

# 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. Also known as "Metulia," and colonially known as Victoria, the nine local and surrounding 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-owned company, House of Cheek is honoured to walk alongside our cousins. We will always help share stories of resilience, tradition, and teachings.

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

### Who Can Attend?

Allies are always welcome at our events as guests to witness the sharing of our art. 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.

### Onsite Support

Two identifiable Support Companions will be onsite to ensure the safety of the audience. Support Companions will be available to audience members if anything is triggering in the show or if support is needed. Poor behaviour from an audience member will be addressed directly first with feedback, the opportunity to learn and should exhibit changed behaviour.

Should inappropriate behaviour continue, the identified individual may be asked to leave without a refund.



## YOUR ROLE IN HONOURING BIPOC SPACES

**RESPECT** and inclusion are what we strive for. **There is zero tolerance for any form of prejudice, discrimination, or harassment.**

- Respect 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
- Respect the autonomy between cultures and individuals. As people of colour, each of our experiences can be interconnected at times, but they are still unique
- BIPOC spaces are sacred. Because of this, we will only share from our performers what we have permission to share with the audience.
- Audience members are not permitted to take photos or videos of the show. There will be a professional photographer and videographer to capture the event
- Harassment is defined as unwanted behaviour towards a person that causes mental or emotional suffering; including repeated unwanted contact without a reasonable purpose, insults, threats, touching, or offensive language

**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 you experience conflict, harassment, or a sense of uneasiness (whether from someone else or yourself), don't hesitate to reach out. Ask if they are doing ok and see if they need support.
- House of Cheek events always have identifiable Support Companions onsite for anyone who needs it. 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-centred 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, antisemitism, xenophobia or any other forms of discrimination
- Often people of colour experience microaggressions and are forced to carry emotional labour on a regular basis. Our events are not a space for individuals of the dominant culture (in this case, non-BIPOC) to unload guilt, exoticism, or say to our performers “you’re so inspirational” for simply existing and sharing our truths
- People of colour exist with all shades of skin tones (hence our annual show’s name “Shade”). Do not expect our performers to look or behave a certain way based on internalized stereotypes or assumptions. House of Cheek intentionally hires performers from diverse intersectional BIPOC identities and aims to highlight the variety within our performance communities
- At times, the content of our shows may bring up some internalized emotions that you may need to process. Please do not put emotional labour on our performers or staff. Please speak to our onsite Support Companions, who are available to assist where appropriate

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 and support systems in place where possible. 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 who 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)

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