *Literally Titanium*. Each show is a relaxed performance where patrons are encouraged to come and go, and use the space as needed. The January 11th and 18th shows feature a modified relaxed environment, ideal for folks who may benefit from a darker and less stimulating sensory environment in the audience. Additionally, the January 15th performance is ASL Interpreted and the January 18th and 19th shows are Audio Described.

### **CONNECT WITH US:**

[www.ophira.ca](http://www.ophira.ca)

[facebook.com/literallytitanium/](https://facebook.com/literallytitanium/)

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# ENJOY YOUR SHOW!

**DON'T FORGET THERE ARE 11  
OTHER SHOWS IN THIS FESTIVAL  
THAT RUN UNTIL JAN 19.**



**LEARN MORE ABOUT NEXT STAGE AT  
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# TORONTO FRINGE

## OUR MANDATE

The Toronto Fringe is a platform for everyone to access, discover, and experiment with the arts. By valuing creative experiences, we contribute to a healthy arts economy and, ultimately, a thriving society.

## OUR VALUES

**Access** – in every sense of the word

**Accountability** – we work with integrity and respect

**Creativity** – freedom of expression permeates everything we do

**Exploration** – we let curiosity be our guide

**Support** – empowering you to take a chance

## OUR STAFF

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# THANK YOU

Our families and friends, the Next Stage Theatre Festival staff and volunteers, the Next Stage Jury (Lucy Eveleigh, Laura Paduch, Derrick Chua, Owais Lightwalla), Factory Theatre patron services and bar staff, Lindsey Cassel at Steam Whistle, Jason Maghanoy at Toronto Life, Christian Ismodes at Now Magazine, Philip Riccio and Janice Peters Gibson at Intermission Magazine, Sean Lee and Kristina McMullin at Tangled Arts, Celeste Sansregret, Rebecca Vandavelde, Kat Germain, Peter Tsatsanis.

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