

*****SAMPLE*** PRESS KIT**

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Minneapolis actor/writer Amy Salloway asks
“Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?”
in her one-woman comedy at **(your venue here!)**
One performance only, **(your date here)**



What: **Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?**
Written and Performed by Amy Salloway

When: **(date, time)**

Location: **(your location)**

Tickets: **(your ticket price and reservation number)**

For More Info: www.amysalloway.com

(current date here, Your City, Your State) —

Amy's having one of those LIVES. Her uterus is rebelling, her perfect younger sister is destined for stardom, her boyfriend won't give her a

—continued—

kidney, and the body-image workshop she signs up for becomes a surreal lesbian adventure. Is this going to be another night spent commiserating with pot pies in the frozen foods aisle...or somewhere, somehow, can a single, spherical girl figure out where she fits?

Award-winning actor, writer and storyteller Amy Salloway, who's toured three original one-woman shows from her home base of Minneapolis to colleges, theatres, Fringe Festivals and performance events all over the United States and Canada, comes to **(your venue, your show date)** for a limited run of the original comedy that started her on her solo performance path – ***Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?***

Initially created for the 2003 Minnesota Fringe and reprised there in 2004, ***Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?*** is a non-linear collage of seven “mostly true” stories varying in style and length, and connected by the themes of physical appearance, relationships, and the sometimes painful, sometimes ridiculous search for self-worth. ***Does This Monologue...*** won Lavender Magazine's vote for “Best Solo Performance”, a “MUST SEE” rating from the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune's “A' for chutzpah” before going on to tour to Fringes from Thunder Bay to Cincinnati to Vancouver, and other performance events like the UNO Festival in Victoria, BC; Cape May Stage's Flying Solo Festival; Six Figures Theatre's Artists of Tomorrow Festival in NYC; and the WomenSpeak series at Open Stage in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Salloway, a 30-something who's focused since college on issue-oriented, educational and children's theatre, first started writing material for herself to perform while living in Seattle, out of skepticism that there was any place for her in the professional acting world. Her ample body type, she states, was relegating her to getting cast as animals, vegetables, and marine life. “*I played broccoli*”, she admits, “*and a salmon. I spawned onstage. And that was really fun, but I realized that if I wanted to dig into more complex character development—and if I wanted to see issues that I deeply cared about explored through theatre – I might have to be the one to create those opportunities.*”

That dichotomy of trying to gamely accept one's self while still pining to be the popular ideal threads its way both humorously and poignantly through ***Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?***, most notably in the show's longest story, “Lesbian for a Weekend”, which chronicles Salloway's brief and impulsive attempt at same-gender romance during a women's conference, born out of desperate loneliness and the urge to be part of the “in” crowd. While hilarious on one level (the eight-person encounter is more therapy session than erotic orgy), underneath the tale bears thoughtful truths, illustrating the lengths we'll go to for affirmation, only to find that affirmation is subjective and ever-shifting.

Salloway has been surprised (and touched) by the popularity of ***Does This Monologue...*** – she wrote the piece from her own perspective as a heterosexual, plus-sized single woman, but has found that its confessions of loneliness, insecurity and rejection seem to speak to just about every population. The GLBT

community has been particularly enthusiastic, she notes, but so have teenage girls, elderly men, and a sensitive lumberjack in Thunder Bay, Ontario, who, she says, “...stopped me on the street during the Fringe and called out, ‘I saw your show! I really loved it! Can I give you a hug?’”

When she’s not writing or touring *Monologue* or her other productions – *So Kiss Me Already, Herschel Gertz!* (about Jewish summer camp) and *Circumference* (about weight, exercise and gastric bypass surgery), Salloway frequently performs within Minneapolis cabarets like Patrick’s Cabaret and Balls, and as part of the new Twin Cities monologue collective **Rockstar Storytellers**. She’s also been a substitute theatre instructor and playwright for Interact Center for the Arts – a theatre company for artists with disabilities -- where she served as lead writer for two company-developed musicals: “**Future Perfect**”, and “**The Broken Brain Summit**”, which won a 2008 Ivey Award for Originality. (feel free to add additional info specific to your gig here.)

