

Tucson Fringe is made possible with the generous support FROM...

















Dear Fringe Family,

I'm so glad you've decided to join us again this year. It can be hard to make and stick to commitments in these times, and it can be hard to sit in front of a screen voluntarily when so many of us are at screens for work. But the idea of the Fringe Festival has always been to bring people together and give them something not just to watch, to entertain them, but to give them a shared experience to talk about, engage with, argue about, and reflect on together. I hope that you'll choose to watch some of the 2021 Tucson Fringe Festival with others and keep the idea of the shared artistic experience alive. I'd like to thank the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Arts Foundation of Tucson and Southern Arizona. Thanks to their continued support of Tucson Fringe over the past nine years (and because I'm my mother's daughter and save every penny), we were able to not only bring you the 2021 Fringe Festival at no cost to the audience, but we were able to support 19 performers and performing arts groups from around the country and the world in a time when so many are struggling. Each performer this year was awarded a microgrant of \$200-\$500 to support the creation of their Fringe show. Another tenet of the Fringe Festival is reducing the barriers for artists and audience alike and in that regard, I'm honored to be able to do that for this year's creative, inspiring, and diverse group of performers. Finally, I'd like to take a moment to remember one of Tucson's favorite photographers, Scott Griessel. Scott and Anna approached me a few years ago asking if the festival had an official photographer, and if we didn't, would we like Creatista to be that. For the past three years, Scott, Anna, and their team of photographers have documented our growing festival and offer our performers beautiful photos of their shows at no cost. Scott was outgoing, thoughtful, charming, and generous. Tucson Fringe and the Tucson performing arts community as a whole miss him dearly and offer our love and support to Anna. I hope you enjoy this year's festival. I hope you and your loved ones stay healthy. I hope you stay hopeful. And we hope to see you in person for TFF 2022.

Maryann Green
Executive Director
Tucson Fringe Festival

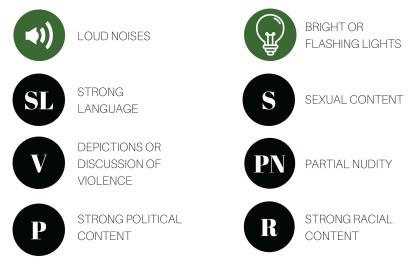


Tucson Fringe Festival Key

The Tucson Fringe Festival is unjuried, which means festival organizers don't hand pick the performance groups that get into the festival. In fact, it is literally luck of the draw (come to our lottery party in September)! We are also uncensored, which means if you can do it legally on a stage in the state of Arizona, you can do it at TFF.

Part of the fun of Fringe is not quite knowing what you're going to get from each show. But at the same time, we want to make sure that you are warned about potentially upsetting content, something like a movie rating system. The performers themselves choose which tags to put on their shows. We hope this helps you make informed decisions about your Fringe schedule, and allows you to curate a Festival experience that suits your interests and tastes.

You'll find keywords under each show title, and icons next to the show information.





recommended for audience members 18 years and older

Performance/Audience Meet-n-Greet

Saturday, February 6, 2021 4:00 PM

Register at eventbrite.com

Wrap-Up Party

Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:00 PM

Register at eventbrite.com

How to Fringe

Whether you're a long-time Fringe Fan, or new to the Fringe Festival Vibe, we'll help you make the most of what we have to offer.

STEP 1: Check our website to see the 19 shows that are a part of Tucson Fringe Festival 2021. A sentimental apocalypse comedy, storytelling from the autism spectrum, real and mythical beasts of Arizona, a romantic Indian drama set against an intense game of chess. Puppets, puppies, poetry, healing yoga, juggling, bong hits, dance, and of course, magic.

You can also follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for show preview videos.

STEP 2: For livestream shows head to our Eventbrite page to reserve your spot. The Zoom link will be on each Eventbrite page the week of the show, and will be sent out to everyone with a reservation at least 24 hours in advance. If you know how to join a Zoom call, you know how to attend a Tucson Fringe Livestream show.

STEP 3: Subscribe to our YouTube channel. No, it's not another subscription that will send you emails and texts and junk. YouTube is where we'll post all of the pre-recorded content. You can watch those shows any time between February 4th and 14th. Many shows will have a "live" premiere, where you can post messages to the performer and Fringe staff.

