

## Transcript of *Tighter Than A Granny's Knot*

Part of *Illuminating Matriarchs*

Spoken word by Tsholo Khalema:

Truth and fact on the dot, tighter than a granny's knot

A maestro of tales

some feel uncomfortable to ingest

a visionary

in the mix crafting narrative

that break norms pixel by pixel

A creative mind paving her own way

A playwright emcee

stirring movements where her passion prevails

Her creativity boundless,

her art untamed and flawed

in the realm of expression,

she's a trailblazer,

pushing boundaries; impacting communities steadfast

Truth and fact on a dot

Tighter than a granny's knot

I met her in the bustling lobby

of the Corner Store Theatre

at 955 Bloor Street West on July 27th

Wrecking Ball 18

I couldn't help myself but feel the creative

energy pulsating through the air

The atmosphere was charged with urgency

Various playwrights, actors and enthusiasts gathered

for an evening of political(ly) charged performances

There she was, on stage

Her performance,

an unapologetic portrayal

of frontline activism,

a raw and unfiltered reflection

of the tumultuous times we live in

Female voice:

Truth and facts on the dot

Black Lives Matter

like a granny's knot

[Voice repeats and continues underneath]

Tsholo: I was inspired with a renewed sense of purpose

and a burning desire

to explore my own creative endeavors

Meeting Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

that night was more

than just a chance encounter

It was the catalyst  
that led me to being in her play  
"Cake" some years later  
She reminded me  
of the power of storytelling  
She's got a knack for spotting  
those unseen  
gifted at finding artists in between  
Where others cast doubt  
she sees the spark

Yeah, I'm speaking truth straight  
from my heart

DM, the ultimate force,  
the direct message to the world,  
staying on course  
Activist, playwright, her pen never rests,  
spreading truth,  
passing life's tests

54ologies, plays that connect with so many realities

She's busy challenging norms,  
leaving me floored and forever inspired  
Her essence and passion ooze in all her work  
From "Cake" to "Gas Girls",  
those stories come alive  
An "agitator" in her element,

she thrives

“Sound of the Beast”, its essence

“A Man A Fish”,

“The First Stone”, “3 Fingers Back”

Just to name a few

All diving deep,

evoking questions,

Truth and fact on the dot

tighter than a granny's knot

Complex, funny, painful

human, yes, human

the human experience is complex

Each work resonates,

each captivates with each character

that breathes

That walks, talks,

that has a thought

Truth and fact on a dot

tighter than a granny's knot

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a visionary in the mix

crafting narratives

that break norms pixel by pixel

A creative mind paving her own way

A playwright stirring movements where her passion prevails

Her creativity boundless,

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in the realm of expression,

she is a catalyst,

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Lifting as we climb

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Commissioned by Common Boots Theatre

CBcommons is made possible through support from TD Ready Commitment. Common Boots Theatre receives operating funding from Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council.