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Two Guelph playwrights are at the Toronto Fringe Festival, and there's a bus to get you there and back

Community Jul 04, 2019 by Jonathan Duncan (/guelph-on-author/jonathan-duncan/9141AB16-6CF9-4C3B-BE46-68BC5BD69E12/) 🔀

(mailto:jduncan@guelphmercurytribune.com) Guelph Mercury

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The festival will also be bringing their "Adventure Bus" to Guelph, so residents can grab a ride to and from Toronto.

Laura Bailey wrote one of the plays featured at the festival this year.

In 2018, around the same time the new Government of Ontario was rolling back the sex education curriculum, Bailey and her then husband decided they wanted to open up their relationship for the purpose of sexual exploration.

Story continues below▼

"So for me there was sort of this paradox between going through my own personal, like, sexual awakening, while the province was going back to its own sort of sexual dark ages," says Bailey.

Bailey took this ironic juxtaposition, and using her experience as a singer, comedian and vocal coach, put together Clitoria: A Sex-Positive Superhero! for the Toronto Fringe Festival.

She says the idea behind the play is to help people understand what sex positivity is.

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Story continues below▼

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She's been working over the last nine months, making the round trip to Toronto, for rehearsals with her team, she says.

Story continues below

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A scene from Catherine Frid's Spend Your Kids Inheritance, Pierre Leclipteux, provided.

Bailey says she's excited to go see Catherine Frid's show Spend Your Kids Inheritance, during it's fringe run.

It's one of two shows the Guelph playwright has opening this week.

The first, Spend Your Kids Inheritance, opened July 4, 2019 at the fringe fest. It will show six more times over the next week.

Frid says the musical turns classic representations of seniors on their head.

"The people who usually get the bit parts, older adults, they're the stars of the show. They do the dancing, they have all the big adventures and the big moments. It was fun to write, and I hope it'll be fun to watch," says Frid.

The plot of the play centres on a group of elderly people in a retirement home, who decide to rebel against societal norms and spend their children's inheritance having fun.

Frid says the idea came from a running joke she had with her parents, who would always laugh and say 'We're off to spend your inheritance' says Bailey.

"And of course we'd always tell them to do it," she laughs.

While Spend Your Kids Inheritance is meant to be a lighthearted romp, Frid has another show (https://www.guelphmercury.com/community-story/9484884-backyard-theatre-is-back-atmccrae-house-in-guelph-this-weekend/) opening in Guelph with a more serious angle.

What I Gave, I Have will open July 6 at the McCrae House's Backyard Theatre.

The play looks at the life of John McCrae, from early childhood, through the Great War and his later battle with PTSD, says Frid.

As a local Guelphite, Frid says McCrae has always been a part of her life. But it was the theatre space that inspired her to write the play, and dig deeper into the history of Guelph's most established poet.

"It's just a magical place to put on a play," she says.

It's directed by Valerie Senyk, and stars Bryndyn Boonstra in all roles.

The Backyard Theatre is outside, so if it rains the play will be moved inside the museum.

If you'd like to catch either of the fringe shows, the festival is offering a round-trip fare.

For \$60, a bus will pick you up on Saturday July 13, 2019 at 11:45 a.m. and take you to fringe central and back, says fringe spokesperson Claire Wynveen.

The fare includes tickets to two shows, as well as a drink ticket. It will leave Toronto around midnight, meaning there's plenty of time to get your fill of the festival.

Tickets to shows cost \$11 plus fees, says Wynveen. She says Tracy Erin Smith's play *The Big House* would be a good one to catch, as it's creating a lot of buzz and you can still see it before Bailey's and Frid's plays'.

Bryndyn Boonstra in his role as John McCrae, Catherine Frid, provided.

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Jonathan is graduate of Carleton University. He has lived all across Canada, including a short stint in the Yukon. He has a passion for connecting people in small communities.

Email: jduncan@guelphmercurytribune.com)

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Her first performance was on July 3, 2019. There will be six more Clitoria: A Sex-Positive Superhero! viewings you can catch, one will be on Saturday July 13, 2019, the same day as another Guelph playwright takes to the

A scene from Catherine Frid's *Spend Your Kids Inheritance*, Pierre Leclipteux, provided.

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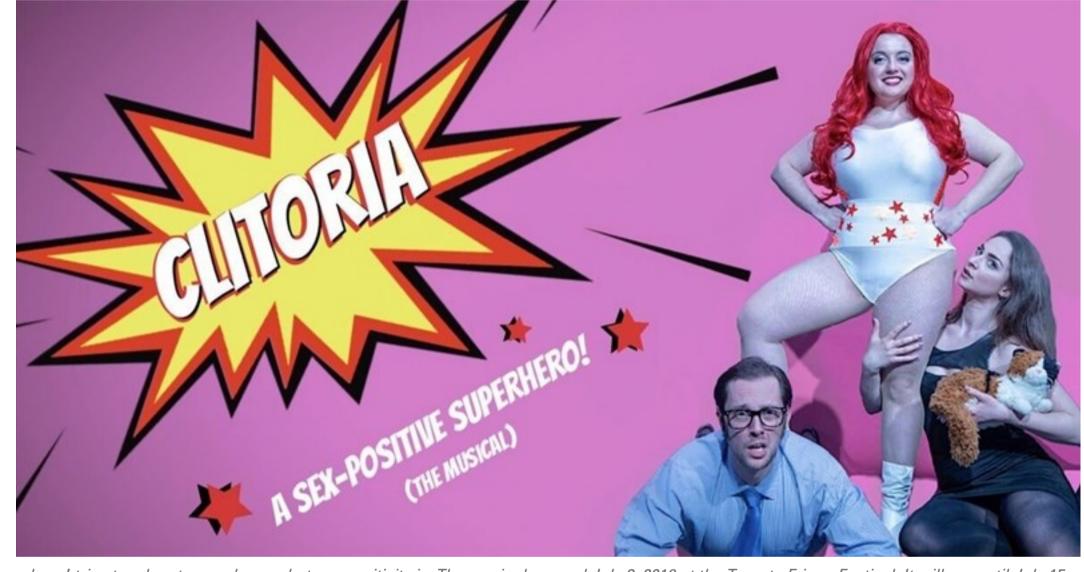
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Clitoria: A Sex-Positive Superhero! tries to educate people on what sex positivity is. The musical opened July 3, 2019 at the Toronto Fringe Festival. It will run until July 15. - Danielle Reesor (photography) and Justine Cargo (design)

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