

PushPush Arts & 7 Stages present

# High Risk, *Baby!*

# &

# Other Reproductive Rights Recipes

Shelby Hofer

Destiny Renee

Marium Khalid

Theresa Davis

Lauren Vogelbaum

Christy Robinson

& more!

## February 3-5, 2023 at 7 STAGES

Shelby Hofer's *High Risk, Baby!* is a comedy about the child within the mom, being a control freak, the patriarchy & escaping infertility. Lenora is on a mission, but her not-so-inner child is bursting with irreverent questions about DNA, ADD, quantum physics, boners, and babies -- where they come from, how they get here and mostly, how she can get one.

Directed by Ellen McQueen

Written and Performed by Shelby Hofer

This hour-long performance will be followed by a collection of short pieces in response to our bodies and the agency we have – or don't have – in choice. Original short pieces include Hofer's *Four Embryos* and Theresa Davis' *What to Do When a Politician Tries to Fall into Your Vagina Feet First* as well as stories from a doula, and the history of pregnancy tests. Featuring a fierce collective of performers, including podcaster Lauren Vogelbaum, doula Christy Robinson, and many more.

# High Risk, Baby! CREATIVE TEAM

Shelby Hofer.....Writer/Performer  
Ellen McQueen..... Director  
Claire Christie.....Off Stage Voice, Board Op  
Rachel Wansker.....Internsono Voiceover  
Dan Bauman.....Sound Design  
Nadia Morgan Reichman.....Set Design  
Chris Tsambis.....Videographer  
(Welcome to Intersono & 12 Days of Eggs)  
Mariam Kayode.....Animator ("Shots in the belly")  
Fouvll.....Animator ("Lenora Questions Show")  
Daisy Jasmeen.....Animator ("Lightbulbs = Cash")  
DJ Hofer.....Musical Producer, "Son Song,"  
lyrics by Shelby Hofer  
Olliver "Ollie" Cook .....Boy's Voiceover  
Eric Golstein.....Original Poster Design  
Miriam Robinson.....Original Poster Art: "Act Normal"  
Rob Nixon.....Preshow Digital Photography

**In loving memory of Joyce Picket Hofer 1939-2022**

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

The Nexus Fund/Andy Warhol Foundation  
Kali Quinn  
Elisa Fay  
Rob Nixon & Lanny Brewster  
Sarah Cook  
Dr. Mark Perloe  
Dr. Lubov  
Andrea in Berlin  
Mom & Dad  
Tim & Max

# About High Risk, Baby!

High Risk, Baby! was developed at PushPush Arts through its SeedWorks program. PushPush Arts' Agile Lab for Creators SeedWorks is an open-source incubator for new ideas. Get projects started (like this one), propose new ideas, and find support. Visit [PushPushArts.com/Seedworks](http://PushPushArts.com/Seedworks) or email us at [info@pushpusharts.com](mailto:info@pushpusharts.com) for more info



HIGH RISK, BABY! IS TOURING IN 2023!  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK THIS SHOW  
FOR A PERFORMANCE CONTACT US AT  
[INFO@PUSHPUSHARTS.COM](mailto:INFO@PUSHPUSHARTS.COM)

Want more info about PushPush Arts?  
Join our mailing at [pushpusharts.com](http://pushpusharts.com)  
Want info about our affordable studio space,  
taking a tour, or how to get on the list for our  
upcoming opportunity for affordable  
live/work artist housing?  
Email us at [info@pushpusharts.com](mailto:info@pushpusharts.com)

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**Shelby Hofer** is an actor, writer, and Co-director at PushPush Arts, where she helps develop opportunities for artists to explore new ideas and collaborate across the globe. In addition to her years of performing at PushPush, she has also appeared on numerous stages across Atlanta, most recently at Horizon Theatre in Every Brilliant Thing. She received a Best Actress award from Creative Loafing Atlanta for her production of 101 Humiliating Stories (Lisa Kron). PushPush Arts began out of 7 Stages in the 90's so this is a joyful homecoming. High Risk, Baby! is a love letter to Max, Tim and myself. This production is dedicated to my mother - the reason I wrote the play. I love and miss you, mom.

**Ellen McQueen** particularly enjoys working on projects like this— new work that is still in the process of being created. Atlanta area audiences may have seen other projects of this kind that she's directed at: Theater Emory - LOUISE NEVELSON: A LIFE ASSEMBLED; The Essential Theatre - THE LOCAL; ART Station - YOUR MAMA; and the Alliance's Reiser Atlanta Artists' Lab - THE PROJECTS PROJECT. Next up, she's serving as director for Mary Lynn Owen's new play, SALVAGE, in Working Title Playwrights' March Ethel Woolson Lab.

