

# WHERE THE BLOOD MIXES

BY KEVIN LORING

CO-PRODUCTION WITH  
NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS

Soulpepper

**Native  
Earth**  
Performing Arts



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As we re-emerge from this pandemic, we recognize that things have changed since last we met in the theatre. At a time when we are re-evaluating our relationship to ‘classic’ theatre, now is the time to embrace new contemporary classics like *Where the Blood Mixes* and *Kamloopa*. These award-winning plays, both written in response to the lived experience of the playwrights, share unique perspectives historically not seen on all stages in this country.

Over the last few years, Soulpepper has produced three plays that originated at Native Earth.

The first was *Huff* by Cliff Cardinal, then Daniel David Moses’ *Almighty Voice and His Wife* and most recently, Margo Kane’s *Moonlodge* which was part of the Around the World in 80 Plays audio series. This is but a small sample of the many works Native Earth has developed and produced over its 40 years of existence. We are delighted to now co-produce with Soulpepper these two remarkable shows, and share these stories with both our audiences.

Indigenous stories are vital to the cultural narrative of this country, and Native Earth remains dedicated to sharing the Indigenous experience through live performance. Like the Two Row Wampum Treaty, we believe the only way to move forward in a good way, is side by side, together. These relationships allow us to better understand each other in meaningful ways. Indigenous stories matter. Indigenous lives matter.

All our relations.



**Keith Barker**  
Artistic Director,  
Native Earth  
Performing Arts



**Isaac Thomas**  
Managing Director,  
Native Earth  
Performing Arts

Welcome! It is so wonderful to have audiences back in our theatre again, and we are thrilled to be finally bringing *Where the Blood Mixes* to the stage after having to postpone it two years ago.

I first saw this show twelve years ago and was incredibly moved by Kevin Loring’s beautiful play. The heart, the hope, the humour, and the incredible fight and strength of the characters. A lot has changed since I saw this play and in the last two years – so much about the realities that surround this story continue to come to light.

I would like to thank Kevin, for this play and for all the beautiful work he is doing paving the way for more stories as Artistic Director of Indigenous Theatre at the National Arts Centre. We would also like to thank our producing partner Native Earth Performing Arts, a company that has been producing, programming, and investing in Indigenous art and artists for 40 years. We are so grateful to be partnering with them on this play, and the upcoming show in our season, *Kamloopa*, by Kim Senklip Harvey. If you have not yet booked your tickets, *Kamloopa* is a hilarious and wonderfully provocative ride that you won’t want to miss!

We would also like to share a warm welcome back to Director Jani Lauzon who returns after making her Soulpepper debut directing *Almighty Voice and His Wife*.

Lastly, thank you to you, for supporting live theatre and being a part of this experience tonight.

Enjoy the show!



**Weyni Mengesha**  
Artistic Director,  
Soulpepper Theatre Company



I am so thrilled to be performing in my first appearance at Soulpepper in *Where The Blood Mixes*, co-produced with Native Earth Performing Arts. I have been a big fan of Kevin Loring, and this play for quite some time. We have all gone through quite a lot over the past couple years with the pandemic, but Kevin and his people, the Nlaka'pamux, were also extremely impacted by the devastating wildfires in BC that nearly destroyed his entire community, followed by flooding. They are survivors in spite of years of colonial oppression, the residential school system, the 60s scoop, and other destructive government policies. I love this play because it is a story of survival, rebirth, reconnection, and reuniting. The characters are funny, and tough, hardened, but loving. Kevin allows us to look deep below the surface of his community and see all the darkness and murkiness with humour, love, and a strong will that allows them to re-immerge from the sacred waters' depths with new knowledge, and the rediscovery of ancestral knowledge to continue moving forward. In the spirit of reconciliation, you being here tonight helps to honour and support the Nlaka'pamux, and other Indigenous people through the resurgence of their stories being heard.

**Sheldon Elter**

Floyd in *Where the Blood Mixes*

**Cast**

**Oliver Dennis**  
George

**Craig Lauzon**  
Mooch

**Tara Sky**  
Christine

**Sheldon Elter**  
Floyd

**Valerie Planche**  
June

**James Dallas Smith**  
Musician

**Creative Team**

**Jani Lauzon**  
Director

**James Dallas Smith**  
Sound Designer

**Kai Masaoka**  
Assistant Sound Designer

**Ken MacKenzie**  
Set Designer

**Samay Arcentales Cajas**  
Video & Projection Designer

**Cole Vincent**  
Stage Manager

**Samantha McCue**  
Costume Designer

**Richard Comeau**  
Fight Director

**Seren Brooke Lannon**  
Assistant Stage Manager

**Arun Srinivasan**  
Lighting Designer

**Emerson Kafarowski**  
Assistant Lighting Designer

**Pauline Shirt**  
Spiritual Educator

**Production**

**Andy DeVries**  
Head Carpenter

**Greg Chambers**  
Props Builder

**Ashton Vetter**  
Lighting Operator

**Bill Stahl**  
1st Carpenter

**Nina Hartt**  
Props Builder

**Andres Castillo-Smith**  
Audio Operator

**Paul Boddum**  
Head Scenic

**Janet Pym**  
Head of Wardrobe

**Dalton Villeneuve-Marini**  
Deck Operator

**Sara Ahmadihrad**  
Scenic Painter

**Carly Beamish**  
Cutter

**Rebecca Nguy**  
Video Operator

**Lisa Nighswander**  
Head of Props

**Mairead Canning**  
Dresser

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**Wandering Spirit Chorus:** Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School, Grade 4/5 and 5/6 Students