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What are critics and audiences saying about "Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?"....

MUST SEE:

"Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?"

With a cry of "O, Uterus, how do I quench your fire?" Amy Salloway guides us through **poignant, revelatory and funny** episodes of personal inventory and awakening. In a champagne smock and pink Converse hi-tops offset by red hair in pigtails, Salloway is **engaging and energetic, balancing her innocence and charm with wry and witty observations that cut to the core of emotional vulnerability**. In her central monologue, Salloway takes us to a "body image conference" that becomes her immersion into lesbianism. She feels "like Pinocchio walking into a world of boys," and we're thankful for the window into her world.

– *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"Salloway is...**an appealing and marvelously funny performer**. With 'Monologue', you can also add the adjectives **brave and original**. How else to describe this **fireball of talent**, who opens her show with an ode to her uterus?"
-- *The Ottawa Citizen*

“...utterly fearless, absolutely hysterical.”
-- *CURVE Magazine (Top 10 GLBT Shows of 2006)*

“Amy Salloway is **an adorable bundle of talented energy**, the kind who can deliver graphic details about participating in an eight-woman orgy that time she became a weekend lesbian and make the experience seem **entirely relatable and not at all weird**. Not easy, I imagine. Most every moment of the

Minneapolis actor/writer's one-woman show *Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?* rings true. And that includes the funny moments as well as the poignant ones. The play is about how one fat girl makes her way in the world, a fat girl who can't find the relationship she needs, who never really feels she can find enough love, who is still trying to find out "how not to think of myself as a giant slab of ham." **Salloway's take on the matter is the very best kind -- funny, tender, not self-indulgent or blaming. The message is universal, too. One doesn't need to have struggled with weight issues or dabbled with the same sex to get feeling lonely or not good enough for this world.** “

-- *The Ottawa Sun*

“The show with the best title in the Fringe lives up to its promise. Amy Salloway delivers a series of short, personal monologues, ranging from a menstrual prayer to a reflection on the grocery-shopping habits of lonely single women. The centerpiece is a **cleverly structured and side-splitting** account of her weekend plunge into lesbianism at a Women of Substance conference. These monologues make Salloway look **smart, funny, fearlessly candid, and generously endowed with talent.**”

–*The Georgia Straight*

"Salloway's **writing is superbly crafted, her delivery polished, her comic-timing unsurpassed,** and her raging imagination harnessed to her theatrical art like the radioactive core of a nuclear reactor."

-- *The Halifax Herald*

“Raw and fearless...an ‘A’ for chutzpah!”

-- *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

MUST SEE...(Salloway’s) script is **endlessly clever and accessible** — a true feat considering it could have been just an hour of “woman of substance” jokes and rants. Instead, ‘Does this Monologue...’ boils Salloways’ life down into thoughts, emotions and impulses that are **universal, relevant and poignant.** Who am I? Do I like myself? Can I handle being alone? **Her insightful study makes for great theater;** her self-deprecating candor makes for great fringe.

-- *CityBeat (Cincinnati)*

“Salloway is **smart, funny, observant and honest,** with a mind that zooms into orbit around a yet-to-be-discovered planet.”

– *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

“Brilliantly funny, radiantly rendered...Salloway's sketches attempt to make sense of the world a single woman lives in, striving for something better than what she has, trying to understand what she wants, and to convince herself that she's allowed to ask for it....(her) monologues manage to familiarize that which might otherwise be strange, and to do so with a humor that **makes a momentary community out of an audience gathered in the anonymity of darkness.**”

-- *MNartists.org*

" **MUST-SEE: Salloway's writing is as perceptive as it is hilarious** and her theme is our universal need for acceptance. You'll want this appealing performer from Minneapolis to be your new best friend."

