

Produced by Raven Spirit Dance
Presented by Native Earth

CHAPTER 21

CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE BY
STARR MURANKO
MARCH 23 - 26, 2023



**Native
Earth**
Performing Arts



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

produced by **RAVEN SPIRIT DANCE** and
presented by **NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS**

Chapter 21

Production Choreographer, Performer	Starr Muranko
Director	Yvette Nolan
Composer	Edgardo Moreno
Lighting Design	Jonathan Kim
Stage Manager	Amanda Parafina
Costume Design	Jeanette Kotowich
Mentors	Alvin Tolentino & Michelle Olson
Videographer	Sophia Wolfe
Photography	Melanie Orr, Erik Zennström & Kaytee Dalton
Somatic Movement Coach	Donna Redlick
Voice Coach	Sheila Langston



RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES

15 MINUTES POST SHOW TALKBACK FOLLOWING EVERY PERFORMANCE

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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#neChapter21

#NEPA

#Aki Studio

NOTES FROM THE CREATOR STARR MURANKO

When I was going through these events in 'real time' I had an amazing community of friends and family that surrounded me and held me close. When it came time to bring this story out into the world and specifically to bring it to the stage I was also blessed with a circle of artists - whom I also consider both family and friends - to hold me close, to carry a part of this journey with me. And a journey it has been. I am grateful for each moment, each discovery, each person along the way. And of course all of those unseen helpers and moments of grace.

I am grateful for this opportunity to bring *Chapter 21* to Toronto and specifically to Native Earth. It feels like coming home to extended family that I haven't seen for a long, long time and that feels so good. Thank you for the warm welcome and for creating a space to share this story.

Thank you to all of my amazing collaborators. To Yvette, Alvin, Michelle, Jono, Amanda, Edgardo, Sophia and Jeanette. What would I do without each of you holding me close on this journey and sharing your brilliance each step of the way?

And to my biggest inspiration and love of my life...my dearest Sami. Mama loves you sweet boy, now and forever.

NOTES FROM DIRECTOR YVETTE NOLAN

It is always a gift to be able to return to a piece after a period of time. The adrenaline of the premiere is gone, we are all older, and - we hope - wiser artists. We are able to look at the work with new eyes, to dig deeper into what we made, to see connections that were not evident to us before.

In the case of *Chapter 21*, not only have we changed, but so has the world. When we first produced the piece, we were 21 months into the pandemic. Now, 18 months on from that premiere, we are all still in the process of figuring out how we go on. The resilience that Starr's character modelled has become a necessity for so many of us as we negotiate the challenges of balancing health concerns, family, and the uncertainty of the times.

Throughout it all, there is joy. The joy of new life - whatever that means - and of recognizing and honouring all those who got us here...

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Firehall Arts Centre for the 2022 premiere and to Presentation House Theatre for hosting us this year and for the tech residency.

THE COMPANY

STARR MURANKO, Choreographer and Performer

Starr Muranko is dancer/choreographer, Mother and Co-Artistic Director with Raven Spirit Dance - a contemporary Indigenous dance company based in Vancouver, BC on the unceded and Ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As a choreographer she is most interested in the stories that we carry within our bodies and Ancestral connections to land that transcend time and space. Her work has been shared locally and nationally including the Dance Centre, Talking Stick Festival, Coastal Dance Festival, Dancing on the Edge, Weesageechak Begins to Dance, Impact Festival and InFringing Dance Festival. Featured choreographic works include *Chapter 21*, *Spine of the Mother* and *before7after* as well as recent collaborative work *Confluence*.

A proud company dancer with the Dancers of Damelahamid since 2005, she has toured across Canada and internationally and trained under the guidance and mentorship of the late Elder Margaret Harris. She has facilitated workshops through ArtsStarts, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, the Native Education College, Vines Art Festival and was commissioned as one of the 2022 guest choreographers for the National Ballet School's Sharing Dance program alongside choreographer Aicha Bastien N'diaye. She is currently the Artist-in-Residence at Ballet BC and has facilitated choreographic labs with the company over the past two seasons with colleague and collaborator Margaret Grenier.

