

PAPRIKA FESTIVAL 2018/2019

DIRECTORS LAB

SESSION

Delilah is an out-of-work actress turned dominatrix who loves her job. Doug is an out-of-work factory worker who is trying something new. Unbeknownst to Delilah, her dad is the Englishman in the blindfold handcuffed to the wall. Unbeknownst to Doug, his daughter is the Russian Domme with the whip. Their session is about to begin, whether they are ready for it or not. Session explores the first time we have adult conversations with our so called “perfect” parents as new and growing adults ourselves.

PLAYWRIGHT: Lindsey Middleton

DRAMATURG: Colette Habel

STAGE MANAGER: Jelena Sibaliija

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Madison Marie Madhu

FEATURING: Lindsey Middleton and Peter Nelson

HEADS UP! Swearing, sexual and suggestive content/language, partial nudity

ལྷོ་མ་ DOLMA

By Rinchen Dolma

It's October 31, 1984. Delhi, India. Dolma dreads her everyday commute and her coworkers as she travels to her dream job, being the first in her family to work in an office. Her life alone in the big city is proving to not be as glamorous as she imagined having come from a small refugee settlement in the south and she tries to keep to herself. On this hot fall day, Dolma decides to stand up for herself, the same day that PM Indira Gandhi is assassinated.

PLAYWRIGHT: Rinchen Dolma

STAGE MANAGER: kumari giles

FEATURING: Tenzin Tsomo

HEADS UP! *Dolma* is a piece that is still in discovery and development. This performance is multilingual and translation will not be offered.

INDIGENOUS ARTS PROGRAM

FIRESTARTER

By Cole Forrest

Declan and Mable are two teenagers from the same reserve. They're best friends, they hang out in the forest near the rez, and they shoot fire from the palms of their hands. One night, they accidentally start a fire in the very forest in which they love to play. The fire grows and grows, until it threatens their community and everyone they care about.

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Cole Forrest
STAGE MANAGER: Michelle Mohammed
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Chris Belc

HEADS UP! Some swearing

KISÂKIHITIN/GIZAAGIN

Created and written by Jesse Wabegijig & Theresa Cutknife

What is Indigenous love? What does it mean? To answer this, we must first know who we are. Follow us through different stories as we reimagine love within colonial spaces. This project aims to shine a light on the best parts of being indigenous. With the world focusing so much on trauma, hate, and the darkness of the world, now is the time for us to be the light.

CREATORS/PLAYWRIGHTS: Jesse Wabegijig & Theresa Cutknife
DIRECTOR: Lisa Nasson
PROJECTIONS: Samay Arcentales
STAGE MANAGER: Michelle Mohammed
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Chris Belc

HEADS UP! Swearing and mentions of sexual violence

NIISH

By Joelle Peters

Neither Sam or Lenna were expecting much from another summer on the rez but sometimes, life has other plans. Told with heart, humour, and rez nicknames, *Niish* explores themes of love, loss, and healing within a family, a community, and oneself.

PLAYWRIGHT: Joelle Peters
DRAMATURG: Falen Johnson
STAGE MANAGER: Michelle Mohammed
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Chris Belc

HEADS UP! Some offensive language

PLAYWRIGHTS UNIT

UNCHARTED

By Kathy Martinez

Separated by a curtain, Ava and Zachary face personal adversities as they learn to cope with life-altering illnesses. As one child experiences physical disease and the other a severe mental illness, they bond as one feels as if they're "losing their body" and the other, "their mind". A modern take on Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, *Uncharted* emphasizes the idea that although one is unable to control the inferno that may be their current reality, they can still control their perspective and will.

MENTOR: Erin Brubacher

HEADS UP! Some swearing

FEAR OF MEN

By Merlin Simard

What does sexism look like when no man is present? How does it affect trans and gender non-conforming communities? And most importantly: How do we move forward? *FEAR OF MEN* is a series of multilingual monologues that explore the pervasiveness of sexism across genders. At the height of gender-based violence, we have a duty to examine the ways in which we create oppression — consciously or not.

