

# HOUSE OF CHEEK

## HONOURING BIPOC SPACES POLICY

Our shows take place on the unceded and unsundered lands of the Lkwungen-speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Traditionally "Metulia," now colonially known as Victoria, the nine local Nations have been interconnected with the land and water since time immemorial. We recognize our privilege with being able to produce on these lands as the local Nations and many others across the globe continue to reclaim and fight for their space and sovereignty for their people. As an Indigenous-own company, House of Cheek is honoured to walk alongside our cousins to help share stories of resilience, tradition, and teachings.

House of Cheek is an inclusive and sex positive production that strives to make our shows welcoming to people of all intersectional backgrounds and communities. We are devoted to making every space that we occupy a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of colour) space and an encouraging place for all self-expressions and enjoyment of the art of burlesque. We ask all members of our audience and staff to be respectful of our performers, staff, and each other at all times.

To help with this, please be aware of your own behaviour and privileges whenever you are at any BIPOC-centered event. Allies are always welcome at our events as guests to witness the sharing of our art, and we ask that in exchange, you respect the sacredness of our space, performers, and staff. Our events are open to people of all backgrounds, but our top priority is to create a home for people of colour and individuals belonging to various marginalized communities first.

There is zero tolerance for any form of prejudice. Please be respectful of other people's race, gender, gender expression, age, body type/size, religion, sexual orientation, sexual expression, class/status, abilities, and attire while at our shows. We also ask that you be mindful and respect other's personal space and boundaries. Treat others how THEY want to be treated.

Support Companions will be onsite to ensure the audience has someone to go to if anything is triggering in the show or support is needed with other audience members. Poor behaviour from an audience member will be addressed directly first with feedback and the opportunity to learn and have changed behaviour. Should inappropriate behaviour continue, the identified individual may be asked to leave without a refund.



## WHAT WE CAN ALL DO TO HONOUR BIPOC SPACES

**RESPECT** and inclusion are what we strive for. Please be respectful of other people's race, gender, gender expression, age, body type, religion, sexual orientation, sexual expression, class/status, abilities, and attire while at our shows. respect other's personal space and boundaries. Treat others how THEY want to be treated.

**TAKE RESPONSIBILITY** for your actions. We can't always control our environment, but we can check in with ourselves and do our best to hold ourselves accountable for our behaviour and be respectful towards others and ourselves.

**CHECK IN** and look out for others and yourself. If there is ever a time you experience a conflict, harassment, or a sense of uneasiness (whether from someone else or yourself), don't hesitate to reach out and see if they're doing ok. House of Cheek events always have identifiable Support Companions onsite for anyone who needs support. Feel free to connect with one of our staff members on site, and they will gladly assist with the situation.

**BE AWARE** of your own behaviour and privileges whenever you are at a BIPOC event. House of Cheek's events are open to people of all backgrounds, but our first priority is to create a home for people of colour and individuals belonging to various marginalized communities. Our home is not a space for racism, colourism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, fatphobia, whorephobia or any other forms of discrimination.

House of Cheek aims to be harassment and objectification free with all our events. This is not always possible, but we work to ensure we have active supports or support systems in place where identified. If you have experienced harm at one of our events or have feedback to help us foster a safer space, please contact our producer, Cherry Cheeks, and she will be happy to hold space for this important conversation. You can contact Cherry at [cherry.cheeks.burlesque@gmail.com](mailto:cherry.cheeks.burlesque@gmail.com)

