

Friday Creations & Native Earth co-present

FIREWATER THUNDERBIRD RISING

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE BY
CHRISTINE FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 16 - 19, 2023



**Native
Earth**
Performing Arts

*FRIDAY
CREATIONS*



585 Dundas St East, Toronto
416-531-1402
nativeearth.ca

FRIDAY CREATIONS AND NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS
co-present

Firewater Thunderbird Rising

Concept, Choreographer, Performer	Christine Friday
Sound Designer	Rob Bertola
Lighting Designer & Choreographic Support	Robert Desrosiers
Spoken Word/Cultural Support	Dr. Debby Wilson Danard
Costume Designer	Christine Friday
Friday Creations Operations Manager	Jamie Friday
House Technician	Adam Bromley

RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES



Native Earth Performing Arts and Aki Studio are situated on the traditional territory of many nations including the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Wendat.

Cover Illustration by Chief Lady Bird (@chiefladybird).

We greatly appreciate you taking this moment to turn off your cell phones. Photographs and any use of the recording device is strictly prohibited in the theatre. Miigwetch.

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NativeEarth

#neFirewater

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NOTES FROM CHRISTINE FRIDAY

My work is created by being present in power places on our ancestral lands that directly connect to the source - the inspiration. This strengthens and becomes a spiritual reflection deepening our way of knowing and understanding of being Anishinaabe promoting an Indigenous worldview. There is a shift of consciousness happening, the awakening of our truth and connection to the land. We are removing fear and shame standing strong in our own empowerment. We are alive and continue to protect our way of living.

I am deeply connected to the revitalization of cultural wellness of our people and community while working hard to maintain our Anishinaabe cultural traditions and gifts. Providing platforms and opportunities to share our knowledge and ways of being Anishinaabe provides the truth in reconciliation to be a catalyst for change and transformation. As nations of people, we seek mutual knowledge and understanding through creative artistic experiences that will shape our future together.

SPECIAL THANKS

I am thankful for having the courage to a life free from drugs and alcohol - Mino Bamadziwin, the good life. I give thanks to my family, my husband Jody Becker, our kids & our extended blended family. I am grateful to my mother and our connection to the spirit realm and ancestral guidance she has shared with me. I am always grateful to my dear friend Dr. Deb for our synchronicities and flowing through life together. I give thanks to my cousin Jamie for helping me carry our Ancestral responsibilities, and to my mentors: Rachel Snow, Don Kavanaugh, and Robert Desrosiers. Thank you to my many collaborators, especially my sound designer Rob Bertola. Additionally I would like to thank Tasheena Sarazian, Don Kavanaugh, and Sid Bobb for their support in the music. Thanks to Miranda Forbes from Dance Umbrella of Ontario. I give thanks to all my helpers in the spirit realm, dream realm and present realm, and to the magic of the Muppets, they actually inspired me to become a performer: "the lovers, the dreamers and me!"

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Firewater Thunderbird Rising was previously presented at Citadel + Compagnies Citadel Dance Mix 2021, Oakville Performing Arts Centre, Kingston Grand Theatre, Registry Theatre, and the Debajehmujig Theatre Group.

THE COMPANY

CHRISTINE FRIDAY, Choreographer and Performer

Christine Friday is deeply rooted to her family's ancestral hereditary lands, Friday's Point which includes surrounding lands and lakes that make up her family's tribal hunting grounds, located within the unceded lands of the Wabi Mkwā family. She lives on Bear Island, in her community of Temagami First Nation.

Christine is Anishinaabe Kwe, she is a proficient resilient Indigenous storyteller. She began her dance career with In the Land of Spirits in 1992 and has maintained a professional dance career for over 30 years, as a choreographer and director, developing solo work, commissioned work, youth creations and full-scale productions. In the past four years she has produced several dance films to broaden her audience and expand her potential. As a community activator she inspires gifts that awaken the connections to ignite the cultural wellness and traditions of our Anishinaabek community. Christine has developed and delivered strong community focused programs and gatherings for over 20 years.

ROB BERTOLA, Sound Designer

Rob Bertola has had the privilege of collaborating with acclaimed choreographer and Dancer Christine Friday for over 20 years. Rob's use of sound has been integral in bringing Christine's vision to life and conveying the powerful messages and emotions at the heart of her work.

Rob's accolades have included three Emmy nominations, two Emmy Awards for Sound Design, multiple Directors Guild Awards, multiple Gemini and Genie Awards, a Motion Picture Sound Editor Award, and CSA nominations.

In addition to his work with Christine Friday, Rob's recent accomplishments include serving as Lead Sound Designer for the highly anticipated film "Crimes of the Future" directed by David Cronenberg and music editing for the hit CBC series "Moonshine".