**Claire Christie** is an actor and jill-of-many-trades, like ya' do. She's worked with various companies in Oklahoma, Michigan, Virginia, and Atlanta, as well as on international tours. She's thrilled to be coming back home to PushPush to help tell this amazing story that she lived through but had no idea was happening!

# Other Reproductive Rights Recipes

Esther Reeves.....	Stage Manager
Dani Ramos.....	Assistant Stage Manager
Shelby Hofer.....	Performer
Destiny Renee.....	Performer
Marium Khalid.....	Performer
Theresa Davis.....	Performer
Lauren Vogelbaum.....	Performer
Christy Robinson.....	Performer
Frankie Mullinex (Vandellous).....	Performer
Ruby Marx (Athanasia Plantis).....	Performer
Abigail Richards.....	Production Assistant
Lucinda Armbrust-Kohler.....	Production Assistant
Lee Sines.....	Production Assistant

## 7 Stages Staff

Heidi S Howard.....	Artistic Director
Mack Headrick.....	Managing Director
Destiny Renee.....	Education Director
Marium Khalid.....	Associate Artistic Director
Katherine Neslund.....	Production & Facilities Manager
Devi Wells.....	Marketing Coordinator
Jasmine Martinez.....	Patron Services Manager



# About Other Reproductive Rights Recipes

## **Destiny Renee and Marium Khalid - It's That Time of the Month Again!**

Welcome to **It's That Time of the Month Again!** The sassy talk show where we discuss ALL of the things, but more specifically, things about female bodies and the agency they have – or don't have! We've put a fantastic show together with honored guests such as Theresa Davis, Frankie Mulinix, Christy Robinson and so much more! With stories ranging from the history of pregnancy tests, a bad romance with America to reclaiming your divine feminine energy. Hosted by the infamously fabulous divas Maria Menses (Destiny Renee) and Tiffany Tampone (Marium Khalid).

Destiny Renee is an actress, teaching artist, poet and 7 Stages Education Director. She holds a B.A. in Theatre from Florida State University, and has studied performance in London and with The Double Edge Theatre Company. Destiny is a proud member of the Shakespeare On Draught theatre company and is a founder of the up and coming Topsy Tales show. She aims to create a dialogue about the issues that are deeply affecting our society through mediums like devised theatre, film and poetry. Ultimately, Destiny hopes to create a change.

Marium Khalid, 7 Stages Associate Artistic Director, is a Pakistani-Kashmiri American writer, director and creator leading her companies SAiAH Arts and Sky Creature Productions to receive over 25 major awards. Her previous work includes TERMINUS, an award winning immersive multi-layered story, and an experiential retelling of Moby Dick, winning her Best Director and Best Show. She received the CREATIVITY AND ARTS IMPACT AWARD from Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts. Recently her short film MAZLO-OM was awarded Best Director, Best Film, and Best Actress from major film festivals, as well as receiving official selections from others including the Atlanta Women's Film Festival and the Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival.

## **Theresa Davis - What To Do When A Politician Tries To Fall Into Your Vagina, Feet First**

Theresa Davis is an educator, storyteller, poet, author, poetry slam champion and the host of the award winning open mic Java Speaks. She has performed on stages across the nation as a poet and keynote speaker. A classroom teacher for over 30 years, specializing in cross curricular education, Theresa continues her passion for education as a teaching artist. As a slam poet, Theresa has competed individually and on teams for over a decade and in 2011 won the Women of the World Poetry Slam.

Theresa Davis wrote and performed this poem 15 years ago and cannot believe we are still talking about regulating women's bodies in 2022. This poet has no qualms about telling politicians to stay out of her vagina.

## **Lauren Vogelbaum - A Brief History of Pregnancy Tests**

Lauren Vogelbaum is a writer and performer around Atlanta and the internet. Her actual day job is podcasting -- you can find her work on the daily science podcast BrainStuff, the food science & culture podcast Savor, the historical true crime podcast American Shadows, and various scripted fiction miniseries (including The Second Oil Age, and Aaron Mahnke's 12 Ghosts).

For thousands of years, humans have wanted to know whether they're pregnant – and for thousands of years, they've turned to urine. Thanks to advances both scientific and cultural, we can now test easily, at home – but it took us a lot of trial and error (and barley, and rabbits, and frogs) to get here. Come along as Lauren explores the long, deeply weird history of pregnancy testing, from Ancient Egypt to Roe v Wade and beyond.

