



SEXT: SEX EDUCATION BY THEATRE

Ophea in partnership with Shira Taylor
presents:

SEXT

a show created and performed by youth for youth that covers topics relating to sexual health education.

Directed and conceived by Shira Taylor
Written by The Ensemble with Shira Taylor

Location: Factory Theatre Mainspace
125 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Dates: May 10-26, 2017 **More shows added**

Cost: FREE

Ophea will provide a transportation stipend for schools from the Greater Toronto Area.

Performance bookings will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Email curriculum@ophea.net for more information and to make your booking.

Promotional material and clips can be viewed on the [SEXT YouTube channel](#).

IT'S TIME FOR TEENS TO TALK!

Fresh from critically-acclaimed runs at the Toronto Fringe and Summerworks Festivals, *SEXT* is back to engage youth on topics relating to sexual health education.

Created by PhD candidate Shira Taylor at the University of Toronto, *SEXT* began as a program that used theatre as a platform to empower youth to reflect on, challenge, and communicate their realities on issues related to sex education and teen wellness. Students were recruited from Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute and were given a safe space to address issues identified within their communities including safer sex, mental health, gender roles and women's attire, barriers to testing, consent, healthy relationships, racism, homophobia, and cyberbullying. What resulted was an entertaining and powerful compilation of sketches, songs, raps, poems and dances that earned a Best Ensemble Award, Critics Pick, and a -NNNN review from Now Magazine.

SEXT is founded on a peer-educator model. The cast is comprised of diverse students and high school graduates who are ready to engage in discussion and to leave audiences reconsidering any preconceptions of diversity and sexuality.

SEXT is free to attend and includes a performance, a post-show experience with the cast, and supporting materials for teachers. The performance is well-suited for secondary students and connects to the learning in English, Drama, Equity Studies, and Health and Physical Education classes.

"The show reinforced for me the power of humour to communicate sensitive topics. The students in the audience - both male and female - were engaged with an intensity I've rarely seen."

- Scott Pearce, Teacher at Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute

"The ensemble of SEXT, featuring teen performers from the Flemingdon and Thorncliffe Park neighbourhoods, impressed us with their talents and material putting a spin on Ontario's updated sex-ed curriculum."

- The Torontoist