

TORONTO
FRINGE

NEXT STAGE

Access Supplement: Next Stage Theatre Festival 2020

About this Document

This screen-reader friendly document is intended to offer general information about accessibility at the Next Stage Theatre Festival, including a listing of performance-specific access measures available.

This is our first time creating this type of document for Next Stage. We'd appreciate your feedback. Please contact Accessibility Manager, Susan Wolf, at 416-966-1062 x 227 or access@fringetoronto.com.

Thank you for helping us to make a better and more inclusive festival!

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Access Measures: Customer Service

The Toronto Fringe and Next Stage Theatre Festival are committed to extending a high level of customer service to all of our patrons. We are dedicated to working constructively with our venues, patrons, staff, volunteers and community to meet and exceed the requirements which will identify, prevent and remove barriers so a fulfilling theatrical experience can be enjoyed by all patrons, including those with disabilities.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas for making Next Stage more accessible and inclusive please contact Accessibility Manager, Susan Wolf, at 416-966-1062 x 227 or access@fringetoronto.com.

Priority Seating

Priority seating allows those patrons who have access requirements to enter the theatre in advance of the general audience. This includes, but is not limited to, those who need a little extra time to get to their seats, patrons using the ASL interpretation services, and those requiring aisle seating. Patrons are asked to arrive at least 25 minutes before performance start time and identify themselves to the Box Office to ensure early access. Priority seating cannot be guaranteed after general admission begins.

New! Audio Way Finding

Audio way finding for Next Stage will be available online through Soundcloud beginning in early January. These online way finding guides created by a professional audio describer can help Blind and low vision patrons get acquainted with the Next Stage venues. Separate files will be available for the Next Stage Tent, Factory Mainspace, and Factory Studio. We appreciate any feedback patrons may offer on this new initiative.

Visual Guide to Next Stage

These online guides can help you get acquainted with Next Stage venues before you visit. They include directions to Factory Theatre and information on what you can expect when you get there. Visual Guides for Factory Mainspace and Studio Space will be available on our website in early January at this URL: <https://fringetoronto.com/accessibility/customer-service>

Venue Access Information

Detailed accessibility information for Factory Theatre is available on our website. This information is designed to assist patrons in planning their visits to Next Stage.

Mainspace: <https://fringetoronto.com/accessibility/access-at-venues/venue/factory-theatre-mainspace>

Studio: <https://fringetoronto.com/accessibility/access-at-venues/venue/factory-theatre-studio>

Personal Support Workers

We welcome people with disabilities who are accompanied by a personal support worker. Where a support worker is required, admission to all Next Stage performances and events is free for the accompanying person. Every attending patron and accompanying support person must have a valid ticket to that performance or event. Please advise the Box Office when you purchase your tickets.

Service Animals

Service animals are welcome in all areas of our venues that are open to the public. Please advise the Box Office when you purchase your tickets.

Accessibility Training for Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers receive general accessibility training. If you would like more information about the training content, please contact Accessibility Manager, Susan Wolf, at 416-966-1062 x 227 or access@fringetoronto.com.

Performance Access Measures: Search by Type

Relaxed Performances

Relaxed performances welcome patrons who may benefit from a less restrictive audience environment, including (but not limited to) patrons with sensory processing conditions, Autism, intellectual disability, or those with young children.

Standard relaxed performances offer an introduction at the start of the show and have a relaxed attitude to noise and movement, including reducing extreme sound and lighting effects, leaving house lights on at a low level, and allowing patrons to come and go.

All relaxed performances at Next Stage offer a quiet area adjacent to the theatre space with a live feed. Patrons may use the quiet area at any time during a relaxed performance.

Some shows at Next Stage offer a modified version of a relaxed performance. Modified Relaxed performances offer an introduction at the start of the show, reduced sound and lighting effects and allow patrons to come and go. However, modified relaxed performances feature a darker and less stimulating audience environment. Modified relaxed performance patrons are asked to keep sudden noise, movements, and the use of handheld devices to a minimum, where possible.

As each Next Stage show is unique, please go to the Performance Access Measures: Search by Show Title section of this document for information about each show. Alternatively, go to individual show pages online for details.