She holds a BFA in Dance from SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts and honours and celebrates her mixed Ancestry of Omushkegowuk Cree (Moose Cree First Nation - Treaty 9), French and German in all of her work.

YVETTE NOLAN, Director

Yvette Nolan (Algonquin) is a playwright, director and dramaturg. Her works include the play *The Unplugging*, the dance-opera *Bearing*, the libretto *Shawnadithit*, the short play-for-film *Katharsis*, the Play-2-Perform@Home *The Fifth Setting*. She co-created, with Joel Bernbaum and Lancelot Knight, the verbatim play *Reasonable Doubt*, about relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan. She recently directed the world premiere of Donna-Michelle St. Bernard's *The First Stone* in Toronto, which will be remounted in Ottawa in April. From 2003-2011, she served as Artistic Director of Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto. Her book, *Medicine Shows*, about Indigenous performance in Canada was published by Playwrights Canada Press in 2015, and *Performing Indigeneity*, co-edited with Ric Knowles, in 2016. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Public Policy at Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

Edgardo Moreno, Composer

Edgardo Moreno is a Canadian-Chilean composer that has been commissioned for projects in Canada, Venezuela, Mexico, Sweden, Argentina, Colombia, England and USA. He has worked extensively with indigenous contemporary dance choreographers and artists including Penny Couchie, Justin Manyfingers, Alejandro Ronceria, Olga Barrios, Norma Araiza, Rulan Tangen, Starr Muranko, Tasha Faye Evans, Jeanette Kotowich, Carlos Rivera, Sara Roque. He is presently working in creating video and live sound pieces that are part of his Fireflyproject.

www.musicamoreno.com www.fireflyproject.ca



JONATHAN KIM, Lighting Design

Jonathan Kim (he/him/his), better known as Jono, is a Korean-Canadian artist born and raised on unceded traditional Coast Salish territories, who currently works and lives on Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territories (Vancouver). He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Production and Design from Simon Fraser University. Jono is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada and Chimerik 似不像, an interdisciplinary collective. His recent lighting design works include: *Kim's Convenience* (Arts Club Theatre Company); *The Mountaintop* (Pacific Theatre); *Passages of Rhythms* (Co.ERASGA); *Marjorie Prime / Pass Over* (Ensemble Theatre Company); *Maamawi: Together Through the Fire* (O.Dela Arts and Pepper's Ghost New Media & Performing Arts Collective); *The Five Vengeances* (Affair of Honor); *Redbone Coonhound* (Arts Club Theatre Company); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Vertigo Theatre); *Metamorphoses* (Studio 58); *You Touch Me* (Arash Khakpour and Emmalena Fredriksson); and *Starwalker* (Urban Ink).

AMANDA PARAFINA, Stage Manager

Amanda Parafina (she/her) is a second-generation Filipino settler, born and raised on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Kwantlen, Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. With a BFA in Theatre Design & Production from UBC, Amanda finds joy and gratitude in her work and is committed to providing support and care for each artist. Amanda is the Managing Director of Vines Arts Festival, General Administrator of Co.ERASGA Dance, and occasional stage manager in Vancouver's theatre and dance communities.



JEANETTE KOTOWICH, Costume Design

Originally from Treaty 4 territory Saskatchewan, Jeanette Kotowich creates work that reflects Nêhiyaw/Métis cosmology within the context of Indigenous performance, Indigenous futurism and contemporary dance. Her creations have been presented at theatres and festivals across so-called Canada, including *Kwê* at Matriarchs Uprising and *The Dance Centre's Dance In Vancouver*. In the summer of 2020, she conducted land-based research in her home province of Saskatchewan, fusing interdisciplinary collaboration, de-colonial practices and embodied research towards the creation and premiere of *Kisiskâciwan* which toured fall 2022 in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. She resides as a guest on the Ancestral and unceded Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, Selilwétaʔ/, and Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm territories, colonially known as Vancouver. movementhealing.ca



