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CAHOOTS



**Paper Canoe Projects and Cahoots Theatre
in association with Native Earth Performing Arts
present the world premiere of**

I Call myself Princess

Written by Jani Lauzon

Directed by Marjorie Chan

Aki Studio • September 9-30, 2018

A play with opera, Paper Canoe Projects and Cahoots Theatre partner with Native Earth Performing Arts for the world premiere production of **I Call myself Princess** written by **Jani Lauzon**. Including music by Charles Wakefield Cadman, and directed by Cahoots Artistic Director **Marjorie Chan**, this production will make its debut at Aki Studio, September 9-30, 2018.

When William, a modern-day Métis music student, is handed a 1918 opera about Creek/Cherokee Mezzo Soprano Tsianina Redfeather, he learns more than just an aria as he begins to unravel the complex circumstances faced by Indigenous performers past and present.

Seen and Unseen worlds collide as Tsianina appears to William, the two learning from each other as he makes a decision about his future as an artist. Combining drama, biography, and contemporary opera, this interdisciplinary work explores the tension between representation, inspiration and cultural appropriation.

I Call myself Princess is inspired by and features music from, *Shanewis: The Robin Woman*, the real opera about Tsianina Redfeather composed by her creative partner Charles Wakefield Cadman, an American composer in the early 1900's who was part of a musical movement using Indigenous music to create a distinct North American musical identity.

"By today's standard, Cadman's opera would be considered sexist, racist and naïve," says playwright Jani Lauzon. *"But it was popular culture of the times, and in many ways reflective of the changing landscape of Indian identity. Paralleling music and scenes from the opera with contemporary characters like William Morin and his boyfriend Alex Park, this play only begins to unravel the complex web of 'Indian' identity today."*

Playwright **Jani Lauzon** is a multidisciplinary artist of Métis ancestry. She recently directed *The Monument* (Factory) for which she received the Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Director; *Alien Creature* (Theatre Passe Muraille), two short films *eu·tha·na·sia* and *Just One Word*, which she also wrote and produced. Some of her other plays include *The Scrubbing Project* (with Turtle Gals

Performance Ensemble), *A Side of Dreams* and *Prophecy Fog*. Jani is also an award-winning film actor, a six-time Dora Mavor Moore nominated actress, a Juno-nominated singer/songwriter, and a Gemini Award-winning puppeteer.

Director **Marjorie Chan** is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist working as playwright, librettist, director and dramaturge. A six-time nominee, Marjorie is the recipient of four Toronto Dora Awards, one for Outstanding Performance and three for Outstanding New Opera. She has received the K.M. Hunter Artist's Award in Theatre for the breadth of her work; a Harold Award for her community contribution to the theatre industry in Toronto; and the George Luscombe Award for Mentorship in Professional Theatre. Marjorie was previously Artist-in-Residence at Banff Playwrights' Lab, Cahoots Theatre, Factory Theatre, Theatre Direct Canada, Tapestry New Opera, SUNY (Geneseo, New York), and Theatre du Pif (Hong Kong). She has been the Artistic Director of Cahoots since 2013.

The cast of **I Call myself Princess** features mezzo-soprano **Marion Newman**, Kwagiulth and Stó:lō First Nations, as Tsianina Redfeather (*Klee Wyck Woman* with Emily Carr String Quartet; *Bearing*, Luminato Festival), **Aaron M. Wells**, Ehattesaht and Lax Kw'alaams First Nations, as William Morin (*Children of God*, National Arts Centre), multi-award winning artist and musician **Richard Greenblatt** as Charles Wakefield Cadman (*2 Pianos 4 Hands* Co-Creator); Dora Award-winning **Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster** as Nelle Eberhart (*Of Human Bondage & Incident at Vichy*, Souleppper); and multi-disciplinary artist **Howard J. Davis** as Alex Park (*Bombay Black*, Factory; *Pygmalion & Sweet Charity*, Shaw Festival).

"Indians do not believe in separation between those who are living and those who have departed." –
Tsianina Redfeather

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in association with Native Earth Performing Arts
present the World Premiere of
I Call myself Princess
Written by Jani Lauzon
Directed by Marjorie Chan
Musical Director Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate

Associate Director Keith Barker
Set & Props Design by Christine Urquhart
Lighting Design by Kaitlin Hickey • Costume Design by Snezana Pesic
Sound Design by Marc Merilainen • Stage Management by Laura Baxter

Performed by Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster, Howard J. Davis,
Richard Greenblatt, Marion Newman, Aaron M. Wells

Aki Studio, Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas Street East
September 9 – 30, 2018
OPENING NIGHT: Thursday, September 13, 2018
Tuesday – Saturday @ 8pm, Sunday @ 2pm
Audio Described Performance on Friday, September 21 at 8pm
Relaxed Performance on Thursday, September 27 at 8pm

Tickets \$25-\$30 • Previews \$15-\$20 • Tuesdays Pay-What-You-Can
To purchase tickets please visit <http://www.cahoots.ca/shows/princess/>
or call 416.531.1402

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#ICmPrincess

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Paper Canoe Projects was founded in 2013 to support the development and production of multidisciplinary projects in Theatre, Film and Music. Influenced by the work of Yoshi Oida, Eugenio Barba, Richard Pochinko and David Smukler, Paper Canoe Projects seeks to explore the connection between body memory and creative expression in the development of new works.

Cahoots Theatre is a home for artists from the edge. Working with artists of colour, Deaf artists, queer artists, and other marginalized groups, Cahoots seeks, develops, produces and presents works that refocus the spotlight, empowers artists and engages diverse communities. Holding a prominent place in Toronto's arts community, Cahoots recently announced its 32nd season, including two world premieres and multi-stop tour.

Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre company dedicated to developing, producing and presenting professional artistic expressions of the Indigenous experience in Canada. Through stage productions (theatre, dance and multi-disciplinary art), new script development, apprenticeships and internships, Native Earth seeks to fulfil 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.