** VOCALEYE ANNOUNCEMENT

** ACCESS VANCOUVER FRINGE 2024

Dear Friends,

We're here for a quick announcement to share all the exciting details about an unforgettable weekend coming up:

Access Vancouver Fringe 2024!

Join us on Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15 for our inaugural Low Vision Friendly Fringe Weekend, curated *by* and *for* the Blind and Partially Sighted community! At select venues across Granville Island.

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Vancouver Fringe Festival with us! Our Low Vision Friendly (LVF) Fringe Weekend features a curated selection of shows, including one with VocalEye live description—Lip Service 3: Live in Concert. Our panel of VocalEye curators have carefully reviewed all 73 Fringe shows to create this Full On LVF Fringe Weekend adventure for you!

How to Select Your LVF Shows:

1. Review the Access Fringe Schedule

Check out the show schedules below for Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15. Each day offers a variety of shows across different venues on Granville Island.

2. Decide How Many Shows You Want to Attend

- •Go Full On: Choose up to 4 shows per day for \$35.
- •Create Your Own Fringe Mini-Adventure: Pick individual shows for \$10 per person, per show (regular price \$15-\$18).

3. Select Your Shows

•Select up to 4 shows per day, with your choice of one asterisked (*) show per day. These asterisked shows have time overlaps, so you can only choose one from this group per day.

4. Enjoy Priority Seating and Benefits

 Access Fringe tickets include priority seating and a complimentary Fringe Membership (\$10 value). You can also request a **Theatre Buddy** sighted guide if needed.

5. Purchase Your Tickets

This is the closing weekend of the festival and tickets are going fast. Contact Steph at info@vocaleye.ca or call 604-364-5949 to process your order more quickly.

Access Fringe Schedule

Scroll down the <u>Access Fringe event page</u> to get accessible downloads of Access Fringe Venues and Show Descriptions.

* Venues include Performance Works, Waterfront Theatre, Revue Stage, Arts Umbrella, and Improv Centre.

Saturday, September 14

- 2:00 pm: B the Wiz & O'ROSE present A Storytelling Hip-Hop Experience (30 min)
- 3:15 pm: God's a Drag (65 min)
 (dinner break)
- 5:55 pm: *James Roque: Champorado (60 min)
 OR
 - * 6 pm: Jimmy Hogg: Potato King (60 min)
- 7:40 pm: How to Catch a Karen (50 min)

Sunday, September 15

- 12:30 pm: A Woman's Guide to Peeing Outside(60 min)
 (lunch break)
- 3:15 pm: <u>Lip Service 3: Live In Concert</u>, with audio description at (60 min)
- 5:00 pm: A Smoke Behind the Rope (60 min) (dinner break)
- 7:30 pm: The ADHD Project (60 min)

VocalEye Community Curators

Our Fringe Curators will be attending numerous shows throughout the Festival and sharing their reviews with us. We'll post these reviews on the VocalEye Facebook page in the week leading up to the Low Vision Friendly Weekend, so be sure to follow us for updates!

Amy Amantea is a white settler on the stolen lands of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-waututh first peoples. Living with blindness, dyslexia, chronic pain, and chronic illness, Amy aims to increase representation of disability within the Canadian theatre landscape. Her background is in acting having attended VFS and private acting academies before her sight loss. Amy has had to reinvent herself as a performer and has integrated access,

advocacy and activism into her own artistic practice. As a Creative Access Consultant and Accessibility Strategist, Amy works with individual artists, small creative teams and larger organizations on increasing access within projects, festival environments and organization culture change – all in relation to access and inclusion for patrons of the arts, artists and arts workers.

Read Amy's review on Facebook.

Deborah Fong has been a member of the Mainstreeters, an artists collective involved with performances, multimedia and visual arts in the past. Previously, she worked in the communications field as a graphic designer, editor, and writer for over 35 years. Deb became legally-blind 15 years ago. Since then, she has worked with VocalEye at five Vancouver Fringe Festivals as an accessibility consultant where she wrote KickAss reviews that included how accessible productions, venues and logistics were for blind or low vision patrons.

"I love the Fringe because I can immerse myself in a wide variety of theatre from lively musicals and hilarious comedies to insightful storytelling and riveting dramas. And all within walking distance of one another. The venues are as varied as the genres, including cabaret-style theatre with tables and chairs, dance studios and outdoor spaces. I have been to five Vancouver Fringe Festivals and have enjoyed many full days of fun, innovative and entertaining performances." - Deb Fong

Kristy Kassie is a certified English and ESL Instructor, published creative writer and amateur rock painter originally from Trinidad and Tobago. She lives in New Westminster. Born on the ancestral land of the Aruaca and Carib-speaking people, she recognizes and respects that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledges that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She is humbled and appreciative to call these stolen lands home. Follow Kristy for more reviews on her personal social media profiles: Facebook and Instagram.

"A Vancouver Fringe Festival adventure can begin with Humboldt squid and jalapeño mayo, chocolate Oreo cheesecake and red sangria. Or a burger and tater tots with a beer, if that's more your style. You can spend a couple hours with great colleagues exchanging fun stories on a sunny patio, then walk to a theatre to experience animated storytelling, comedic musicals or thought-provoking, interactive sketches. Vancouver Fringe rocks!"

- Kristy Kassie

Other Links:

Vancouver Fringe Festival

All Fringe Venues

Accessibility at the Fringe

Accessibility on Granville Island

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the funders, donors and supporters who help us make the arts more accessible for people who are blind and partially sighted.

Canada Council for the Arts
British Columbia Arts Council
City of Vancouver Cultural Services

Website

Facebook

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<u>Instagram</u>

info@vocaleye.ca

Tsleil-Waututh peoples.
We occupy the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and

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