ALVIN TOLENTINO, Mentor

Alvin Erasga Tolentino's work spans three decades interpreting, creating and contributing contemporary dance for Vancouver. He founded Co.ERASGA in 2000 and since then has brought full-length memorable works as; SOLA, Bato/Stone, Orientik/Portrait, Field, Paradise/Paradis, ADAMEVE-Man/Woman, Shadow Machine, EXpose and recently Colonial to name a few. An accomplished international dance artist whose works have reflected identity, gender, inter-culturalism and cross-cultural collaboration that have reached four continents. His touring engagements and cross-cultural collaboration has taken him and Co.ERASGA to over 50 diverse cities and in countries as France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Philippines, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Uruguay and across Canada. In 2010 he received the Vancouver's Mayor Arts Award for his contribution to the performing arts in Dance. Tolentino continues to expand his cultural work at home and globally, utilizing dance as a source of empowerment and generating creativity in the life of people; reflective, connected and engaged.



SAMI QHAPAC ALVAREZ





MICHELLE OLSON, Mentor

Michelle Olson is a member of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and the Co-Artistic Director of Raven Spirit Dance. She studied dance and performance at the University of New Mexico, the Aboriginal Arts Program at the Banff Centre and was an Ensemble Member of Full Circle First Nations Performance. Michelle works in areas of dance, theatre and opera as a choreographer, performer and movement coach and her work has been seen on stages across Canada. Selected choreography/theatre credits include *Gathering Light* (Raven Spirit Dance), *Salmon Girl* (TYA - Raven Spirit Dance), *Map of the Land, Map of the Stars* (Gwaandak Theatre), *Frost Trees Exploding Moon* (Raven Spirit Dance), *Mozart's Magic Flute* (Vancouver Opera), *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* (Western Canada Theatre/National Arts Centre), *Death of a Chief* (Native Earth Performing Arts/National Arts Centre) and *Evening in Paris* (Raven Spirit Dance). She was the recipient of the inaugural Vancouver International Dance Festival Choreographic Award. She graduated as a Certified Movement Analyst from Laban/Bartenieff and Somatic Studies Canada and is currently teaching at Langara's Studio 58.



SOPHIA WOLFE, Videographer

My name is Sophia Mai Wolfe (she/her/hers), I am a queer, Japanese-Canadian independent artist whose practice is ever-changing. My practice moves and connects me to live performance, video documentation, curation, festival programming, editing, filmmaking and directing. I am a grateful guest of what is colonially know as Vancouver on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. My dance practice has led me to performing and touring internationally with companies and independent choreographers such as Company 605, Co-Erasga, Chick Snipper, Cindy Mochizuki, Lisa Mariko Gelly, Kelly McInnes, Antonio Somera, Zahra Shahab, The Only Animal and New World Theatre. Vancouver's Mayor Arts Award for his contribution to the performing arts in Dance. Tolentino continues to expand his cultural work at home and globally, utilizing dance as a source of empowerment and generating creativity in the life of people; reflective, connected and engaged.

I hold an MA in Screendance with Distinction (2022) from the London Contemporary Dance School, and is the founder and Artistic Director of F-O-R-M (Festival Of Recorded Movement), and have curated screenings for New Blue Dance Festival (Toronto), Vancouver Art Gallery, DOTE (Vancouver) and Body+Camera (Chicago).

Photo by: Jule Niekamp

RESOURCES

World Down Syndrome Day (worlddownsyndromeday.org)

IN TORONTO

Down Syndrome Association of Toronto (dsat.ca)

Rethink Breast Cancer (rethinkbreastcancer.com)

IN VANCOUVER

Down Syndrome Resource Foundation (dsrf.org)

Lower Mainland Down Syndrome Society (lmdss.com)

Down Syndrome BC (downsyndromebc.ca)



ABOUT RAVEN SPIRIT DANCE

Raven Spirit Dance creates and produces contemporary dance that is rooted in Indigenous worldviews and honours the communities and artists we work with. We share stories through Indigenous perspectives and practices and create opportunities for others to do the same.



www.ravenspiritdance.com



RavenSpiritDance



RSDanceCompany

Raven Spirit Dance would like to acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the British Columbia Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, the First Peoples' Cultural Council, and the North Vancouver Community Arts Council



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

Native Earth
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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**NATIVE EARTH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
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JUNE 8 - 10, 2023



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