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# Native Earth Performing Arts' Smash Hit HUFF Goes on National Tour January – March 2016

"Huff took my breath away."
- J. Kelly Nestruck







# NNNN

"strong, uncompromising storytelling" - NOW Magazine



Toronto, ON - **Native Earth Performing Arts** today announced details for their national tour of the critically acclaimed, *Huff*, written and performed by award-winning Indigenous playwright **Cliff Cardinal**.

From January to March, Native Earth will take the darkly comic one-man tour-de-force to audiences from **Quebec City** to **Victoria**. The production, directed by **Karin Randoja**, opened Native Earth's 33<sup>rd</sup> season with a successful three-week run in October 2015. Critics called the play "must-see theatre" Paula Citron; Judith Thompson called it "one of the top five theatrical experiences" of her life; and audiences urged others to "run to see this show."

The nine-city tour will kick off at the **High Performance Rodeo**, **Calgary**'s International Festival of the Arts **(January 19 - 22)**. Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the HPR is the largest event of its kind in Western Canada. Week two in **Alberta**, sees *Huff* featured in **Edmonton's 7th Rubaboo Arts Festival (January 27 - 30)**, a celebration of First Nations, Inuit and Métis art and the only Indigenous performing arts festival in Alberta.

In February, audiences can catch *Huff* at one of **Vancouver**'s signature events, the **PuSh International Performing Arts Festival**. Among artists and companies from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Japan, Lebanon, and the United States, *Huff* runs **February 2 - 6**.

Audiences in the Greater Toronto Area who missed *Huff* during its Toronto run will get another chance to see it in a limited run at the **Toronto Centre for the Arts**. Native Earth will present *Huff* from **February 10 - 12** in partnership with **North York Arts**.

The second half of February sees *Huff* making two stops in **Quebec**: first a week of performances in **Quebec City** at **Théâtre Périscope** (February 16 - 20) before moving to the **MAI** (Montréal, arts interculturels) for four nights in **Montreal** (February 24-27).

Before returning West, *Huff* will travel to **Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve** located on **Manitoulin Island, Ontario**. Here the **Debajehmujig Theatre Group** will present two performances of *Huff* to one of the ten largest First Nation communities in Canada (**March 3-4**).

The tour will wrap up with two final stops in **British Columbia**; first in **Kelowna** at the **Rotary Centre for the Arts** on the **University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus (March 11-12)**, then in **Victoria** at the **Belfry Theatre's SPARK Festival (March 15-19)**, an annual festival of new plays.

Cliff Cardinal (Playwright, Performer), who made his acting debut in *Freeman's Wake* (Native Earth) by Yvette Nolan in 2005, portrays over a dozen characters in this solo show. Recent credits include *The Saskatchewan Rebellion* (Video Cabaret), *Three Little Birds* (Workshop West Theatre) and *Tales Of An Urban Indian* (Green Thumb Theatre) for which he was nominated for a Jessie Richardson Memorial Theatre Award. Cliff's debut as a playwright, *Stitch*, premiered at SummerWorks Performance Festival in 2011, winning the Theatre Passe Muraille Emerging Artist Award for a notable artistic impression.

Karin Randoja (Director) is an award-winning director, actor, singer/composer and teacher and has been creating devised theatre for over 25 years. Karin was a founding member of Primus Theatre and is a member of The Independent Aunties. She has performed and/or directed at Cleveland Public Theatre, La Mama (New York), The Caravan Farm Theatre and The National Arts Centre. She teaches at Humber College and numerous other schools and theatres. Karin has worked across Canada, the US, Europe, Japan and Mozambique. She is a graduate of the acting program at The National Theatre School of Canada.

**Native Earth Performing Arts** is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre company. Currently in their 33rd year, Native Earth is dedicated to creating, presenting and producing 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 fulfill a community of artistic visions.

# HUFF A Native Earth Production Written by and Starring Cliff Cardinal Directed by Karin Randoja

Set & Costume Design by Jackie Chau | Lighting Design by Michelle Ramsay Sound Design by Alex Williams | Stage Managed by Jennifer Stobart

# **CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Calgary's International Festival of the Arts
High Performance Rodeo
January 19-22, 2016

# **EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

Rubaboo Arts Festival Alberta Aboriginal Arts January 27-30, 2016

# **VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

PuSh International Performing Arts Festival
Firehall Arts Centre
February 2-6, 2016

# NORTH YORK, ONTARIO

Toronto Centre for the Arts
North York Arts
February 10-12, 2016

### **QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC**

Théâtre Périscope February 16-20, 2016

# MONTREAL, QUEBEC

MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) February 24-27, 2016

# MANITOWANING, ONTARIO

<u>Debajehmujig Theatre Group</u> March 3-4, 2016

# **KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Rotary Centre for the Arts
University of British Columbia
March 11-12, 2016

# VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

SPARK Festival
Belfry Theatre
March 15-19, 2016

For more information visit <a href="https://www.nativeearth.ca">www.nativeearth.ca</a>
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