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NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS
NIIMI'IWE: Indigenous Dance Showcase
presents the Toronto Premiere of

GATHERING LIGHT

By Michelle Olson

A Raven Spirit Dance Production

February 7-10, 2019 in Aki Studio

TORONTO, ON – For this year's **Niimi'iwe: Indigenous Dance Showcase**, Native Earth proudly presents Raven Spirit Dance's production of ***GATHERING LIGHT***, choreographed by the Artistic Director **Michelle Olson** for a Toronto Premiere on **February 7 to 10, 2019 at Aki Studio**.

A celebration of the natural world, ***GATHERING LIGHT*** follows the journey of seed to flower, beginning with the stirrings of consciousness to the full embrace of transformation. Delving into the impulses rooted in our bodies that travel through us to find light, this quartet exposes the structures that do not support our own truths, while revealing the ceremonies that support our full bloom. Creating a sense of ritual, loss, and growth, "it is about stepping into our fear, but also into our strength to be fully seen." "It is the idea of gathering light with petals," says Olson.

Michelle Olson is a Vancouver-based choreographer, performer, and movement coach, and a member of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation (Yukon). As the Artistic Director of Raven Spirit Dance, she has produced numerous contemporary Indigenous dance pieces, including the recent *Salmon Girl* at Young People's Theatre with Quelemia Sparrow.

Olson collaborates with award-winning choreographers **Alejandro Ronceria** (founding Artistic Director of the first Aboriginal Dance Program at the Banff Centre for the Arts) and **Su-Feh Lee** (Artistic Director of battery opera) for dramaturgy, and performers **Tin Gamboa**, **Jeanette Kotowich**, **Hailey McCloskey**, and **Salome Nieto**. The world of ***GATHERING LIGHT*** is further enriched by composer **François Houle**, lighting designer **David DeGrow**, and vocalist **Michelle St. John** (co-founder of Turtle Gals Performance Ensemble).

In an intimate performance in the round, the quartet guides us through the unknown, inviting us into a conceptually rich and complex, transformative experience.

**Native Earth Performing Arts' NIIMI'IWE: Indigenous Dance Showcase presents
the Toronto Premiere of a Raven Spirit Dance Production**

GATHERING LIGHT

Choreographed by Michelle Olson

February 7-10, 2019

**Aki Studio, Daniels Spectrum
585 Dundas Street East, Toronto**

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 pm

Sunday @ 2 pm

Choreographer **Michelle Olson**

Performers **Tin Gamboa, Jeanette Kotowich,**

Hailey McCloskey and Salome Nieto

Dramaturgy **Su-Feh Lee and Alejandro Ronceria**

Composer **François Houle**

Lighting Designer **David DeGrow**

Vocals **Michelle St. John**

Tickets: \$30/Regular, \$25/Students, Seniors & Arts Workers

Available online at nativeearth.ca, or by phone at 416.531.1402

For more details: <http://www.nativeearth.ca/1819niimiwe>.

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#NiimiweGL



Raven Spirit Dance creates and produces contemporary dance that is rooted in Indigenous worldviews and honours the communities and artists they work with. Incorporating expressions such as traditional dance, theatre, puppetry, and multi-media to tell stories, Raven Spirit works from the following values: generosity, openness, engagement, integrity, and honouring. ravenspiritdance.com

Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre company. Currently in its 36th 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. nativeearth.ca



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