**Artwork:** Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School, Kindergarten, Grade 15, and Grade 3/4s

**About Kapapamahchakwew:** Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School was founded in 1977 on the vision of Pauline Shirt and Vern Harper who were look for a safer school for their own child. Wandering Spirit Survival School was designated as an alternative school before being recognized by the TDSB as a Cultural Survival/Native Way program in 1983. The vision of the school is to empower future leaders with a strong cultural identity to be contributing members in a global society.

**Content Warning:** This play deals with themes of the Residential School system and suicide.

**Thank You:** Dylan Beckett Smith, Callie Simionato, Landen McConnell, Kennedy McConnell, Sara Smith, Kim Simionato, Allpa Portilla, Tara Beagan, Pauline Beagan, Michaela Washburn, Glenna Simms-Bonk, Dylan Beckett Smith, Callie Simionato, Landen McConnell, Kennedy McConnell, Christina Saunders, Tessa Sill.

*Where the Blood Mixes* was commissioned and first produced by Western Canada Theatre, Savage Society and The Playhouse Theatre. Its World Premiere was at Luminato Festival, followed by the Western Canada Premiere at the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, in 2008.

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## BACKGROUND NOTES

*Remember... when we were kids...  
I do. I remember everything.*

Stories are the heart of life. Stories can be entertainment or medicine; they can illuminate the past or light the way forward. Playwright Kevin Loring tells this story to ‘expose the shadows and celebrate the survivors.’

Loring believes we are where we are from, so the setting is his home community, Kumsheen (also called Lytton), Interior Salish territory in B.C., where the Fraser and Thompson rivers merge. In the N’laka’pamux language, the word ‘kumsheen’ refers to this confluence. Its literal translation is the place inside the heart where the blood mixes.

The story revolves around old friends Floyd and Mooch, who are alternately hilariously funny and haunted by memories. Creating the characters, said Loring, was like unwrapping an onion layer by layer to ‘strip away the stereotypes and get to the heart of why these guys are the way they are... The more I unravelled that onion... I got down to... that invisible demon that... no one was talking about, and no one wanted to talk about.’

The demon is St. George’s Residential School and the long echoes of the community’s individual and collective experience there. As Mooch says, ‘Don’t matter how long ago it was. It happened yesterday, it happened today, it’ll happen tomorrow. Every day is every day.’

Our past is also where we come from. Part of Mooch’s past is still present in his fiercely protective wife, June, and Floyd’s is due to arrive in the form of his long-lost daughter, Christine. Other presences

include the voices of lost children, the running salmon, the osprey floating on the wind, and the mighty sturgeon that haunts the depths of the water. N’laka’pamux believe sturgeon bridges the spirit world and the land of the living.

Indigenous dramaturgy, according to Loring, unfolds like ripples in a pond. Laugh by laugh, story by story we go deeper into these lives, and they engage us more and more by the heart. Loring says ‘... people can become ghosts, hanging on to their old pain ... Until they let go, they can’t grow.’

Thank you for being present to witness, to hear the story.

*You gotta talk about it though. That’s the thing, eh? You gotta talk about what happened.*

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### **Playwright Biography:**

Kevin Loring is N’laka’pamux from Lytton First Nation, B.C. An accomplished actor and director, *Where the Blood Mixes* was his first play. It premiered in 2008, won a Governor General’s Award in 2009, and toured across Canada in 2010. Recent plays include *Battle of the Birds* and *The Boy Who Was Abandoned*, as well as *Songs of the Land*, a project that explores songs and stories of the N’laka’pamux in partnership with 5 organizations in his home community. In 2017, Loring was named the first Artistic Director for Indigenous Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

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Background Notes by Paula Wing.

**Running Time:  
1 hour and 30 minutes  
with no intermission.**



**SAMAY ARCENTALES CAJAS** was born in Toronto and raised on the west coast and in her home country, Ecuador. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Mischief* (Roseneath Theatre); *Reverence | Rage* (Peñasco Theatre, NM); *Kisâkîhitin/Gizaagin* (Paprika Festival); *Izzie M.: The Alchemy of Enfreakment* (Chocolate Woman Collective). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Solar Lodge, Toe the Line, Paladin, The Story of the Dancing Heart, In Moment*. **OTHER:** Samay Arcentales Cajas is a queer (Kichwa) digital media artist and filmmaker based in Toronto. In her work she explores human-land relationships, the new media dimensions of indigenous cosmology, and immersive art as a site of liberation.



