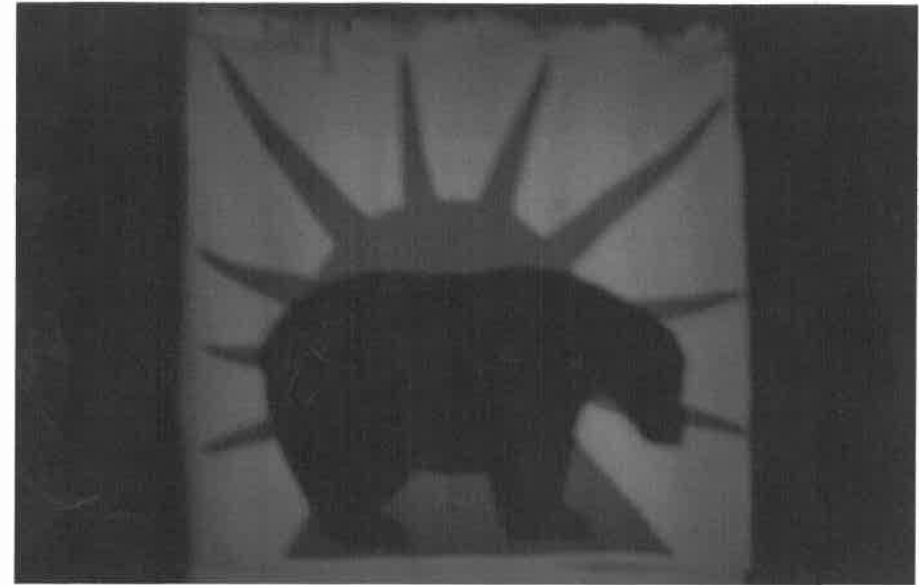


Indigenous Performance Initiatives in association with Native Studies, Trent University
presents

Le-La-La Dancers in "Spirit of the Masks"

First Nations School Performances



Design: Dwayne Manitowabi
Photo: Takeda Akemi

September 19th 1:30 pm, 20th 1:00 pm, 21st 1:30 pm, 2005

in NOZHEM: First Peoples Performance Space
at The First Peoples House of Learning,
Trent University, Peterborough

Contact: Barbara Rivett (705) 748-1011 x7466
E-mail: nozhem@trentu.ca

Le-La-La Dancers

"Spirit of the Masks"

With George Taylor, Danny Cox & Dave Dawson

A Narrative Demonstration of Traditional Songs and Dances ...
Stories of Animals from the Kwakwaka'wakw Creation Story

The renowned dance presentation, "Spirit of the Masks," delivers strong messages of respect and honour towards our environment and Mother Earth, as well as for each other. The presentation is a narrative demonstration of traditional songs and dances, and stories about the animals, stories that come from the Kwakwaka'wakw Creation Story. The performers use carved cedar masks, headdresses, drums, rattles and button blankets to depict the ancient stories of animals and spirits within their culture. (From the Le-La-La Dance Troupe website: <http://www.lelaladancers.com/>)



Photos: The Le-La-La Dance Troupe website
<http://lelaladancers.com>

Le-La-La Dancers Society

The Le-La-La Dancers are from Kwakwaka'wakw Nation of northern Vancouver Island. The Kwakwaka'wakw people come from a long tradition of creating art, dances and songs that represent their beliefs and culture. The Le-La-La Dancers keeps these songs, stories and dances alive.

Since the Le-La-La Dancers began to perform their traditional dances, songs, and stories of their nation, George Taylor has guided the group. They have been performing for over 20 years nationally and internationally, with tours in Japan, New Zealand, the United States and Switzerland. In addition to performing, the Le-La-La Dancers have produced many events and special shows on Vancouver Island, organizing cross-cultural exchanges featuring national and international dance troupes from New Zealand, Hawaii and Japan.

Artistic Director George Taylor (potlatch name Me'las) began singing and dancing at potlatches when he was just a young boy. Many respected Elders and Chiefs have influenced and contributed to his repertoire of songs and dances. Although membership in the dance company has included as many as 25 dancers, core troupe members Danny Cox and Dave Dawson, along with artistic director George Taylor, are performing in Ontario.

We are so glad that you all came!

Roseneath Centennial Public School, Lakefield District Intermediate School, Ridpath Public School, Wshkiigimong (Curve Lake) First Nation School, Anishnaabe Bimaadiziwn Cultural Healing and Learning Program, and Quinty Mohawk School.

Indigenous Performance Initiatives and Peterborough New Dance
also present

Le-La-La Dancers : "Potlatch Pride"

A talk & demonstration of songs, legends, regalia and dances of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation. George Taylor, Artistic Director of Le-La-La Dancers will speak on the history of the Potlatch, its social system and importance. This is an opportunity for cultural exchange, to learn more about the Kwakwaka'wakw nation through the performing arts.

Thursday, September 22, 7PM
in NOZHM: First Peoples Performance Space
at The First Peoples House of Learning,
Trent University, Peterborough

Open To All
Admission by Donation

NOZHEM is the Ojibwe word, which denotes the female bear. We've chosen this animal to represent our space because she embodies the characteristics of transformation, balance and knowledge, which are essential components of Indigenous way of knowing.

NOZHEM is very close to the earth, and therefore she knows the plants and their medicine properties. She's the one animal that fasts all winter, thus in that way, she undergoes a transformation. She gives birth and in doing so, in bringing forth new life, she achieves a sense of balance. She's very protective of her young and in this way, very similar to the human being. Because of her knowledge of medicine plants her physical and spiritual strength and her resilience, she is respected as a healing spirit in our community.

In theatre there is transformation which takes place as actors take on specific roles, but there is another transformation which occurs within the individual actor as they find their own healing through their personal creative expression. There is also healing for the audience as they empathize greater awareness of the human condition and the situations of others in society. Thus it is fitting for our Indigenous performance space to honour that spirit of the bear with her name *NOZHEM*.

- Edna Manitowabi

Indigenous Performance Initiatives in association with the Native Studies
Department at Trent University gratefully acknowledges our funders:



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



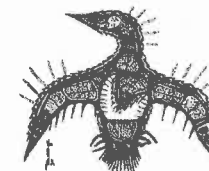
Canadian Patrimoine
Heritage canadien

Arts Presentation Canada



Canada Foundation for Innovation
Fondation canadienne pour l'innovation

TRENT
UNIVERSITY



Department of
Native Studies