

York Region TV personality acts out on fringe

MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Some women imagine they could meet a guy who's as perfect as Jesus.

Brandy Yanchyk, the host of Rogers Television's One on One in York Region, is one who has thought it through.

Her play at this year's Toronto Fringe Festival, Everyone Wants to be Mary Magdalene, is not your basic "girl meets Jesus" story.

Mary, Ms Yanchyk's character in her one-woman show, is well aware of her flaws. But then, didn't Jesus love the Magdalene even though she was a prostitute?

"She says, 'God, I'm not a good girl, do you still love me?'" says the Unionville native, also a reporter with CBC Radio One.

"I hope to God the reply people hear is yes."

The play follows a woman's journey toward believing in herself instead of waiting for someone else to save her, touching along the way on body image, "doctors prescribing Prozac like it was Tylenol" and premarital sex.

Ms Yanchyk, 27, who sings and wrote the music, built the show from monologues she wrote as a Concordia University student in 1998 and performed it that year at the Montreal Fringe, long before Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ entered theatres or The DaVinci Code climbed best-seller lists.

She's not worried people who take Mr. Gibson's traditionalist vision of Christ as

gospel will call her work anti-Christian.

"It's not an anti-religious message. It's about a girl that loves God and wants to fit

God into her life," she says.

"I do believe in God and I don't think God is a scary being who is slashing lightning bolts at us."

Everyone Wants to be Mary Magdalene is a comedic drama for mature audiences. Its final performance is tomorrow at the St.

Vladimir Theatre on Toronto's Spadina Avenue.

The Fringe Hotline is 416-966-1062.

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