

## **Award-winning *Fertile* is back for year 10 of Solofest!**

***The highly acclaimed solo show from artist Heather Dowling is back by popular demand, examining the topic of fertility and the expectations of procreation - via livestream.***

**LOS ANGELES** – Since the debut of *Fertile* at the 2019 Hollywood Fringe Festival, writer and performer, Heather Dowling, has been recognized repeatedly for the show’s powerful impact on audiences and now *Fertile* will be part of the 10th anniversary of the largest solo-performance festival on the West coast, Solofest, streaming from the Whitefire Theatre in Sherman Oaks, CA.

“Back when I was just beginning to write my first solo show, *Unemployed. Finally.*, the Whitefire Theatre quickly became a home for my creativity,” says Dowling. “This is where my solo performance education with my coach and director, Jessica Lynn Johnson began, in her free Soaring Solo workshops. And it’s a joy to be presenting my second show from my second home - and supporting this amazing venue that Artistic Director Bryan Rasmussen has built.”

In 2020, Dowling was nominated for Performer of the Decade by Broadway World - LA based on the success and accolades for *Unemployed.Finally.* and *Fertile*. At the 2019 Hollywood Fringe, *Fertile* was awarded the festival’s Producers’ Encore Award and Dowling was nominated for Best Solo Performance out of 101 solo performances that year. The show has since gone on to be awarded Best of Fest for Solofest 2020 at Whitefire Theatre, selected for the curated 28th Annual LA Women’s Theatre Festival and selected for Binge Fringe at the Santa Monica Playhouse. The show was also recognized by theatre audiences in Los Angeles, winning Better Lemons “Double Sweet” Award for 2019.

During the two-year run and tour of her first show *Unemployed. Finally.*, one of the stories that audiences responded to most was when Dowling shared her personal challenges with infertility. Driven by the heartfelt response, she decided to share her story more completely and interviewed dozens of women (and men, too) to discover, uncover and encourage a conversation about procreation as an empowered choice.

“What I went through personally with infertility opened my eyes. I was shocked to discover how many women, how many couples had been through some version of what I went through...and they weren't talking about it!” she said. “I felt that writing this show, sharing my story and the stories of the people I interviewed about fertility and parenthood, would support others - encourage them and even give them a chance to laugh about it, and maybe cry a little, too.”

# **Calendar Listing Request:**

## **Fertile**

Written and Performed by Heather Dowling  
Directed and Developed by Jessica Lynn Johnson

### **SYNOPSIS:**

In *Fertile*, we meet Jenny, a woman with a plan—a plan to get pregnant. Everyone keeps telling her that time is running out; she just turned 35, after all. So, when those urine tests keep coming back negative, Jenny decides to take action and fix the problem. That’s when she runs into real problems...and real questions about fertility and motherhood. As Jenny faces the world of “mom options”—egg freezing, in-vitro, adoption, and more—the conversation about the expectation of procreation really begins. In a sea of outside opinions from her friends, her doctors, a beloved neighbor, and even God, Jenny must ultimately look within to discover what motherhood means to her, what it means to be fertile.

### **STREAMING LIVE:**

Thursday, February 11th at 7pm PST

### **FROM:**

Whitefire Theatre  
13500 Ventura Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

### **PRICES:**

\$15.99

*The link to the live stream will be available for viewing up to 48 hours after the live show.*

### **FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.FertileConversation.com](http://www.FertileConversation.com)

### **PRESS CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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