



NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS
presents

THIS IS HOW WE GOT HERE

Written & Directed by Keith Barker

January 26-February 16, 2020 | Aki Studio

"And if today ended before he could find his story again, what would that mean for tomorrow?"

TORONTO (December 10, 2019) **Native Earth Performing Arts** is proud to present its production of the 2018 Governor General-nominated play **This Is How We Got Here**, written and directed by **Keith Barker**, featuring **Kristopher Bowman**, **Tamara Podemski**, **James Dallas Smith** and **Michaela Washburn** on **January 26-February 16, 2020**.

Lucille, Paul, Liset, and Jim – best friends, sisters, spouses stumble in the dark one year after a tragic loss. They struggle to find each other again, until a mysterious fox shows up with a curious gift. Simultaneously heartbreaking and heartwarming, **This Is How We Got Here** is a complex and hopeful story of letting go.

"Entirely relatable, heart-wrenchingly frank, and dazzlingly honest. What makes it special is how deftly Barker navigates emotional sucker punches, while each of his characters deals with their own shortcomings and gifts, and utterly without judgement from the author." – Tara Beagan, acclaimed theatre artist and co-founder of ARTICLE 11.

The Algonquin Métis playwright and director **Keith Barker** is a multi-awarding winning artist and the current Artistic Director of **Native Earth Performing Arts**, originally from Northwestern Ontario. He was the finalist for the Governor General Literary Award for English Drama for **This Is How We Got Here**, and won the Saskatchewan and Area Theatre Award for Excellence in Playwriting for his play, *The Hours That Remain*, as well as a Yukon Arts Award for Best Art for Social Change. **This Is How We Got Here** was recently produced at Magnus Theatre and was previously at SummerWorks in 2016 (Continuum Theatre/New Harlem Productions).

The production features an incredible cast of Indigenous performers, including television and film actor **Kristopher Bowman** (Haudenosaunee) who recently finished his third season at the Shaw Festival in dark British farce *The Ladykillers* and Mae West's *Sex*, and will be returning next year for Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* and George Bernard Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple*. He also wrapped up his latest feature film role as Detective Doyle in the 80's set comedy/horror *Vicious Fun*.

Tamara Podemski (Anishinaabe/Ashkenazi) is an award-winning multi-disciplinary artist, whose film and TV credits include: *Dance Me Outside*, *North of 60* (CBC), and *Heartland* (CBC). She is most notable a member of the Original Canadian cast and the Broadway Company of *Rent*, and received the Special Jury Prize for

Acting for her role in *Four Sheets to the Wind* at the Sundance Film Festival. Her most recent theatre performance was in Colleen Wagner's Governor General Award-Winning play *The Monument*, directed by Jani Lauzon (Factory Theatre). Tamara currently stars in the CBC primetime drama *Coroner*, as well as the HBO comedy-thriller *Run*, both set to air in 2020.

James Dallas Smith (Anishinaabe) most recently appeared in Daniel David Moses' play *Almighty Voice and His Wife*, directed by Jani Lauzon at Soulpepper Theatre. Other theatre credits include: *Ipperwash* (Blyth Festival; Native Earth), *Our Town*, *King Lear* (Soulpepper), *Drawer Boy* (Centaur), *Hard Times For These Times* (National Arts Centre), *Drawer Boy* (Centaur), as well as five times at Native Earth's Weesageechak Begins to Dance festival.

Michaela Washburn (Métis) was also in *Almighty Voice and His Wife* (Soulpepper), as well as *Guarded Girls* (Tarragon/Green Light Arts), *Grace* (Nightwood), *Animal Farm* (Soulpepper) and *Confederation Series* (VideoCabaret, Soulpepper), for which she won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best Actress. She will be performing this summer in the Stratford Festival production of Tomson Highway's *The Rez Sisters*. She was also nominated for the Ontario Arts Council Indigenous Arts Award and K.M. Hunter Artist Award for Theatre.

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This Is How We Got Here
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Starring **Kristopher Bowman, Tamara Podemski,
James Dallas Smith, Michaela Washburn**

Lighting Designer **Jennifer Lennon**
Set Designer **Shannon Lea Doyle**
Sound Designer **Christopher Stanton**
Costume Designer **Isidra Cruz**
Stage Manager **Heather Thompson**
Production Manager **Suzie Balogh**

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

January 26-February 16, 2020
OPENING NIGHT: Wednesday, January 29, 2020
Tuesdays – Saturdays @ 8 pm
Sundays @ 2 pm

Tickets: \$20-\$30 | Previews: \$15-\$20 | Tuesdays Pay-What-You-Can
Available online at nativeearth.ca, or by phone at 416.531.1402.

For more details: www.nativeearth.ca/this-is-how-we-got-here.

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Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre company.

Currently in its 37th 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. nativeearth.ca

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