

NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005 - 2006

Jesse Wente
Jed DeCory
Susan Crean
Rex Buckle

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

Cherie Brant, James Cullingham
and Naomi Powless

PERSONNEL



MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Yvette Nolan

THEATRE ADMINISTRATOR
Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
Nina Lee Aquino

COMMUNITY LIAISON
Tara Beagan

WEBMASTER & DESIGNER
Lance Sero Court

MEMBERS

PATRONS OF THE EARTH:
Lorne Cardinal, Daniel David Moses and Harold Tarbell.

PARTNERS OF THE EARTH:
Laura Milliken

SUPPORTERS OF THE EARTH:
Philip Adams, Rex Buckle and dd Kugler.

BEST FRIENDS OF THE EARTH:
Carol J. Andrews, Athol Cohen, Barbara Godard, Stanley Jeffers, Chris Johnson, Jonathan Kaplan, Richard & Nina Lee, David Copelin & Diane Marshall, Dr. Mary Jane Miller, Roger D. Moore, Robert & Janet Nunn, James & Louisa O'Reilly, Carol E. Rowntree, Drew Hayden Taylor and Marjorie Trudeau.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH:
Victoria Freeman, Sheila Linklater, Kenneth Lund, Grace B. Olds, Sharon Shorty, Kelly Thornton, Rosamond Vanderburgh, Marianne & Alan Weston, Roberta Wraith and Hersh Zeifman.

WISH LIST

- ♡ Peace
- ♡ Love
- ♡ Understanding

(...what's so funny?)

A HEARTFELT THANKS!

We finally got a papercutter! Two papercutters at that! Obsidian Theatre Artistic Administrator **PHIL AKIN** heard our pleas and generously donated his unused papercutters to Native Earth. Hooray!

Patron of the Earth member **HAROLD TARBELL** is set to give Native Earth his old digital camera. This will make a significant and wonderful addition to our office. Woohoo!

Financial Supporters

Native Earth Performing Arts gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:

Baggawating Community Association
The McLean Foundation



NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS IS TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE **GEORGE CEDRIC METCALF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**. LIKE MANY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE NEED TO IMPROVE OUR MARKETING AND TO DISCOVER NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE SO THAT WE MAY INCREASE OUR SELF-SUFFICIENCY. THE FOUNDATION'S THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED US TO CREATE A FULL-TIME MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR POSITION, NOW FILLED BY NINA AQUINO.



WEESAGEECHAK IS POUNDING IT OUT WITH A FULL BLOWN FANCY DANCE!

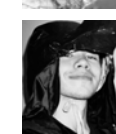


Weesageechak Begins to Dance, Native Earth's best-known festival of new works by Native artists from across the country finds a new home this year at the **Dancemakers Centre for Creation**, down the hall from Native Earth headquarters in the Distillery District, from September 15th - 18th, 2005.

The move to Dancemakers allows us to showcase new dance works by renowned artists **Julia Jamieson** and **Christine Friday-Keeshig**, and to honour the memory of **Rene Highway**, our fondly remembered dance trailblazer whose scholarship fund matured this year. The Rene Highway Scholarship, administered by Toronto Dance Theatre, will be awarded annually to up-and-coming Aboriginal dancers in training.

Julia Jamieson brings her solo dance *My Baby You'll Be: Ankwira enkenhake* to the festival, while **Christine Friday-Keeshig** presents three contemporary works: *Metamorphosis*,

Volume 17, No. 1 - Fall, 2005



three contemporary works: *Metamorphosis*, *Notchemowaning*, and a collaboration with BC hiphop artist **Manik 1derful**.

Saskatchewan playwright **Mark Dieter's** play *RRAP* takes a scathing look at band politics and on-reserve housing, while returning Weesageechak writer **Dawn Dumont** (*Four Directions*, *Nicimis*) examines fancydancing from a place of survival and rage with her one-woman *FancyDancing*.

Weesageechak will also present scenes from *The Death of a Chief*, an adaptation of Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare, featuring **Michelle St John**, **Jani Lauzon**, **Ryan Cunningham**, **Cheri Maracle-Cardinal**, **Craig Lauzon**, **Monique Mojica**, and **Michaela Washburn**.

In addition, the festival launches its Young Voices Initiative this season, showcasing the work of six emerging playwrights who have been working with professional theatre artists to develop their playwrighting skills. Excerpts from the work of **Amy White**, **Waawaate Fobister**, **Clifford Cardinal**, **Lena Recollet**, **Matt Poushinsky** and **Stephen Reid** will be featured on the second night of the festival.