STEP 4: Missing that Tucson Fringe vibe, where you can mix and mingle with other audience members and performers? Come to our open Meet N Greet on Saturday February 6th at 5 pm. We'll have breakout rooms with different performers and interactive bulletin boards where you can talk about what you've seen and what you can't wait to see.

STEP 5: Reviews! Performers love awards, and we love to give out awards. At the end of each livestream show you'll be asked to take a quick poll, giving the show a 1-to5-star rating. Awards for pre-recorded shows will be based on likes between Feb 4th and Feb 7th.

A Day at the Beach Lodi, CA

PREMIERE February 2, 6:30 PM MST theater, comedy, drama

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

A beautiful day. A secluded beach. Two strangers. The end of the world approaching. What could go wrong? What could go right? This dramedy explores

a Day at the Beach

what happens when a woman with stunted growth and a free spirit goes through the five stages of grief. Questioning faith, the future, and how much alcohol it takes to forget your worries.

18 +

Artist Bio:

ULTRASUEDE PRODUCTIONS formed in 2009 on the heel of the founders' honeymoon. The future was ahead of them, and they knew just what to do with it. Use whatever time, energy, and money they had to tell stories. Stories to teach, stories to help, stories to entertain. We strive to tell interesting, thought-provoking, heartfelt stories in an easily accessible way. Firmly believing in the Fringe Festival model of "No Risk, No Art", Ultrasuede puts forth original and unique work.

A Different Way of Thinking

Louisville, KY

February 6, 3:00 PM MST & February 7, 6:30 PM MST theater, storytelling, comedy, magic/vaudeville, variety, self-advocacy

The Show (LIVE):

Magician/autistic self-advocate Cody Clark combines magic, comedy, and storytelling to share what living with autism is like.



Artist Bio:

Cody is a 27-year-old professional magician/autistic self-advocate from Louisville, KY. Cody's magic empowers by helping people discover and celebrate what makes them unique. He brings a sense of vulnerability to his shows through personal stories that encourage others to break down their own barriers. He's toured the US fringe circuit for five years with this show and, during COVID, is presenting virtual talks to disabled young adults transitioning to college and employment. He also has a children's magic show called Conductor Cody and an all-purposes magic show called Cody Clark Magic. You may learn more at codyclarkmagic.com.

After Party Chicago, IL

PREMIERE February 1, 6:30 PM MST theater, storytelling, dance/ariel/acrobatic, live music

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

After Party is an original film tracking the drunken stupor of three individuals just following their best friend's wedding, written and directed by Dominique Ruffalo.





Artist Bio:

Dominique Ruffalo is a graduate of the University of Arizona with her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. After graduation, she moved to Los Angeles and had the privilege of studying at the Groundlings and was featured in the LA production of Roller Dynasty. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, she has temporarily relocated to Tucson. In December of 2020, she had the honor to direct Gotta Dance!'s film production of "The Nutcracker". Past Tucson productions include The Merchant of Venice (Nerissa), A Streetcar Named Desire (Eunice), Twelfth Night (Maria), and Hands on a Hardbody (Janis).

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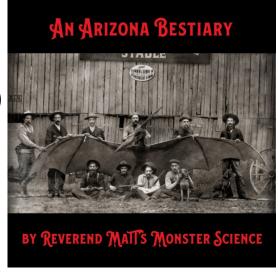


An Arizona Bestiary Minneapolis, MN

February 6, 8:00 PM MST & February 7, 12:00 PM MST comedy

The Show (LIVE):

Reverend Matt's Monster Science: An Arizona Bestiary" is a complete comic (but factual!) talk on the history of the monsters of Arizona. From the prehistoric beasts that roamed the Grand Canyon state, to the monsters of indigenous legend, to modern cryptozoology,



the extensive and bizarre history of Arizona's weird creatures is discussed in full! With jokes! And PowerPoint! Part of the "Reverend Matt's Monster Science" series, which won "Best Solo Show" at the 2020 Tucson Fringe Festival.