-- *The Ottawa Citizen*

Awards:

Best Solo Performance of 2003 – Lavender Magazine

Critic's Pick – 2005 Cincinnati Fringe

Cincinnati Enquirer Acclaim Award, June 2005

Best Comedy, Best Original Script, 2006 Columbus GLBT Theatre Festival

CURVE Magazine Best of Lesbian Theater 2006



Who is Amy Salloway anyway??

Minneapolis-based actor, writer and storyteller **Amy Salloway** is the creator of the award-winning solo productions "**Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?**" (2003), "**So Kiss Me Already, Herschel Gertz!**" (2005), and "**Circumference**" (2006-2007), all of which began their lives at the Minnesota Fringe Festival and have gone on to tour to Fringes, solo festivals, theatres, performance events and booked gigs in the US, Canada and beyond. Their cumulative stops have included the UNO Festival in Victoria, BC; Oh Solo Mio in London, ON; Cape May Stage's Flying Solo Series; Open Stage Theatre in Harrisburg, PA; StageNorth Theatre in Washburn, WI; Six Figure Theatre's Artists of Tomorrow series in NYC; Fresno's Rogue Festival; the Her-icane Festival of Women's Theatre in Saskatoon; the Baltimore Creative Alliance; the Columbus GLBT Theatre Festival (where Amy won "Best Script" and "Best Solo Show"); the International TeatroNetto Festival of Solo Performance in Jaffa, Israel; the Actor's Theatre of Minnesota, and the Fringes in Thunder Bay, Halifax (Best of Venue), Ottawa ("Must-See Show"), Orlando ("Must-See Show"),

Cincinnati (Critic's Pick), Calgary ("Top 5 Shows To See"), Victoria, Vancouver (Pick of the Fringe), the Berkshires, Edmonton, and Winnipeg (Best of Fest, 2006 and 2008).

Amy's performed her work on MPR's "In the Loop" and CBC's "Definitely Not The Opera", and as part of the new Twin Cities monologue collective Rockstar Storytellers. She's also been a substitute theatre instructor and playwright for Interact Center for the Arts – a theatre company for artists with disabilities -- where she served as lead writer for two company-developed musicals: "**Future Perfect**", and "**The Broken Brain Summit**", which won a 2008 Ivey Award for Originality. She was awarded a VSA Artist Recognition Grant in 2007. For more about Amy or her work, visit www.amysalloway.com.

Some fun facts about Amy Salloway, **writer and performer of "Does This Monologue** **Make Me Look Fat?"**

Amy Salloway....

- * Is the creator of two other solo shows "*So Kiss Me Already, Herschel Gertz!*" (2005) and "*Circumference*" (2006-7), both of which have garnered awards at Fringes and theatre festivals, and both of which have gone on to bookings at theatres, colleges, conferences, fundraisers and community centers.
- * Came to solo performance after years in educational theatre and children's theatre in Milwaukee, Seattle, small-town New Hampshire and Minneapolis; in those arenas she's played a chicken (three different times!), a bear, a spawning salmon, broccoli, the planet Uranus, and an elderly, etiquette-obsessed mosquito.
- * Loves issue-oriented theatre and the intersection of theatre and sociology. For the past six years, she's been a standardized patient (practice patient to train and test future physicians) for the University of Minnesota Medical School; she can often be seen as Woman With Migraine, Alcoholic Abused Wife, and Woman About To Give Birth.
- * Started creating "*Does This Monologue...*" when a different solo show she was working on was growing to unwieldy, epic proportions and clearly wouldn't be ready for the festival for which she was submitting it. That show ("*Twine Ball*") STILL isn't finished as of this writing, however, a section of it is included in "*Does This Monologue...*" – the story of giving a boyfriend the hypothetical relationship-evaluator, "If I were dying from kidney failure and you turned out to be a perfect match, would you give me a kidney?", and the unexpected results.