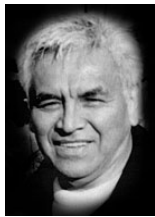
Come and Celebrate with Us!
Tickets \$10/night All-Access Pass \$25

For Tickets or Festival Passes or show information contact Native Earth:

416.531.1402

www.nativeearth.ca
nina@nativeearth.ca

GOODBYE LARRY



Native Earth Performing Arts sends love and peace to the spirit of our Nisga'a brother, Larry Guno, who died suddenly on Sunday July 17th at his home in Terrace BC. Larry - a playwright, former MLA and lawyer - was nearing a completed draft of his first play, *Bunk #7* which was set to debut in our 2005/2006 season at the Factory Studio. Larry was

proud to be sharing the experiences he collected as a student in one of Canada's many residential schools in the fifties and sixties. His remarkably positive nature highlighted memories of friends, a family away from home, and music of the era that kept the boys company during the quiet times. We are humbled by his accomplishments and inspired by his ability to emerge from such a strained environment with heartening stories and a strong urge to better the state of our people.



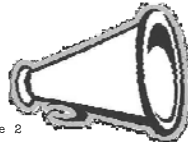
"Oh God, at this moment we are all thinking of home, of our families, of the places that we miss, we thank you for all the beautiful things like the sea, the sound of the breakers rolling in, the call of the raven, the quiet murmur of the rivers, the sound of the voices of our forefathers from the forest and most of all God the mountains and all our relations."



"Gunay" from *Bunk #7* by Larry Guno

VISIT SENECA COLLEGE'S

NEW DISCOVERIES SHOWCASE
AT THE TORONTO CITY ROOTS FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 2ND - 4TH, 1-3 PM
@ THE DISTILLERY HISTORIC DISTRICT

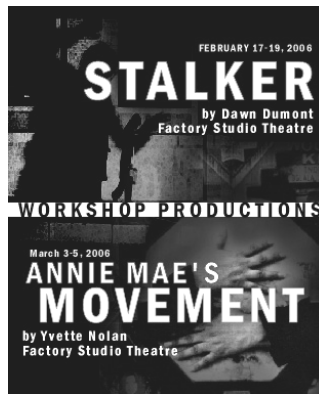


SEASON CHANGE

It takes a long time and a lot of work to develop a play for the stage. Although Larry Guno had been working on *Bunk # 7* (formerly *O'Keefe*) for nearly four years, the play was not yet ready to be produced, and all the development scheduled for this season leading up to the February production - workshops, dramaturgy, rewrites - stopped with his untimely death.

Cancelling the anticipated production of *Bunk # 7* created a hole in the Native Earth season. Instead of just throwing something up - a production takes a long time and a lot of planning - we decided to spend our energy on second-stage development of two pieces that are coming up at Native Earth in future seasons.

Stalker, a play by Dawn Dumont that has been in development here since Weesageechak XVI, will receive a two week workshop and have a three day public showing at the Factory Studio February 17th - 19th. *Stalker* looks at the relationship between two university students that escalates to violence, and how their community deals with the fallout. It challenges the idea of circle sentencing and the responsibility of a community to police its members.



Two weeks later, audiences will get a sneak preview of a revised and redesigned *Annie Mae's Movement*, a production that will tour Canada in 2006, and Australia and New Zealand in 2007/2008. In the five years since its Native Earth production, two men have been charged with the 1976 murder of the Nova Scotia activist. How will that affect the play? Come and see, March 3rd-5th, once again at the Factory

WELCOME ANDPVA!

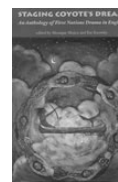
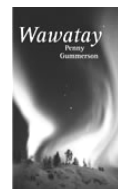
Weesageechak opens this year with a rousing forum hosted by the **Association for Native Development in the Performing & Visual Arts**, September 15th, 10-5 at Centre for Indigenous Theatre, 96 Spadina.

Marrie Mumford joins **Alanis King** for a day of engaging programming that will address possible solutions to the need for a permanent space for our artists, take a candid look at the direction in which our theatre is growing, and close with a live simulcast of indigenous theatre artists across the country sharing pieces from recent works.