Artist Bio:

Matt Kessen is a writer, actor, and producer working out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is the creator of the popular one-man show "Reverend Matt's Monster Science," a series of educational and comic talks on the broad subject of "monsters." Iterations of Monster Science have won "Best Solo Show" at the 2020 Tucson Fringe Festival and "Best of Minnesota" at the 2020 Minnesota WebFest.



Climbing My Family Tree Hollywood, CA

February 5, 5:00 PM MST & February 6, 5:00 PM MST storytelling, comedy

The Show (LIVE):

Les takes an Ancestry DNA Test and opens the door to a crazy family mystery.





Artist Bio:

Les Kurkendaal-Barrett has spent his life telling stories, so he decided to pursue it professionally. He was always told to do what you love, and so becoming a storyteller was a no-brainer. His father worked for the Department of Defense and, because of this, the family moved around a lot. Les went to Junior High on the Island of Guam, high school in Madrid and Spain, and his first two years of college in Munich Germany. As an American living in these places, he always felt like a fish out of water. Now the fish out of water theme is something that heavily influences his stories. He also studied Theatre at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Les has been touring Fringe Festivals off and on since 2001. He loves to travel, so the Fringe circuit is a good fit for him. He has been to Fringe Festivals all over the world, including The Wellington Fringe in New Zealand, Halifax Fringe, Minnesota Fringe, and many, many others. Les is based in Los Angeles, California. He is also an actor. He has been in the films The Lost Cause, Boychick, Bro What Happened, and Alibi. His goal is to take his storytelling shows to the next level by turning them into films. When Les isn't touring or performing, he enjoys his hobbies: long-distance running and yoga. He has run ten marathons, and he travels as much as he can. Les and his husband are also involved in a new project; they are adopting a child within the next year.

Comedy Acts of Derring-Do! Fairpoint, NY

PREMIERE February 2, 5:30 PM MST magic/vaudeville/variety

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

Ill-advised comedy acts of derring-do and a look into the vacuous mind of a juggler!



Artist Bio:

Since 1995, Ted has been performing vaudeville-style skills to audiences large and small, young and old. From Wisconsin to Vermont, he's performed as a solo act and in productions, including an adaptation of Shakespeare's The Tempest. He is the winner of the 5 Ball Endurance and Best Trick at the Cornell University Big Red Juggling Festival and the Andrew D. Dixon Award at the Ithaca (NY) Fringe Festival. As a professional speaker, Dr. Ted creates an audience experience that is fun, entertaining, and informative!

Dreams and Schemes

Chicago, IL
February 4, 6:30 PM MST 8
February 6, 1:30 PM MST

theater, storytelling, live music, comedy, drama

The Show (LIVE):

Follow Audrey as she ventures into the past of her Floridian youth to get back her old childhood joy and figure out where she lost it.







Artist Bio:

Audrey Gladson(actor/playwright) has been telling stories (frequently feature father) since she was a wee little kid. She is so happy to be sharing some of those stories in Dreams and Schemes, where audiences can follow this Floridian wild child to connect with the kid they once were and the adult they grew up to be. She has been working as a theatre creator in Chicago since 2011, having graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul. Audrey has been a collective member of the Agency Theatre Collective over the last five years, where she has grown as a writer, producer, and director.

Elizabeth Soflin: By Language Embellished, I Croswell, MI/Tucson, AZ

PREMIERE February 3, 8:00 PM MST theater, storytelling, live music

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

Percussionist Elizabeth Soflin explores the voice as a drum and everyday objects as musical instruments through the speech songs of the composer Stuart Saunders Smith.





Artist Bio:

Elizabeth Soflin's past performances include appearances as a soloist and ensemble member at venues around the United States, Mexico, Canada, China, and Europe. She is an avid performer of contemporary solo and chamber works for percussion, especially works for percussion and spoken word. In addition to performing as a soloist, she often appears in concert alongside saxophonist Michael Weiss in the Weiss/Soflin Duo. Recently, she performed at the Transplanted Roots Percussion Research Symposium and at the first-ever Marimba+Voice Festival. Elizabeth Soflin is a proud artist endorser of Black Swamp Percussion and Mike Balter Mallets.

Everything Is A Little Bit Alright Minneapolis, MN

PREMIERE February 3, 8:30 PM MST theater, storytelling, comedy, drama

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

A tender, heartwarming, and funny solo show about moving from grief to healing through the practice of yoga. The audience is invited to join the gentle yoga exercises that the main character does along the way.