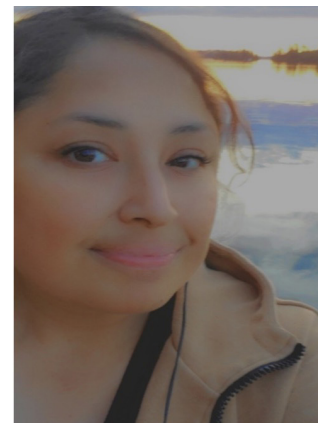
Dr. DEBBY WILSON DANARD, Spoken Word/Cultural Support

Dr. Debby Wilson Danard (PhD, MEd, BEd) is Anishinaabekwe traditional knowledge practitioner, visual and performance artist, lecturer, writer, water protector, Indigenous life promotion ambassador and sturgeon clan member from Rainy River First Nation. Growing up, she was raised with her grandmother's love and commitment to sharing traditional Anishinaabek teachings and way of life.

As multidisciplinary artist and social, justice education scholar; Debby has advanced cultural visual literacy engaging Anishinaabe knowledge systems and land-based learning to expand individual and collective community Indigenous visual (sensory) cultural expression.

Debby is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) with Dr. Angela-Mashford Pringle supporting the New Respect Cultural Safety Training.

As a leader for change, Debby strengthens life from the heart of Indigenous identity, sovereignty and autonomy as an evolving, creative, and living continuum of knowing and being.



JAMIE FRIDAY, Friday Creations Operations Manager

Jamie Friday is an Ojibwe/Cree woman from Lake Temagami and Wiikwemkong territory. Jamie is an artist, writer, legal consultant and political adviser who grounds her foundation of work in the concept of sovereignty and the understanding and respect of traditional ways. Jamie is currently the Operations Manager for Friday Creations and has been actively enjoying and becoming comfortable in her role creatively, and collaboratively. She has valuable experience in the area of Indigenous Knowledge gathering, report writing, research, legal contracts, public speaking and administration. During her academic years Jamie gained formal training at the University level in Fine Art, Business, Law and Justice, writing and dispute resolution. Jamie has spent the last 20 years working with Indigenous lead organizations, Political Territorial Organizations, First Nations and most recently served a three year term as an Indian Act Councillor for her home community of Temagami First Nation where helping community members at the community level became paramount. Jamie is gifted, and talented young Indigenous woman that is a helper at her core while also living and practicing her traditional ways of being on Lake Temagami.

ABOUT FRIDAY CREATIONS

Christine Friday is the Artistic Director, and visionary force behind Friday Creations, the overarching non profit organization that is currently building a Dance Studio Lodge in addition to the already provided land based programming, cultural and artistic retreats guided by truth, ancestral knowledge and visions. Friday Creations is located on her home community of Bear Island, Lake Temagami.



She has been working with the youth in her home community for over sixteen years through the establishment of annual programming including a dance camp for ages 7-12, and a cultural performing arts program, Roots & Wings for ages 13-21. Christine continues to be involved in her local elementary school through creative dance and performance initiatives. Activating sovereign spaces on her ancestral hereditary lands of Lake Temagami and surrounding area, through empowering and protecting a way of living on the land by shifting consciousness using innovative ways to reclaim economy and self sustaining living practices. She moved home four years ago to fulfill her potential to live in her truth and awaken the historical truths of her ancestors.

Christine is fulfilling a lifelong dream of returning to her home and lands that has led to the development of the Dance Studio Lodge that her company will officially launch in 2023. This will elevate her potential by expanding into an outfitters company creating ways of hosting artists in a natural innovative setting with cultural and artistic retreats activating land based learning. Knowledge of this artistic and cultural practice is gained by allowing and creating space for the opportunity of this Anishinaabe narrative to be experienced.

"We define our own truth and experiences relating to our communities, land and cultural origins; telling our own stories of who we are and where we come from." — Christine Friday

www.fridaycreations.ca

Single tickets for the 2022/23 season are sliding scale from \$10, \$20, \$30. PWYC Tuesdays for select shows in the season.



NIIZH

WRITTEN BY JOELLE PETERS, DIRECTED BY DESIRÉE LEVERENZ

APRIL 12 - 30, 2023

"I hope I never forget this place. Even more, I hope that it never forgets me."

A lot can change over the course of a summer. Niizh is a coming-of-age story set on a reservation in Southwestern Ontario that explores themes of love, familial ties, identity, and community.

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Make a lasting contribution to Native Earth Performing Arts and Aki Studio.

Join us in creating new Indigenous art, developing new creators and being a catalyst for Indigenous culture. What we do is made possible by the generosity of donors like you.

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Visit www.nativeearth.ca/donate, or call us at 416-531-1402.

As a charitable organization, Native Earth issues tax receipts for all donations \$20 or over.
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ABOUT NATIVE EARTH

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Performing Arts

Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's premiere professional Indigenous performing arts company. We are dedicated to sharing stories of the Indigenous experience in Canada through theatre, dance and multi-disciplinary arts.

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Managing Director
Venue Coordinator
Producer
Marketing Manager
Patron Services Coordinator
Patron Services Representatives

Administrative Coordinator
Animikiig Program Director
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CHAPTER 21

CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE BY
STARR MURANKO

MAR 23 - 26, 2023



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