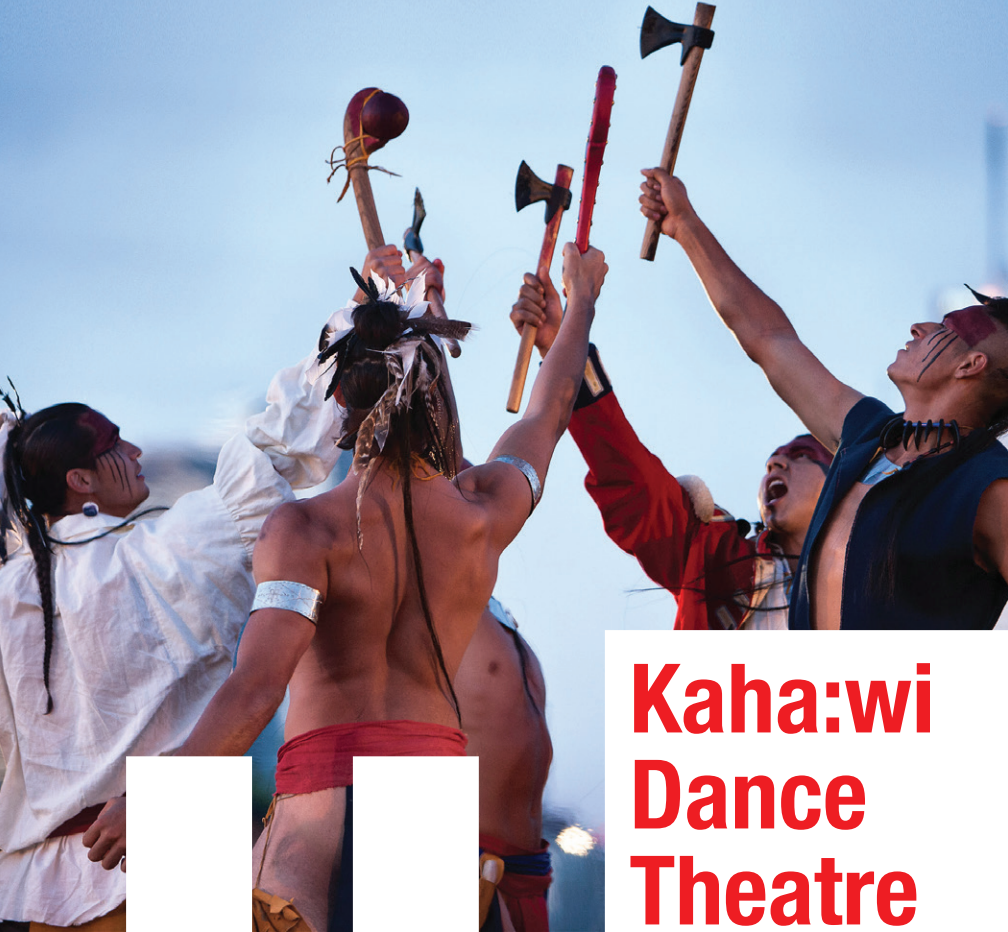


Photo: David Hou

PUBLIC ENERGY PRESENTS



Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

(Toronto/Six Nations)

The Honouring

September 19, 2015

Del Crary Park, Peterborough, ON

PublicEnergy.ca

THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

Kaha:wi Dance Theatre *The Honouring*

Artistic Direction, Choreography, Concept by **Santee Smith**

NIA:WEN/THANK YOU

Kaha:wi Dance Theatre is grateful to receive generous support from: Canada Council for the Arts; Ontario Arts Council; Toronto Arts Council; Department of Canadian Heritage; and Miziwe Biik Employment and Training; and Grand River Employment and Training. Their ongoing support fuels our creative work, education/training and outreach to communities.