Dates of Relaxed Performances

Show information below

8th Jan, 6:30pm (Standard) – Literally Titanium

11th Jan, 6:15pm (Modified) – Literally Titanium

13th Jan, 7:00pm (Standard) – Literally Titanium

15th Jan, 6:30pm (Standard) – 49th Day

15th Jan, 6:45pm (Standard) – Tita Jokes

15th Jan, 8:15pm (Standard) – Literally Titanium

18th Jan, 5:30pm (Modified) – Literally Titanium

19th Jan, 4:00pm (Standard) – Literally Titanium

American Sign Language (ASL) & Deaf Interpreted Performances

Some shows will offer ASL and/or Deaf interpretation at select performances. Audiences using interpretation services are encouraged to make use of priority seating to ensure best sight lines. Priority seating is available approximately 20 minutes before performance start time and audiences are encouraged to identify themselves at the Box Office at least 25 minutes before performance start time. Information about best sight lines can also be obtained at the Next Stage Box Office prior to the performance. Where possible, ASL fluent volunteers are available before and after the performance. Please email access@fringetoronto.com for more information.

Dates of ASL & Deaf Interpreted Performances

Show information below

15th Jan, 8:15pm – Literally Titanium

16th Jan, 7:00pm – Consumption Patterns

18th Jan, 2:00pm – Morro and Jasp

Audio Described Performances

Closed audio description improves access for blind and partially sighted patrons by providing a live verbal description of the visual elements of a performance (sets, costumes, and nonverbal onstage action) as well as pre-show notes. These performances require an earphone and receiver that can be obtained from the Next Stage Box Office. Please identify yourself at the Box Office least 25 minutes prior to the performance start times to make use of this service. Support persons attend free however they must also be issued a ticket. Service animals are always welcome at Next Stage.

Please note: pre-recorded audio description of key visual and movement elements will be available for all performances of *U-R-U*. Please check back at the updated version of this supplement in early January or go to show page for details. The team behind *Pearle Harbour: Agit-Pop!* is in the early stages of research towards integrating audio description within their show. Feedback is welcome and can be sent to access@fringetoronto.com.

Dates of Audio Described Performances

Show information below

18th Jan, 5:30pm – Literally Titanium

19th Jan, 2:00pm – 49th Day

19th Jan, 4:00pm – Literally Titanium

Performances Access Measures: Search by Show Title

Literally Titanium

About the show

In the age of body positivity, where does chronic illness fit? Disabled artist Ophira Calof plays her body as a character finally getting its moment in the spotlight, using music, comedy and storytelling to explore the relationship between her body and mind as they navigate a world that wasn't built for them. This show includes an informal conversation at the end of each performance. Every performance of this show includes access measures.

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/literally-titanium>

Relaxed Performances (Standard)

8th Jan, 6:30pm

13th Jan, 7:00pm

15th Jan, 8:15pm

19th Jan, 4:00pm

Relaxed (Standard) Features:

1. An introduction, slightly reduced sound and lighting cues, house lights on dimly.
2. Audience members may enter and exit throughout the performance.
3. A quiet area with a live feed of the show is available for anyone that needs a break.
4. Audience members are welcome to do what makes them feel most comfortable including dancing, moving, vocalizing, using fidgets.

Relaxed Performances (Modified)

11th Jan, 6:15pm

18th Jan, 5:30pm

Relaxed (Modified) Features:

1. Ideal for folks who may benefit from a darker and less stimulating sensory environment in the audience.
2. House lights will not be kept on for these performances.
3. Patrons are asked to keep sudden sounds, movements, and the use of handheld devices to a minimum, where possible.

ASL Interpreted Performances

15th Jan, 8:15pm

ASL Interpreted Features:

1. ASL interpreted show, Deaf consultant.

2. Patrons can make use of priority (advanced) seating. Priority seating begins approximately 20 minutes before show start.
3. Box Office at venue can indicate best sightlines.
4. Where possible an ASL fluent volunteer will be in attendance pre-show.

Audio Described Performances

18th Jan, 5:30pm

19th Jan, 4:00pm

Audio Described Features:

1. Closed audio description.
2. Patrons making use of audio description are asked to identify themselves at the venue Box Office at least 25 min in advance to pick up equipment, for pre-show notes and priority seating.
3. Support workers attend free but need a ticket.
4. Service animals welcome.

Tita Jokes

About the show

Tita Power! One of the sell-out hits of the 2019 Toronto Fringe, Tita Jokes is back and better than ever. Featuring new sketches, new songs, and a sixth Tita, this all-Filipina, all-fun sketch comedy show will bring so much heat from the Philippines that you'll forget that it's winter. The show is a love letter to the strong Filipinas in the artists' lives: their mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and friends.