MENTOR: Bilal Baig

DRAMATURG: Keshia Palm & Joël Beddows

HEADS UP! Themes of sexual assault, physical violence, coarse language, drugs and sex

MADE IN CHINA

By Ciana Henderson

In attempts to control China's rapid population growth, the One Child Policy was enforced by its government in 1979. Customary to the Chinese culture, boys were more valuable than girls, which left approximately 267 000 children adopted out to North American and European families. *Made in China* brings to life some of the voices affected by this movement: four girls, all abandoned at birth, but with stories as unique as their DNA. As their mid-twenties quickly approach, they urgently chase answers to questions they never knew they had. Equally frustrated and equally excited, they are bonded by the fact not one of them knows their chapters 1-4.

MENTOR: Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman

MARYAM'S HIJRAH

By Laith Al-Kinani

In the midst of the 1991 Shi'a rebellion against the government of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Salwa and her newborn daughter Maryam narrowly escape a massacre in their village. Twenty years later, Maryam has grown to call this distant country home and her mother has hidden the events of her past from her. When Maryam's ethereal friend Qaraqoz visits her imagination to uncover the truths about her history, Maryam must decide whether to keep the past in the past, or break into the most poignant realities of her humanity. This piece asks us to think about the inner innocence that exists in all humans. Who is allowed to be innocent? Who is tasked with telling the ugly truth? How do we face the worst parts of us?

MENTOR: Guillermo Verdecchia

HEADS UP! References to war, sexual violence, and physical abuse

PRODUCTIONS

HERESY

Heresy is a new bilingual musical centering around two women, Jeanne d'Arc and her mother Isabelle Romée, and their individual struggles against the religious corruption of the Catholic Church. After hearing Angels for the first time, Jeanne sets out to create a more authentic and honest church. Isabelle marries into the church and is thrust into a world that is not as warm and welcoming as she originally believed it to be. These women must face the challenges that come from confronting a male-dominated system while fighting to stay true to their beliefs. A story told in both French and English, *Heresy* demonstrates how the Church has silenced and smothered women in the past and highlights its continuous oppression of intelligent, powerful women through generations.

DIRECTOR/PLAYWRIGHT: Dharma Bizier

COMPOSER: Kelsi James

STAGE MANAGER: Kim Moreira

MENTOR/DRAMATURG: Julie Tepperman

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Juliette Jones

FEATURING: Noah Beemer, Katie Martin, Kirsten Kwong, Mikayla Stradiotto, Emma Burke-Kleinman, Jill Goranson, Matthew Gawley, Liam Crober-Best, Alexa MacDougall, Michael Derworiz, Connor Briggs, Jodie Edmunds, Aaron Ryder

HEADS UP! Violence and strong religious language

PRESENTING PARTNERS: The Musical Stage Company, Nightwood Theatre, Théâtre français de Toronto

HOW WE BREATHE

Following the crisis of a loved one, three friends battle the nuances of Blackness and mental health. Through heated conversation, these three embark on journeys of self exploration, highlighting the different ways depression and anxiety can manifest in one's life. This is a story about community, strength, healing and reconciliation with one's self.

DIRECTOR: Rais Clarke-Mendes

CREATED BY: Rais Clarke-Mendes, Chel Carmichael, Quenelle George, Alicia Plummer

MENTOR: Audrey Dwyer

STAGE MANAGER: Malaika Eyoh

FEATURING: Chel Carmichael, Quenelle George, Alicia Plummer

HEADS UP! Discussions of suicide, mental health and explicit language

PRESENTING PARTNERS: Workman Arts, Obsidian Theatre Company, Little Black Afro Theatre Company

CREATORS UNIT

DID YOU MISS ME?

CREATED BY Naomi Bachan, Betty Lai, Kendra Michel, and Cynthia Su

I ran away.

I want to be alone.

It's a choice to protect myself.

I've been waiting for you to notice me.

A collectively created theatre piece by four young artists exploring self-purpose, dependency, restraint, and the afterlife. Join these lost souls as they investigate the impact they have on this world and what it means to truly be missed.