We would like to acknowledge our production sponsors for *The Honouring*, original commission by the City of Toronto, Museum Services as part of the Indigenous Arts Festival at Fort York, Woodland Cultural Centre Creation Residency and Niagara Parks Commission.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome all. It gives me great pleasure to share with you the incredible journey of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's *The Honouring*. *The Honouring* honours First Nations warriors of the War of 1812, featuring Onkwehonwe families who sacrificed to protect Haudenosaunee sovereignty, culture and land. Audiences have the opportunity to understand the complexity of the War of 1812 through the experiential lens of First Nations, offering a human face to our history. All First Nations took part in the War of 1812 as sovereign Nation allies to Britain. *The Honouring* pays homage to their personal sacrifices and belief in what was the best for their family, community and future generations.

Nia:wen for taking time to celebrate *The Honouring* with us. Enjoy.



Santee Smith, Artistic Director



KAHA:WI DANCE THEATRE - ABOUT THE COMPANY

Kaha:wi Dance Theatre (KDT) is one of Canada's leading contemporary dance companies. Exploring the intersection of Indigenous and new dance performance it is internationally renowned for artistry, creative excellence and collaboration. KDT's embodiment of spirituality within traditional culture and innovative storytelling is conveyed through cinematic imagery and virtuosic performance that electrifies audiences on the world stage.

Founded by Onkwehonwe Artistic Director and Choreographer **Santee Smith** (Kahnnyen'kehàka – Mohawk Nation). Innovative, transformative and culturally power-packed performances distinguish Santee as one of Canada's most exciting choreographers.

Kaha:wi (Ga-HA-Wee) means "to carry" in the Mohawk language and is a traditional name for Smith's family. KDT carries culture through dance, theatre, music and design.

Board Members: **Steve Bolduc, Lee Ahenakew, Janis Monture, Jim Compton**

KDT Staff: **Santee Smith, Cynthia Lickers-Sage, Leslie McCue, Gyeho Thomas**

Contact Info: Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

15 Case Goods Lane, Suite #305

416.923.7373 • info@kahawidance.org

The Honouring

Co-production by

The City of Toronto, Museums and Heritage Services,
Economic Development and Culture Division

Artistic Direction/Choreographer/Concept/Songwriter/Performer: **Santee Smith**

Interpreters:

**Santee Smith, Emily Law, Nimkii Osawamick, Alex Twin, Montana Summers,
Joshua DePerry and Jesse Dell***

*With the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

Original Lighting Design: **Alaina Perttula**

Costume Design: **Elaine Redding**

Video Design/Technical Direction: **Andrew Moro**

Production Manager: **Lindy Kinoshameg**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Jason Jenkins**

Additional Props and Design: **Steve Smith, Santee Smith**

Musical Production:

Creative Producer: **Santee Smith**

Composer/Arrangement: **Lou Pomanti**

Additional Composition: **Adrian Harjo**

Commissioned Songwriters: **Jennifer Kreisberg, George Buck**

Recorded Singers: **Nikki Shawana, Sadie Buck, Gary Parker, Santee Smith**

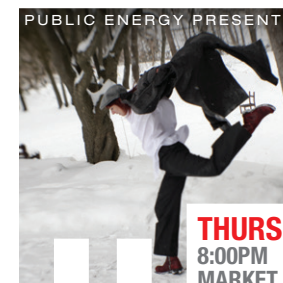
Additional Video performers:

Derek Martin, Danny Vyse, Carey-Leigh Thomas, Riley Hill, Christopher Mejaki

Cultural Advisors: **Mike Mitchell, Rick Hill, Paula Whitlow**

Production Photography: **David Hou**

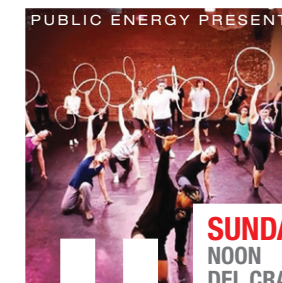
Public Energy Production Manager: **Esther Vincent**



**Performances May
Be Permanent**

by **Kate Story**
with **BILL BRENNAN** (piano)
WORLD PREMIERE!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
8:00PM
MARKET HALL THEATRE