FROM PAGE TO STAGE TO PAGE AGAIN



Playwrights Canada Press recently published two of Darrell Dennis' plays together in a single volume: *Tales Of An Urban Indian* and *The Trickster of Third Avenue East*. Both plays premiered at Native Earth Performing Arts, and now you can own your very own copy. Another recent offering from the press is Penny Gummerson's *Wawatay*, which made an early appearance at Weesageechak several years ago, before going on to be produced at the Firehall in Vancouver, at SNTC in Saskatoon, and elsewhere.



These books, and others (like the anthology *Staging Coyote's Dream*, edited by Monique Mojica and Ric Knowles) will be available at this year's Weesageechak Festival in the Distillery, September 15th -18th, or you can log on to the press website to order, or check with your local bookstore (ask them to order it for you, let's get some aboriginal plays on the shelves!). Playwrights Canada Press is www.playwrightscanada.com

CAN TURTLE GALS COME OUT AND PLAY?

They can and they will with the latest manifestation of *The Scrubbing Project*, coming November 8 - 13, 2005 to Robert Gill Theatre at University of Toronto Campus. Originally performed at Factory Studio Theatre in November 2002, the issues explored in *The Scrubbing Project* are not static, and Turtle Gals' performance remains perpetually striking precisely because it rises to confront the issues as they evolve.

Genocide, internalized racism, ingested shame - it's hard to believe you'll be laughing and singing along, but the Turtle Gals' take is healing, not condemnation.

Recently Turtle Gals Performance Ensemble was celebrated by audiences at the Native Canadian Centre when they performed *The Triple Truth* as part of the 30th annual Mayworks Festival. Like that work, *The Scrubbing Project* is full of hard truths and poignant moments of clarity - that intangible sensation of being at a carnival where someone has died, but no one has turned off the rides yet. So terribly, terribly entertaining.

Going to miss the Toronto show? Be brave! They'll also be playing in... Peterborough, Brantford, Manitowaning, Fort Frances, Wabigoon Lake, Sioux Narrows, Kenora, Regina, Edmonton, Yellowknife, Halifax, Leech Lake Tribal College, University of Illinois, Native American Literature Symposium.



NAME DROPPING

- **Jani Lauzon** continues to dazzle audiences as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* with the accomplished, culturally diverse cast in this year's offering by Shakespeare in the Rough (www.sitr.ca). You do not want to miss this complex characterization of an infamously difficult role. Show closes on September 5th.
- **Cliff Cardinal, Herbie Barnes and Columpa C. Bobb** will star in Theatre Projects Manitoba's premiere of *Coo-coosh* by **Doug Nepinak**, with direction by Ross McMillan. In Winnipeg from Sept 29 - Oct 29 www.theatreprojectsmnitoba.ca
- **Jennifer Podemski** and **Laura Milliken** at Big Soul Productions are busy with season three of the television show *Moccasin Flats*. Keep an eye on www.bigsoul.net and www.aptn.ca for air dates. Among others, season three will feature **Sarah Podemski, Matthew Strongeagle, Candi Fox, and Ron Harris**.
- *Love Medicine* by the incredibly prolific playwright **Dawn Dumont** was at Nightwood Theatre's Groundswell Festival this year. The reading on August the 22nd, a culmination of nine months of development with the Groundswell playwright's unit, was a roaring success, and presented a unique showcase for a veritable All-Star line-up of many of our finest actors, including **Craig Lauzon, Darrell Dennis** and **Sara Sinclair**.
- **Sid Bobb** is trotting about our beautiful nation shooting another season of Canadian Geographic Kids.
- **Billy Merasty** is enacting the character based on the legendary Chief Sitting Bull in the newest version of Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun* at Massey Hall until September 3rd.
- Catch **Santee Smith's** (www.santeesmith.com) new piece *Here on Earth* at Harbourfront Centre Theatre which runs October 6th - 8th @ 8 pm . For tickets call 416. 973.4000.

BLOCK PARTY

Come out and play with us! With the Weesageechak Festival in the Distillery District for the first time, we have a greater need for help with hosting our many wonderful patrons. Duties will be shared with our staff and include box office, front of house and general welcoming and warmth. Meet some of the key players in the Aboriginal Arts world and immerse yourself in the unique energy of the Festival. If you feel like seeing some of our exciting presentations in exchange for some organized socializing, please drop me a line and we'll schedule you in for as much as you like. Tara @ 416-531-1402 or tara@nativeearth.ca.