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/tita-jokes>

Relaxed Performances (Standard)

15th Jan, 6:45pm

Relaxed (Standard) Features:

1. An introduction, slightly reduced sound and lighting cues, house lights on dimly.
2. Audience members may enter and exit throughout the performance.
3. A quiet area with a live feed of the show is available for anyone that needs a break.
4. Audience members are welcome to do what makes them feel most comfortable including dancing, moving, vocalizing, using fidgets.

Consumptions Patterns

About the show

Take vacations. Shower regularly. Befriend the nanny. Hire a sex worker. Buy art. Murder the planet. Retire. Get comfy as a panicked CEO takes a surreal journey through the product pipeline. Surveying our vast economic landscape, Consumption Patterns reveals a world at war with itself—offering a bracing glimpse of what's to come.

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/consumption-patterns>

ASL Interpreted Performances

16th Jan, 7:00pm

ASL interpreted Features:

1. Deaf Interpreted (Gaitrie Persaud & Rogue Benjamin).
2. Some open captioning.
3. Patrons can make use of priority (advanced) seating. Priority seating begins approximately 20 minutes before show start.
4. Box Office at venue can indicate best sightlines.
5. Where possible an ASL fluent volunteer will be in attendance pre-show.

49th Day

About the show

49th Day takes us to a cemetery in Việt Nam, where a young woman makes offerings and performs rituals for her deceased grandmother. A poetic investigation of intergenerational trauma and displacement, this piece is a love letter to elders and grandparents everywhere.

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/49th-day>

Relaxed Performances (Standard)

15th Jan, 6:30pm

Relaxed (Standard) Features:

1. An introduction, slightly reduced sound and lighting cues, house lights on dimly.
2. Audience members may enter and exit throughout the performance.
3. A quiet area with a live feed of the show is available for anyone that needs a break.
4. Audience members are welcome to do what makes them feel most comfortable including dancing, moving, vocalizing, using fidgets.

Audio Described Performances

19th Jan, 2:00pm

Audio Described Features:

1. Closed audio description.
2. Patrons making use of audio description are asked to identify themselves at the venue Box Office at least 25 min in advance to pick up equipment, for pre-show notes and priority seating.
3. Support workers attend free but need a ticket.
4. Service animals welcome.

Morro and Jasp: Save the Date

About the show

Does saying “I Do” to someone new mean saying “I Don’t” to each other? For better or for worse, the sisters have to negotiate what their relationship will look like now that there is a third person in the mix. Can they survive this new chapter of life without the person who has always been by their side? Can they still be Morro and Jasp?

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/morro-and-jasp-save-date>

ASL Interpreted Performances

18th Jan, 2:00pm

ASL Interpreted Features:

1. ASL interpreted show (Amanda Hyde & Jessica Kingsbury).
2. Patrons can make use of priority (advanced) seating. Priority seating begins approximately 20 minutes before show start.
3. Box Office at venue can indicate best sightlines.
4. Where possible an ASL fluent volunteer will be in attendance pre-show.

U-R-U

About the show

First Daughter, Helen Spectacular, arrives at the world’s largest robot-producing start-up with a plan to free the robots and grant them human rights. She quickly becomes embroiled in both a love triangle and a secret science experiment that might lead to a major robot revolt. Absurdly comic and existentially chilling, U-R-U examines the societal obsession with progress at all costs and the decreasing worth of humanity in this increasingly artificial world.

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/u-r-u>

Pre-Recorded Audio Description

Pre-recorded audio description will be available online in early January. The pre-recorded audio acts in lieu of introductory notes for all performances.

Features:

1. Live script reading.
2. Stage directions, including visual and action details, will be read along with the dialogue.
3. Pre-recorded audio description available for Blind and low vision audiences available by early January on the Next Stage website or by contacting access@fringetoronto.com.

Pearle Harbour's Agit-Pop!

About the show

Award-winning drag tragicomediienne Pearle Harbour presents her cabaret spectacular Agit-Pop! – musical meditations for the pre-post-apocalypse. Developed over five years of live performance, Agit Pop! is an ever-changing collection of Pearle's favourite, best, and most heart-wrenchingly hilarious short acts. With accompaniment by musical director Steven Conway, Pearle serenades audiences with new arrangements of old classics and little known gems by David Bowie, Judy Garland, Tom Waits, and more.

More information: <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/pearle-harbours-agit-pop>

Pilot Integrated Audio Description

The team behind Pearle Harbour: Agit-Pop! is working with a consultant to create integrating audio description within their show. This is a work in progress and feedback is welcome and can be sent to access@fringetoronto.com.

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