Powwow Boot Camp

with **Kaha:wi
Dance Theatre**

The Powwow Boot Camp is led
by **NIMKII OSAWAMICK**
and **JESSE DELL**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
NOON
DEL CRARY PARK

SYNOPSIS

The Honouring is a site-specific multi-disciplinary performance honouring First Nations warriors of the War of 1812 and features Onkwehonwe families who sacrificed to protect Haudenosaunee sovereignty, culture and land. Audiences will be immersed in a history that is rarely experienced anywhere else and will have the opportunity to understand the complexity of the War of 1812 through the experiential lens of First Nations, offering a human face to our history. All First Nations took part in the War of 1812 as sovereign Nation allies to Britain. *The Honouring* pays homage to their personal sacrifices and belief in what was the best for their family, community and future generations.

SCENES:

- States of Affairs
- Gloomy Day
- Caught in the Whirlwind
- Neutrality - Tree of Peace
- Preparation for Battle (War Dance)
- Women's Blessing
- Women's Protection Prayer
- Battle of Beaver Dams
- Transition – A Victory Cry
- Return Home
- Edge of the Woods – Purification
- Condolence (Honouring the dead)
- British Request to Battle
- Battle of Chippawa
- Those Who Died
- Rekindling the Fire
- Rise, Rise, Rise

BIOGRAPHIES

Santee Smith - Artistic Director/Choreography

Santee Tekaronhiákhwa Smith is a mother, performer, designer, award-winning producer and choreographer. She is from the Kenien'kehá:ka Nation, Turtle Clan from Six Nations, Ontario. Through her artistic practice, Santee work speaks about identity and humanity. Recovering from two broken legs, committing to six years of formal training at Canada's National Ballet School, completing Physical Education and Psychology degrees from McMaster University and theatre training, Santee returned to dance in 1996 as a choreographer. Santee dedicated six years to self-produce *Kaha:wi*, a family creation story during which she completed a M.A. in Dance at York University. In her desire to define a career in contemporary Indigenous performance, she founded Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, a vehicle for her artistic voice in 2005.

Her choreographies include: *Kaha:wi* (2004); *Midwinter Dreaming* (2004); *Here On Earth* (2005); *The Threshing Floor* (co-choreography with Michael Greyeyes, 2006); *Sacred Spring* (2006); *A Constellation of Bones* (International Indigenous collaboration, 2007); *A Story Before Time* (co-produced by the Banff Centre, 2007); *A Soldier's Tale* (produced by Theatre Aquarius, 2008); *Tripped Up Blues* (Canada Dance Festival youth commission, 2008); *Susuriwka – willow bridge* (Japan

collaboration produced by Yokohama Noh Theatre, Planet IndigenUS, Harbourfront Centre, 2011-2012); *The Creator's Game* (2011); *Star Dreamer* (Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, 2011); *Medicine Bear* (co-produced by Woodland Cultural Centre, 2012); *TransMigration* (co-produced by Planet IndigenUS Harbourfront Centre, 2012); *Electric Inter-tribal* (Canada's National Ballet School, 2012); *The Honouring* (2013), *NeolIndigenA* (2014) and *Tkaronto Bounce* (Pan American Games, Panamania commission, 2015).

In 2013, Santee received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Choreography in the Dance Division for *Susuriwka – willow bridge*. She is the recipient of numerous awards: Chalmers Award; K.M. Hunter Award for Dance; Canada Council's Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award; John Hobday Award for Arts Management; Hamilton Music Award in 2003 for *Kaha:wi* in Best Cultural and Ethnic Recording. Works *NeolIndigenA*, *TransMigration* and *A Story Before Time* received numerous Dora Mavor Moore Awards nominations; *Here On Earth* received a Gemini Award nomination for Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program or Series.