These simple stress management movements can be done while sitting in a chair or standing. This play was adapted from the critically acclaimed memoir by Daniel Hertz entitled *Everything Is A Little Bit Alright*. The book has been nominated for the 2021 Minnesota Book Award and other national book awards.

Artist Bio:

Daniel Hertz, MS, BCB, E-RYT 500, has been on the faculty of The Meditation Center in Minneapolis since 1995 and is internationally certified in yoga, meditation, and biofeedback. He performed a solo show in the 2020 virtual Twin Cities Fringe Festival entitled *The Prostate*. The Tucson solo show is adapted from his memoir, *Everything Is A Little Bit Alright*.

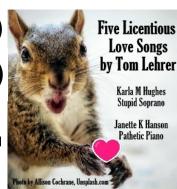


Five Licentious Love Songs La Crosse, WI

PREMIERE February 3, 5:45 PM MST live music, comedy, multi-media

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

Two songstresses' musical exploration of assorted expressions of love through the songs of a repressed mathematician.



Artist Bio:

Karla M. Hughes, an Associate Professor of Music Theatre at Viterbo University holds degrees in music from Colorado State University and Wichita State University. Karla performs opera, operetta, and musical theatre and is a featured soloist on several internationally released recordings, including *The Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado*, and *Ruddigore*. Janette K. Hanson is a member of the musical theater faculty at Viterbo, serving as a collaborative accompanist, vocal coach, and rehearsal pianist. She previously taught at UW-LaCrosse and Sparta High School. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from Central Missouri State and her master's degree in education from UW-LaCrosse.

Glamourpuss New York, NY

February 6, 6:30 PM MST & February 7, 1:30 PM MST theater, comedy, improv

The Show (LIVE):

Join super-star talent agents Cordelia and Cecelia Zimmer, the driving force behind



"Glamour Puss Talent, Home to the Most Influential Pets in the World" as they throw open the doors of their very exclusive agency to hold a one-time-only, open call audition for their next pet influencer STAR!

Artist Bio:

Double D is a comedy duo founded by Nannette Deasy and Graceann Dorse, who met while writing and performing for PITtv at the Peoples Improv Theater. We perform two-prov all over NYC and any other city that will have us. Original live shows: SCRANTON BUCKETS and REJECTS ANONYMOUS, both created for the Scranton Fringe Festival. Original films: DOUBLE D (Best Comedy, 2015 Princeton Independent Film Festival), DON'T BLINK (BoneBat Comedy of Horrors, Bad Film Fest, Lighthouse International), LE MEOW MORT (Women in Comedy, Art of Brooklyn, Lighthouse International, Furry Burque, Coney Island, and Catalyst Content Film Fests).

I, Object Alexandria, VA

February 6, 6:30 PM MST & February 7, 5:00 PM MST

multi-media, intermedia, performance art

The Show (LIVE):

When Mayor Margarine O'Leo wants to get a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle for her town's police force, she finds herself up against injured civilians, expert naysayers, and budgetary concerns determined to stop her.





Artist Bio:

Alexandria, Virginia based photographer and microscopist, K. Leo Pullin has been montaging and creating digital and paper posters that are no more suitable for framing than are the losses suffered by people whose loved ones are killed in acts of violence. By digitizing analogue work, editing the files, printing, and then destroying images, her processes mimic the mixed media reality of the modern era.

Pawdemic in Puppy Park

Tucson, AZ
PREMIERE February 2, 5:00 PM MST
theater, storytelling, comedy, puppetry

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

The dog park is normally a lively (and noisy) place, especially when it's time for the annual dog show.

This year is different, because of K-19 — the Pawdemic that has kept most pets at home, wearing masks.



Alexa gamely carries on trying to train her puppy clients to do tricks over Zoom, but how do you conduct a dog show with no dogs? Cortana wants to rig the contest so that her dog, Itsy-bitsy Mitzi, will win first place. But a stray mutt performs the tricks better than any other dog. Plus he's chasing everyone's chickens and won't wear a mask! So, Cortana hires Bounty the Dog Hunter to put an end to the canine's career, or else he's sure to win first place in this adaptation of a live show performed by Active Imagination Theater.

