

I was hoping that by the year 2024,  
The Vagina Monologues would be redundant and irrelevant and  
that violence against women, girls, and gender-diverse people would be a  
distant memory. But sadly, patriarchy is stubborn and intractable. With every  
expansion of our rights, there seems to be a contraction or a pushback.  
Patriarchy is like a virus that lives in the body politic and returns in full  
blossom in toxic conditions. Our world today is rife with these poisonous  
forces--the right wing coming into power, an increase in domestic violence  
and rape, outright and unapologetic misogyny, which is always licensed by  
fascism, settler colonialism, climate disaster, and racism. And at the center of  
it all remains the one constant. Women's bodies. Always used, misused, sold,  
occupied, owned, and cut. It is shocking, for example, that in a progressive  
country like Finland, female genital mutilation is still not criminalized in 2024.

So, I am thrilled that Valtimonteatteri are doing The Vagina Monologues.  
I want to honor everyone involved in the production: producers, director,  
actors, and all those behind the scenes who have come together with their  
passion and talent to stand for and love women's bodies, to break the silence,  
to carry the stories of anger, sensuality, humor, sorrow and joy.  
I want to thank and honor every activist and every women's rights leader in  
Finland who has been fighting for years for our dignity, our rights, and our  
freedom.

The story is still being written. I continue to believe that when women are  
safe, empowered, and able to fulfill their dreams and destinies, the whole  
world will change. Theater is a pathway, rising beyond binaries, moving our  
hearts, offering solace and orgasms, and reminding us that it is in the energy  
and solidarity of community where the new world will emerge.

With deepest solidarity, admiration, and love,  
V (Eve Ensler)