EMILY LAW

Emily Law has many passions including contemporary dance, house dancing and waacking. She is a graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and The Etobicoke School of the Arts. She is a co-creator of Mix Mix Dance Collective and a founding member of the Toronto house dance crew Warehouse Jacks. Emily has been working as an independent dance artist for the past eight years. She has had the pleasure of working with companies and artists such as: Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, Valerie Calam, D.A. Hoskins, Brendan Jensen, Alias Dance Projects, Gadfly, The Chimera Project, the Parahumans Dance Theatre, Event Horizon Dance, Piotr Biernat and was a resident artists at Sound Travels 2006. She has been nominated for a Gemini and 3 Dora Mavor Moore awards including outstanding female performance.

JESSE DELL

A graduate of York University **Jesse Dell** has worked as a contemporary dance artist for a decade, performing across Canada and the US while creating over ten original choreographic works. Jesse has had the privilege of performing work by Peggy Baker, Kate Franklin, Susan Lee, Shannon Litzenberger, Tracey Norman, Julia Sasso and Holly Small, as well as for Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, Larchaud Dance Project and JDdance, a collective she co-founded in 2009. As a choreographer, Jesse has created work for the Art Gallery of Ontario, Festival of Dance Annapolis Royal and Dans Kamera Istanbul. With KDT Jesse has had the opportunity to teach youth across Canada. Jesse has also taught master classes and workshops for The School of Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts and The Claremont School.

NIMKII OSAWAMICK

Nimkii Osawamick is an Anishnaabe dance artist from Wikwemikong, Unceed Reserve located in Manitoulin Island and is a member of the Wolf Clan. Nimkii began dancing at the age of three and is now an active community member in powwow circles. Nimkii is well-known as a lead singer, hoop dancer and champion powwow dancer in the Fancy Dance category. He has travelled extensively across North America sharing his gift of singing and dancing with the peoples of Turtle Island. Nimkii has previously worked with Nozhem Theatre and Trent University as a dance artist which has opened up many doors into performance world. Nimkii is dedicated to the preservation

and awareness of his peoples' culture and history which is highlighted in his business DNA STAGE (Dedicated Native Awareness), which helps bridge the cultural gap between First nations people and inhabitants.

ALEX TWIN

Alex Twin is a Plains Cree dance artist and actor from the Swan River First Nation in Alberta and currently resides in Toronto, Ontario. He recently completed three years of theatre training at The Centre for Indigenous Theatre. Alex has previously worked with Alberta Aboriginal Arts as a dance artist in *They Shoot Buffalo Don't They* a work choreographed by Troy Emery Twigg. He has also participated in several Canadian Festivals including: Talking Stick Festival (Vancouver, 2012), Dancing On The Edge (Vancouver, 2012), Fresh Blood (Toronto, 2012), and most recently Vanguardia Latin American Dance Festival. Over the past two years Alex has taken part in the Indigenous Dance Residency in Banff, Alberta and intends on returning again in 2013. Alex's acting experience includes appearances in a short film directed by Pam Mathews as well as Joey Stylez music video, "Take a Picture". Alex plans to continue his training as a dance artist and actor. He hopes to attend The Adam Beach film Institute in 2014.

JOSHUA DEPERRY

Joshua DePerry (Blackfoot and Cree Nations), born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Attending Saturday Night Youth dances inspired Joshua to start Break Dancing. He has been Break Dancing since the age of 12 in Sault Ste. Marie, performing at talent shows, events, and youth workshops. His favourite memory was when he first performed for over 500 youth in Chicago, Illinois. Joshua is a Fancy Dancer and as music producer "Classic Roots" and is the winner of Best Pop for his album *Hack the Planet* at the Indigenous Music Awards 2015. His goals are to advocate for the Native community about healthy living and staying fit.

MONTANA SUMMERS

Montana Summers Is from the Oneida First Nation of the Thames. He grew up around a lot of cultural traditions and teachings he learned from his grandmother who is highly viewed as a clan mother in his community. He had inspiration to dance at a young age when he was exposed to longhouse dances in his community but was never trained as a dancer until his second year of high school. From then on he has been trained in modern, jazz, and ballet in courses offered at H.B. Beal Secondary School. He also has worked with many other Indigenous dancers such as Thomas Fonua, Dayton Hill, Jera Wolfe, James Jones, and Charles Koroneho. Montana now looks forward to his emerging career as a dancer.

