



2017/18

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NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS

presents

IPPERWASH

Written and Directed by Falen Johnson

Presented in Partnership with Blyth Festival

February 6 – 18, 2018 in Aki Studio

TORONTO, ON – “*An empty house is a lonely house...*” Native Earth Performing Arts is proud to present its production of *Ipperwash*, written and directed by Six Nations playwright **Falen Johnson**, in partnership with the Blyth Festival, from **February 6 to 18 at Aki Studio**.

In 1942, when the Department of Defence forcibly evicted the community of Stoney Point to the neighbouring reserve of Kettle Point to establish the military training base, Camp Ipperwash, the Department promised to return the land after the war had concluded. This promise went unfulfilled for over 70 years.

Ipperwash follows Corporal Bea Johnson, an Anishinaabe from New Credit, who is hired by the Department of Defence to manage the ordinance clean-up at Camp Ipperwash. During her stay, she realizes she knows very little about the recent history. As she comes to understand the damage done by the Department, Bea sees firsthand how this act of displacement reverberates on land grossly exploited by the government. When a little girl from the past pays her a visit, Bea’s world starts to unravel as she is forced to examine her complicity in the tragedy that is Camp Ipperwash. *Ipperwash* tells an intimate story of reclamation, repatriation and resilience of the Stoney and Kettle Point communities.

Playwright **Falen Johnson** (Mohawk/Tuscarora) makes her directorial debut with *Ipperwash*, her second production at Native Earth following her acclaimed *Salt Baby*, directed by Yvette Nolan. Her plays, including *Two Indians*, have shown in theatres across the country. Select performance credits include: *Tombs of the Vanishing Indian* (Native Earth), *The River* (Nakai Theatre), *Tout Comme Elle* (Necessary Angel, Luminato), and *Where the Blood Mixes* (Saskatchewan Native Theatre). Her writing has been featured in Brick Literary Journal, The Canadian Theatre Review, Granta Magazine, and Moth Storytelling Hour. Her new podcast *The Secret Life of Canada*, co-hosted with Leah-Simone Bowen, debuted this past summer.

The cast includes familiar faces: award-winning actor and writer **Paula-Jean Prudat** (Métis/Cree/Saulteaux) returning from the Shaw Festival; emerging actor **Samantha Brown** (Ojibwe/British); as well as **Jonathan Fisher** (Anishinaabe) and **James-Dallas Smith** (Mohawk) from the cast of the first *Ipperwash* production at Blyth Festival. Blyth’s Artistic Director **Gil Garratt** joins the production team as a core collaborator, alongside an all-star creative team, including multiple award-winning lighting designer **Michelle Ramsay**, costume designer **Jeff Chief**, and sound designer and composer **Deanna Choi**, with stage manager **Michael Panich**.



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Aki Studio, Daniels Spectrum
585 Dundas Street East, Toronto

Run Dates: February 6 – 18, 2018
Tuesday to Saturday @ 8pm • Sundays @ 2pm

Preview: Sunday February 4 @ 7pm
& Tuesday February 6 @ 8pm
Opening Night: Wednesday February 7

Single Tickets \$15-\$25
Available online at www.nativeearth.ca or by phone 416.531.1402
Pay-What-You Can (PWYC) available for Tuesday February 13

For more information visit www.nativeearth.ca/ipperwash.
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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 multidisciplinary art), new script development, apprenticeships and internships, Native Earth seeks to fulfill a community of artistic visions that is inclusive and reflective of the Indigenous community who actively participate in the arts.



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