Artist Bio:

Over the years, many talented adults and boisterous children have appeared onstage with AIT, but the core group consists of Robin Carson, Charlie Middagh, Meagan Jones, and John Vornholt.

The Mighty (pilot)

Tucson, AZ

PREMIERE February 2, 8:00 PM MST storytelling

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

The Mighty (pilot) is the Fringe Festival Cut of the first episode of a series about a group of twenty somethings navigating their lives after the shutdown of 2020. In an account of each month since



COVID-19 pushed the world into a lockdown, a group of friends try to find ways to cope with their drastically changing lives and face the challenges of isolation and uncertainty. This cut of *The Mighty* is an experiment in creating a film during a pandemic, in hopes of a vaccine and a safer future. Written and directed by Naima Boushaki, cinematography by Avai d'Amico.

SL

Artist Bio:

Naima Boushaki is an actor from Tucson, Arizona, and this Fringe Festival will be her film debut as a writer and director. Previous to this project, Naima has played leads and featured roles in independent films and commercials in Arizona. Most of her acting experience has been on the stages of Tucson's Theatre community, where she recently performed in Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre's outdoor production of Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins. This Fringe Festival, she will debut a "Fringe Cut" of the pilot of a series titled *The Mighty*, a story of our rapidly changing lives since March of 2020.

The Pajama Party Monologues

Tucson, AZ February 4, 8:00 PM MST & February 7, 3:00 PM MST storytelling







The Show (LIVE):

A collection of stories depicting diverse experiences of Black women.

Artist Bio:

Dr. Veda Kowalski is performing her one-woman show "The Pajama Party Monologues". She is a writer/storyteller/performer who writes to encourage, to inspire, and to spark conversation with and among women to break down the walls between mothers, daughters, sisters, and sister girlfriends. Dr. Kowalski states "I use my voice to inspire women to forgive, apologize, encourage one another, and to hear our shared stories."

Trainwreck Boston, MA

PREMIERE February 3, 6:30 PM MST

theater, comedy, puppetry, performance art

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

Trainwreck is a devised puppet/object theatre piece that provokes and pokes fun at the archive of literary

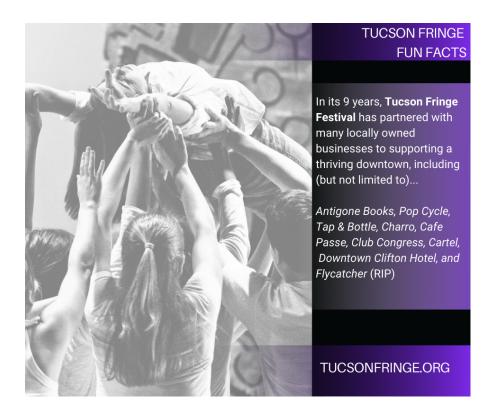


dead white guys and their objectification of women's bodies. This performative literary review fires back at the canon, makes some serious feminist revisions, and asks really important questions like Why can't Sherlock Holmes find any women? Why is everyone a sad orphan? Is being locked in an attic advanced hide and go seek? Does Anna Karenina have good orgasms? Do we have to sit through 54 chapters of emotional abuse to find out that expectations are not, in fact, so great? Are we willing to re-envision a canon?

18+

Artist Bio:

Chick Lit is a celebration of female authors and a dedication to making room in the current "canon" for new voices. Created by performance artists Kate Holden and Katie Jones.



Walking on Spectrum Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

PREMIERE February 4, 5:00 PM MST storytelling, standup, comedy, spoken word

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

Walking on Spectrum is a one-hour medley show about life on the autism spectrum.

WALKING ON SPECTRUM PICCOR PESTINAL

Artist Bio:

Juliana Heng is a comedian from Malaysia. They strive to be a comedian who gets real, talking about issues considered taboo in the Asian society. Juliana has performed in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Last year, Juliana emerged as the Finalist of the Bangkok International Comedy Competition 2019. Juliana also performs spoken word as this is their chance to be real with themself and say things that people may not want to hear but need to hear. Spoken word is Juliana's alter ego to stand-up comedy, a sanctuary for them to address issues without the need to be funny.