LINDY KINOSHAMEG - PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Lindy Kinoshameg (Odawa, pike clan) was raised on Manitoulin Island in Ontario and is a proud member of Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation. Lindy is involved in the arts through stage management, visual arts and facilitation with a focus on traditional arts and dance. Lindy is currently a Production Stage Manager with Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, an Assistant Production Coordinator with Toronto's Harbourfront Centre and was recently hired as the Festival Coordinator for Native Earth and Performing Arts Weesageechak Festival 2015. Lindy enjoys dancing the prairie chicken style and sharing his traditional knowledge with others.

JASON JENKINS - ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Jason Jenkins was the Associate Producer for the Aboriginal Pavilion being held during the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games and graduate of Centennial College Independent Television Producer program.

Since 2008 Jason has worked on the Indspire Awards in various key departments and currently the opening ceremonies talent coordinator. Jason was on the producing team for the 2012 Planet Indigenous as well the lead programmer for the 2nd annual Sound Clash festival held at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. Jason and his Co Curator were part of the Thunderbird Centre's inaugural Curatorial Mentorship project Red Runners: "The new objectification of Native art and Identity" 2009-2010. As the Creative Director for Thunderbird Aboriginal Arts, Culture and Entrepreneur Centre Jason produced many cultural events.

Jason is the Founder and Creative Producer for his own indigenous production company Going On Dreams and produced and directed First Nations Hip Hop artist Plex for his song *No More* which screened at the 2013 imagineNATIVE film fest.

MUSICAL COLLABORATORS

LOU POMANTI - COMPOSER

Composer, producer, musician, Gemini Award winner and 5 time nominee, **Lou Pomanti** is highly respected nationwide as one of the country's finest musical talents. With over 25 years of credits in scoring, songwriting and performing his expertise has awarded him hundreds of musical projects for film, television and album work. Most recently, Lou orchestrated the strings and horns for Michael Buble's smash new album *Crazy Love*, which debuted at No. 1 on the American Billboard charts. Since 2003 Lou has been the Musical Director for the "Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame". Past inductees include Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell, featuring such performers as James Taylor, Michael Buble and Herbie Hancock.

ADRIAN DION HARJO - SONGWRITER

Adrian Dion Harjo is a Multi Award Winning "Jack of all Trades" of performing arts. Adrian started singing powwow style when he was 7, Fancy Dancing at age 10, and Hoop Dancing at age 12, all of which have taken him around the world sharing his culture with global audiences. Currently, Adrian owns his own production co. (OvenBakedBeatz LLC) where he has successfully placed music from Film/TV/Radio/Live Theatre and more. Still hitting the powwow trail to this day, Adrian stands evenly in both worlds of Traditional Culture and Modern Music, with credits including a Native American Music Award, Canadian Aboriginal Music Award, Grammy (2001) and an RIAA GOLD Certification!

MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND SEASON SPONSORS





Public Energy

THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

Public Energy is Peterborough's animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of artists drawn from across Canada, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the CanDance Network, and supported the development of the local dance, theatre & performance community by presenting area artists and arranging specialized classes and workshops.

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Barbara Chisholm (Chair), Sarah Gencey (Secretary), Mark Seasons (Treasurer), Charmaine Eddy, Bill Kimball

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STAFF

Bill Kimball (Artistic Producer), Susan Newman (Bookkeeper), Ryan Kerr (Technical Director), Lisa Murray (Programming Assistant), Michael Fazackerly (Publicity)

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Your donation helps us keep ticket prices accessible and our programming electrifying. It's easy to do on line: Monthly tax-deductible donations can be made at canadahelps.org.

CONTACT

email: admin@publicenergy.ca • mail: PO Box 2319 Peterborough, ON K9J 7Y8 • phone: (705) 745-1788