

Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?

Everything you could want to know! (DVD available on request!)

What IS *Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?*

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 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?

Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat? is a one-woman show by Minneapolis actor/writer Amy Salloway. A collage of seven semi-autobiographical pieces varying in length and style from whimsical, fleeting poems to the raucous half-hour story "Lesbian for a Weekend", the play adds up to a sometimes poignant, usually funny, always real and honest meditation on love, body image and the search for self-worth. Though the production was written from the point of view of a woman of size, and though that sense of "unacceptable" physicality is a subtle springboard for some of the content, ***Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?***'s frank depictions of settling for less than we deserve, of yearning to be accepted to the point of taking hilariously desperate measures, and of experiencing deep loneliness in a culture fixated on sexual desirability and coupling have resonated with audiences of every size, gender and background, earning comments like "*endlessly clever and accessible...her insightful study and self-deprecating candor make for great theatre*" (--CityBeat), "*poignant, revelatory and funny*" (--St. Paul Pioneer-Press), and "*raw and fearless: an A for chutzpah*" (--Minneapolis Star-Tribune).

Catherine Lawson of The Ottawa Citizen states, "*On the surface, much of Salloway's monologue is outrageous, including her extended tale of being the only heterosexual at a lesbian orgy. However, (her) 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.*" Writes Twin Cities reviewer Jakki Spicer, "*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.*"

Show History

Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat? debuted in the Minnesota Fringe Festival in the summer of 2003, and has gone on to be performed in and at...

- Bedlam Studio's Best of the Fest, Minneapolis, MN
- UNO Festival of Solo Theatre, Victoria, BC,
- Thunder Bay Fringe Festival, Thunder Bay, ON
- Minnesota Fringe Festival, Minneapolis, MN
- Atlantic Fringe, Halifax, NS

- Vancouver Fringe, Vancouver, BC
- Artists of Tomorrow Festival, NYC
- Breathe In, Sing Out Benefit, Minneapolis, MN
- Cape May Stage Flying Solo Festival, Cape May, NJ
- Cincinnati Fringe Festival, Cincinnati, OH
- The Berkshire Fringe, Great Barrington, MA
- WomenSpeak Series, OpenStage of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA
- Columbus National GLBT Theatre Festival, Columbus, OH
- Rainbow Resources, Winnipeg, MB
- The Ottawa Fringe, Ottawa, ON

Awards have included....

- Best Solo Performance – Lavender Magazine, 2003
- Cincinnati Fringe Critic’s Pick, 2005
- Cincinnati Enquirer Acclaim Award for Outstanding Solo Performance, 2005
- Columbus National GLBT Festival awards for Best Solo Comedy and Best Original Script, 2006
- CURVE Magazine’s Best Lesbian Theatre of 2006

Technical Notes

Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat? runs about 70 minutes; it contains 15 light cues and 16 sound cues. The lights can be adjusted to be as simple as “on and off” if necessary; the sound cues are more vital, and require a CD player and full-room amplification system.

The technical and staging needs of the show are as follows:

- A playing space at least 15 feet wide and 12 feet deep;
- Lighting that will illuminate the entire playing area (this can be regular ceiling lights, or actual theatre lighting instruments);
- A CD player with easy pushbutton operation (play, pause, forward, etc.) and full-room amplification system;
- A sturdy, squarish upholstered living-room style chair;
- A technician to run both lights and sound, or TWO Technicians, one for each component. (The show does not come with its own technician.)
- Three hours to run a tech rehearsal.

Does This Monologue... would work BEST on a floor-level or only-slightly-raised stage where the audience is close to the performance area (that is, not huge, distant, elevated prosceniums), but can be adapted to many types of spaces.

The show is **rated R** – it contains adult language and frank sexual material; it is appropriate for ages 17 and up, and should be advertised as such.

Booking Information:

Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat? can be booked for as many or as few performances as meet your needs; there’s no minimum audience size, and no rules regarding ticket prices – you’re welcome to use the show as a fundraiser, benefit, ticketed presentation, free event, whatever you’d like, as long as performer fees are covered.

These include:

- A performance fee in the range of \$800.00-\$1350.00 (see below)
- Economy-class round-trip airfare and baggage fees,
- Local transportation (taxis or rides) to and from the performance site,
- A small per diem for food or other necessities, and
- A place to stay (hotel, dorm or homestay in a pet-free and smoke-free environment).

However, as fees can vary based on location, tour schedule, agency involvement and number of performances (for example, airfare can be split if you're block booking with another presenter in the area), please contact Amy Salloway to discuss specifics, at amysalloway@mindspring.com, or **(612) 298-5772**.

Discussions after the performance are always free, and welcome! Workshops and residencies can be provided for an additional fee. Potential workshops include:

- Creative writing/ creative non-fiction
- Monologue and storytelling basics
- Turning personal story into solo performance
- The Matt Smith Original Performance Workshop (a 3-6 hour progression of writing and improv exercises designed to lead participants in brainstorming and creating original, autobiographical material for the page or the stage...REALLY fun, and a fabulous, relaxed way to get to the heart of active, charismatic personal narrative)
- Improvisation – long or short form, basic to advanced
- Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed games and exercises.

When you're ready to book a show, you'll be provided with a Technical Rider and Contact, which detail show needs, publicity information and fee schedules in greater depth.

Artist Bio:

Actor/writer Amy Salloway has been called “hilariously self-loathing”, “gifted at creating comedy from pain and embarrassment”, and “the queen of self-deprecation”, and she takes all of that as a huge compliment. Amy was born in Boston, grew up in Milwaukee, and has lived most of her adult years in Seattle and Minneapolis. Much of her acting and writing work has been in the areas of issue-oriented, children's and educational theatre, which explains why her resume is filled with roles like "Mosquito #2", "Spawning Salmon" and "Broccoli". In August of 2003 Amy created **Does This Monologue Make Me Look Fat?**, which debuted in the Minnesota Fringe Theatre Festival and made Lavender Magazine's annual 'Best of' list for “Best Solo Performance”. Since then, she's written two more shows – 2005's "**So Kiss Me Already, Herschel Gertz!**" (about adolescence, angst, and Jewish summer camp), and “**Circumference**” (based on her year-long quest to get gastric bypass surgery) in 2006/2007 – and now all three pieces 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; the Manhattan JCC; Six Figure Theatre's Artists of Tomorrow series in NYC; Fresno's Rogue Festival; 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, Orlando, Cincinnati (Critic's Pick), Victoria, Vancouver (Pick of the Fringe), Edmonton, the Berkshires and Winnipeg (Best of Fest, twice).

Amy's performed her work on MPR and CBC radio; she's also been an 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**”. She was awarded a VSA Artist Recognition Grant in 2007.

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SHOW CLIPS:

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