

October 12, 2023 - Please include in your news items and editorial plans

**Native Earth Performing Arts presents  
Weesageechak Begins to Dance 36  
Annual Development Festival of Indigenous Work  
November 6 – 19, 2023  
In Person & Online**

**Native Earth Performing Arts** is excited to announce the 36th edition of **Weesageechak Begins to Dance** will return November 6-19, 2023 with in person performances at Aki Studio in Toronto and free online programming. This year's festival will gather over 22 artists from across Turtle Island to showcase contemporary Indigenous theatre and dance, plus excerpts from new work in development, music and comedy performances, book launches, an Accessibility in Indigenous Creation and Performance Panel, and more.

**Weesageechak 36** will present a celebration of new Indigenous theatre, dance, and multi-disciplinary creations with highlights including: *who will save the night sky* by **Philip Geller**, a one person show about gathering star stories for community, blending aspects of puppetry and clown with performances November 7 and 16; pieces by **Animikiig Creators Unit** artists **Jennifer Alicia Murrin** and **Montana Adams** on November 9, a theatre piece about the importance of intergenerational knowledge transmission; *The Cave That Hummed A Song* by **Trina Moyan** on November 11, a story birthed out of traditional oral story keeping with the late, great **Lee Maracle** about blood memory and women taking their rightful place in society; and *Dreamer & the Turtle* by **Dakota Ray Hebert** on November 15, a play about an outspoken and adventurous girl named Dreamer on a mission to save her tribe.

Free online events for **Weesageechak** will include *OKIMAW ᐃᐸᐤ* by **Aren Okemaysim**, performing original music; *Lax Yip* by **Raven Grenier**, a multimedia piece exploring how the land informs movement; *We Treaty People* by **Burnt Thicket Theatre**, a new series of nine digital audio dramas and interviews from 49 artists asking the question, "What does it mean to embrace all our relations?"; and *Staging Coyote's Dream, Vol. 3* by **Monique Mojica** and **Lindsay Lachance**, a digital book launch for the new anthology on the twentieth anniversary of its first volume.

**Weesageechak** will also include new work by **Brefny Caribou**, **Damion LeClair**, **January Rogers**, **Lisa Nasson**, **Nova Courchene**, **Philip Geller**, **Sophie Dow**, plus performances by **Denise McLeod**, **Lacey Hill**, **Zachariah Highgate**, and **Lena Recollet**.

**Native Earth Performing Arts** is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre company. Currently in its 41st 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. [www.nativeearth.ca](http://www.nativeearth.ca)

**Weesageechak Begins to Dance 36**

November 6-19, 2023

**In Person:**

November 7-17

All performances begin at 7:30pm  
Aki Studio, 585 Dundas Street East, #130

Single Tickets are \$15

Box Office: <https://www.nativeearth.ca/shows/w36/>

For Indigenous Group rates, email [boxoffice@nativeearth.ca](mailto:boxoffice@nativeearth.ca)

**Online:**

November 6-19

All online presentations are free, and will be available from their release date  
until November 19 at 11:50pm

<https://www.nativeearth.ca/shows/w36/>

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