## **Christy Robinson - My Doula Thangs**

Christy Robinson, Doula C-Rae, brings her whole self to her ministry of birth. An ordained pastor, educator and performance artist. She weaves all of these elements together to create an environment of advocacy for those she serves through her company Cr8tive Resourcing Suite. Birth is Divine and let it be so!

Doula C-Rae will provide a glimpse into the role of the doula, one who serves and accompanies a birthing mother and her family to choose and create the birth they desire. Along with her "bag of tricks" Doula C-Rae will tell you how she supports the unborn on the other side.

## **Shelby Hofer - Four Embryos (and High Risk, Baby!)**

Written last year as a coda of sorts to High Risk, Baby!, Four Embryos was originally an imaginary conversation between Shelby and her mother, who unexpectedly passed in January of 2022, just before the war in Ukraine started and the reversal of Roe v Wade. "She and my dad helped us make the trip to Ukraine in the first place, a beautiful country where I was able to make my motherhood dream come true, with my own agency and choice. I just knew she wouldn't be able to believe all of this, like myself. And the fact that she was gone suddenly - I found myself really wanting to talk to her about it. These events felt so surreal and, in my story, very connected."

Shelby is an actor, writer, and Co-director at PushPush Arts, where she and her partner Tim Habeger have worked for 25 years to develop opportunities for artists to explore new ideas. As an actor, she has appeared on many stages over the last two decades, most recently at Horizon Theatre in Every Brilliant Thing. She was the recipient of a Nexus Fund/Andy Warhol Foundation grant in 2022, which allowed her to convert High Risk, Baby! into a solo touring show, and a 2023 recipient of an Alternate Roots Artist Assistance grant, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

## **Frankie Mulinix (Vandellous) - My Uterus is a Loaded Gun (and I'm Trigger Happy) -** Performing Friday & Sunday

Frankie Mulinix (Vandellous) is a butoh, burlesque, fire, and spoken word performer with a career spanning Canada, Australia, and the US. A queer, nonbinary, disabled, and neurodivergent artist, they draw on an eclectic background that spans butoh, dance, kink, and burlesque to explore themes such as mental health, gender roles, and hypocrisies within a so-called enlightened society. Frankie is a recipient of the Alliance Theatre's 2022-2023 "Reiser Atlanta Artists Lab" competition and a 2021 Hambidge Cross-Pollination Art Lab Fellow.

My Uterus is a Loaded Gun (and I'm Trigger Happy) is a performance about the "bad romance" between the United States of America and those with uteruses within its borders.

How the land of the free defines itself through the control of reproduction is one of the core hypocrisies underpinning American identity. Weaving together audio clips, butoh, burlesque, waxplay, and text, Frankie Mulinix (Vandellous) draws these fragments into a narrative revealing the "bad romance" that exists between the US and those with uteruses who find themselves (willingly or not) within its borders. Curious about how the nervous system of the performer impacts the audience's experience, Vandellous plays with duration and breath to give the audience room for their own experiences and meanings.

## **Ruby Marx - A Period Piece -** Performing Saturday

The immortal broad of stocking peels, Ruby Marx is here to make Karl Marx proud, Ruby Marx is here to strip and share her clothing with the masses. But as Athanasia, she works as a PhD student in sociology, completing research on menstruation, sex work, trans\*ness, procreation, and medical systems. Beyond this, she has created a menstrual hygiene product drive, collecting over 1,000 individual items to support local homeless shelters in Atlanta, Georgia. With big plans to continue using burlesque as public sociology, Ruby/Athanasia hopes to bring about social awareness, while performing and researching.

Ruby Marx's "A Period Piece" is a burlesque act that challenges current period stigmas. This act is part neo-burlesque, part political activism. "Stuck in the Middle with You" (the act's song), is not just a tampon reference, but a reference to being stuck in the middle of a rock in a hard place. This hard place is how to perform periods "correctly" as decided by patriarchy. "A Period Piece" challenges notions of both performing menstruation and sexuality correctly.

Framed for a crime she didn't commit, Ruby escaped prison to take to the road. Committing herself to a life of sin, attempting to be a Vegas showgirl, and taking up with Marx-ist ideals, Ruby found burlesque as her new trade of tricks. Having traveled far across the country, she now finds herself in the old South, embracing her sexuality and her education under her new, assumed name. Part kitty cat, part devil, she is a tease here to please.



FULTON COUNTY  
ARTS & CULTURE



Major funding for this organization is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, and Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts is funded in part through partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how NEA grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

Join us beyond the stage this weekend for Service Saturday, plus our Sunday Art of Activism potluck and a vital dialogue on reproductive rights & other recipes with performers and special guests from New Georgia Project and Planned Parenthood.



## COMING SOON to PushPush Arts and 7 Stages!

