



2017//18

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NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS announces **2017-2018 Season** **Beginning October 2017 in Aki Studio**

TORONTO, ON – Native Earth Performing Arts announces the line-up for its 35th season, which showcases the talent of Indigenous dancers, playwrights, emerging artists and visual artists from across Turtle Island and beyond. Built from stories and experiences of courage, resistance and acceptance, Native Earth welcomes compelling artists at different stages of their careers to celebrate its 30th year of festivals. New Artistic Director Keith Barker and Managing Director Isaac Thomas invite the audience to witness a great spectrum of Indigenous art at Aki Studio.

“This season is built on the generosity of our artists, the humility of new beginnings, the patience of learning, the wisdom in listening to our Elders, the courage to embrace vulnerability, and the strength of our character. Welcome home.”

– Keith Barker, Artistic Director

WEESAGEECHAK BEGINS TO DANCE 30: ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF INDIGENOUS WORKS

November 15 - 25, 2017 | Aki Studio

Single Tickets \$15, Festival Pass \$60

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, Native Earth welcomes artists representing the span of the festival and the company’s history through an array of works-in-development and presentations in dance, theatre and interdisciplinary styles. Taking place over two weeks in Aki Studio, this festival offers audiences access to the rich and diverse Indigenous experiences as expressed through the arts.

This year’s festival opens with a workshop preview of Vancouver Moving Theatre’s *Weaving Reconciliation*, in partnership with Jumblies Theatre, which will return to Aki Studio for its premiere in June 2018. Native Earth once again proudly partners with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre to present the *2-Spirit Cabaret*. Special events also include the Professional Development Series.

IPPERWASH

Native Earth presents a Blyth Festival Production

February 6 - 18, 2018 | Aki Studio

Single Tickets \$15 - \$25

In 1942, when the Department of Defence forcibly evicted the Stony Point community to the neighbouring reserve of Kettle Point to establish the training base Camp Ipperwash, the department promised to return the land after the war concluded. This promise went unfulfilled for over 70 years, an act of displacement that still reverberates through these communities today. Full of song, humour and

rich imagery, Falen Johnson (Mohawk/Tuscarora) and Jessica Carmichael (Abenaki) tell an intimate story of reclamation, repatriation and resilience in *Ipperwash*.

NIIMI'IWE: INDIGENOUS DANCE SHOWCASE

FINDING WOLASTOQ VOICE

Native Earth presents a Theatre New Brunswick Production

March 29 - 31, 2018 | Aki Studio

Single Tickets \$20 - \$25

Finding Wolastoq Voice is a powerful dance-theatre hybrid performance about a young Wolastoqiyik Indigenous woman who has been living in the dark for a very long time but finally is awakened by the sounds and voices of her ancestors. *Finding Wolastoq Voice* marks the theatrical debut of Samaqani Cocahq ("The Water Spirit") Natalie Sappier of Tobique First Nation, featuring choreography by Aria Evans (Mi'kmaq/Black/British). This piece was developed with support from the Canada Council for the Arts Playwright Residency.

FESTIVAL PARTNERSHIPS

CAMINOS 2017

Presented in partnership with Aluna Theatre

October 4 - 8, 2016 | Aki Studio & Ada Slaight Hall

Inclusive – discursive – daring – unapologetic! Caminos presents an unforgettable five-day national festival of new works-in-progress, and an international conference of Performance and Human Rights. Pan-American, Trans-Indigenous, Latinx, and Canadian artists push the boundaries of theatre, dance, performance art, music, visual arts and film. The conference, "Unsettling the Americas: Radical Hospitalities and Intimate Geographies", offers four days of conversations reflecting on histories of settlement, displacement, and resettlement.

PAPRIKA FESTIVAL 2018

May 14 - 20, 2018 | Aki Studio

For the third year running, Native Earth is proud to partner with Paprika Festival to present a week-long performing arts festival entirely created by young artists. With the support of Native Earth, Paprika Festival will also offer a new program dedicated to supporting and presenting the work of young Indigenous artists. Paprika programs are free of cost for participants, and offer exceptional training in playwriting, performing, directing, producing, collective creation, design, and arts administration.

WEAVING RECONCILIATION

Presented in partnership with Vancouver Moving Theatre and Jumbies Theatre

June 2018 | Aki Studio

Weaving Reconciliation gives voice to those who have lived within and around Canada's long shadow of colonization. A contemporary weaving together of theatre, Indigenous cultural practices and lived experience, this multi-disciplinary production is about our hopes for a good future guided by the principles of our cultural past. *Weaving Reconciliation* unfolds through the eyes of Old One, whose life story interweaves with his healing journey as he opens up to life's regrets and hopes.

Created by an award-winning team of director Renae Morriveau (Cree Saulteaux), Rosemary Georgeson (Coast Salish/Dene Sahtu) and Savannah Walling, *Weaving Reconciliation* features a diverse cast of Vancouver urban Indigenous actors, Downtown Eastside poets, Elders and cultural carriers from Vancouver and Toronto.

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Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre company. Currently in its 35th year, Native Earth is dedicated to creating, developing and producing professional artistic expressions of the Indigenous experience in Canada. Through stage productions (theatre, dance and multi-disciplinary art), script development, apprenticeships and internships, Native Earth seeks to fulfill a community of artistic visions. It is a vision that is inclusive and reflective of the artistic directions of members of the Indigenous community who actively participate in the arts.



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