You're On Mute Portales, NM

PREMIERE February 2, 8:00 PM MST theater

The Show (PRE-RECORDED):

Loneliness. Uncertainty. Hunger. Inequity
Dissociation. Eastern New Mexico University students
plunge into themes currently sweeping our nation
to bring you stories from the pandemic.



Artist Bio:

Ricky Quintana is an interdisciplinary theatremaker and an Instructor of Theatre at Eastern New Mexico University. He received his MFA in Theatre Performance from Arizona State University, where he was the recipient of a Teaching Excellence Award, Graduate College Fellowship, as well as numerous talent awards and development grants. He is published on Howlround, was a member of the Obama Foundation's 2018 Community Leadership Corps, a recipient of a 2020 Opportunity Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and was a core faculty member for the National High School Institute at Northwestern University. He holds his BFA from Long Island University.

Shatranj ke Khiladi (The Chess Players)

The play is a theatrical

the British in 1856. (English subtitles)



and Mirza, who are immersed in chess to the point of being oblivious to everything else. Premchand's narrative of the two noblemen of Lucknow absorbed in their own game of chess is set forth against the larger chess game - the annexation of Awadh by

TUCSON FRINGE FUN FACTS The first Tucson Fringe Festival took place in 2012 at The Screening Room In 2013, we moved to Club Congress Since then, other venues include Fluxx, The Historic Y, Exploded View Microcinema, StudioONE, Cafe Passe, Flycatcher, The Surly Wench, The Boxyard, Tap & Bottle, The Royal Room, and the Temple Cabaret.

Get Involved

VOLUNTEER: The Festival counts on people like you, who want to see and support diverse, low-cost entertainment. For every shift a volunteer works, they get a free ticket to any other Fringe Festival show.

VENUE SPONSOR: Does your group, club, team, organization, or employer want to support Fringe and get the word out about them? If your group signs up for TEN volunteer shifts, they can become a venue sponsor, with signage all over that venue and a shout-out with every pre-show speech.

BOARD: Tucson Fringe Festival is a non-profit 501(c)3, run by a board of people who understand the value of the Fringe Festival. If you'd like to be part of what Fringe has to offer Tucson, and artists from around the country, shoot us an email at tucsonfringe@gmail.com

ARTISTS: Do you have a great idea for a show? Do you have a burning desire to be a part of Fringe magic? Applications for the 2021 Festival will open in July. We are unjuried and uncensored, which means we literally pick artists out of a hat, and next year YOU could be in the hat! Check out tucsonfringe.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more info.

SPONSORS: Tucson Fringe offers a number of sponsorship packages, ranging in price from FREE to \$800. If your business or organization is looking for a way to help Tucson Fringe support more artists and grow in our community, email tucsonfringe@gmail.com for more info.



Pre-recorded performances will be on YouTube from Feb 1-14, 2021. Several of the pre-recorded shows will have live premieres on YouTube Live from February 1-4, 2021.

2021 Tucson Fringe Festival Schedule

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

YouTube Pre-Recorded Premiere Schedule

	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
5:00 PM		Pawdemic in Puppy Park	The Chess Players	Walking on Spectrum
5:30 PM		Comedy Acts of Derring- Do	5:45 PM - Five Licentious Love Songs	
6:30 PM	After Party	A Day at the Beach	Trainwreck	
8:00 PM	You're on Mute	The Mighty (pilot)	Elizabeth Soflin: By Language Embellished, I	
8:30 PM		Everything is a Little Bit Alright		



Live performances will be on Zoom from February 4-7, 2021

2021 Tucson Fringe Festival Schedule

Zoom Live Schedule

	Thursday Feb 4	Friday Feb 5	Saturday Feb 6	Sunday Feb 7
12:00 PM				An Arizona Bestiary *
1:30 PM			Dreams and Schemes	Glamourpuss
3:00 PM			A Different Way of Thinking	The Pajama Party Monologues
5:00 PM			Climbing My Family Tree	I, Object
6:30 PM	Dreams and Schemes	Glamourpuss	I, Object	A Different Way of Thinking
8:00 PM	The Pajama Party Monolgues	Climbing My Family Tree	An Arizona Bestiary *	

^{*} Live performances on Twitch