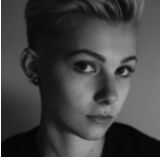
**RICHARD COMEAU** is an Indigenous performer and fight director. He is the first and only Indigenous-identifying Certified Fight Instructor with Fight Directors Canada. Instructor/resident fight director at Centre for Indigenous Theatre; fight instructor/company member at Rapier Wit Stage and Screen Combat. **ACTOR:** *1939* (Stratford Festival 2022); *Hamlet-911* (Stratford Festival 2022). **FIGHT DIRECTOR:** *This Is How We Got Here* (Shaw Festival 2022, Native Earth 2020). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Star Wars Battlefront II: Official Rivals* (Disney/Lucas Films); *Extraordinary Canadians: Luis Riel and Gabriel Dumont* (CBC/PMA Biographies).



**OLIVER DENNIS** was born in Montreal and raised in Carbondale, Illinois. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes, Queen Goneril, King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Around 100 productions since the first season. Here, he has had the opportunity to play Shakespeare and Moliere, Miller and Williams and Albee. Beckett, Ionesco, Orton. Simon. Sarah Ruhl and Suzan-Lori Parks and Tracey Letts. David French and Morris Panych/Brenda Robins and Mike Ross/Sarah Wilson and Lee MacDougall and Vern Thiessen and Michael Shamata. Shaffer, Story, Stoppard, Frayn and Ayckbourn. To name some. **FILM & TELEVISION:** Please support Canadian Film by catching *American Hangman* and *Don't Get Killed in Alaska* on a popular media platform. And also, *Slings and Arrows!*



**SHELDON ELTER** was born and raised in Grimshaw, AB. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Dear Rita, Stories From The Red Dirt Road* (Confed Centre); *Ministry of Grace* (Belfry Theatre); *Evangeline* (Citadel Theatre/ Confed Centre); *The Garneau Block, The Fiancée, Christmas Carol, Crazy For You, Alice Through The Looking Glass, One Man Two Guvnors, Julius Caesar, A Prairie Boy's Winter, Vimy* (Citadel Theatre); *Tartuffe, The Sound of Music, Enron* (National Arts Centre); *After The Fire, BEARS* (Punctuate! Theatre); *NEVERMORE* (Catalyst Theatre); *Nashville Outlaws, HAIR The Musical, Shear Madness, The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee, The Buddy Holly Story* and *The Full Monty* (Mayfield). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Tribal, Hank Williams' First Nation, Delmer and Marta, CAUTION: May Contain Nuts* (APTN); *Hell On Wheels*(AMC).



**EMERSON KAFAROWSKI** is a multidisciplinary artist and emerging Lighting Designer based in Tkaronto, Canada. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where The Blood Mixes. DANCE:* *Acceleration 2022* (School of Toronto Dance Theatre); *Woman in Blue Softly Breathing* (BoucharDanse & Festival of New Dance, NL); *Kismet - Toronto/Ottawa* (Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre); *Fall For Dance North 2019* (Fall For Dance North Festival); **OPERA:** *Amplify 1.0* (Amplified Opera Company); *The Butterfly Project* (Teiya Kasahara & Amplified Opera Company). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Four Old Legs* (Citadel + Compagnie). **OTHER:** In 2020, they were awarded funding from Toronto Metropolitan University to build the prototype for EMRSN x EOS: An open-source project designed to bring portable and financially accessible lighting technology to emerging artists, companies, and site-specific performances.



**SEREN BROOKE LANNON SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where The Blood Mixes.*

**FOR SOULPEPPER:** *A Christmas Carol* (2017), *La Bête* (2018), *Little Menace: Pinter Plays*, *The Black Drum* (2019). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Girl From The North Country* (Mirvish); *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, *The Times They Are a Changin'*, *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre); *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre); *Mamma Mia*, *The Voices of Canada*, *We Are Canadian* (Charlottetown Festival) **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Y: The Last Man*. **OTHER:** When not in a Theatre, Seren can be found wandering a book store with the largest cup of tea available. Enjoy the show!



**CRAIG LAUZON** Originally from Ottawa, ON, of mixed settler and Anishinabe descent.

**SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes. FOR SOULPEPPER:* *Orlando* (2018), *Trudeau and the FLQ/Trudeau and Levesque* (2015). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stratford); *A Comedy of Errors* (Thousand Island Playhouse); *The Drawer Boy* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Tales of an Uran Indian* (Talk is Free Theatre); *Thunderstick* (Persephone Theatre); *King Lear* (NAC). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Trickster*, *Adult Adoption*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *The Guilt Free Zone*, *Fool Canada*, *Air Farce*, *The Ron James Show*, *Beyblade* and *Beyblade: The Movie*.



**JANI LAUZON** was born in Kimberley, BC. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes.*

**FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Almighty Voice and his Wife* (2019). **OTHER THEATRE:** Director: *1939* (Stratford Festival, upcoming); *Rope* (Shaw Festival); *The Monument* (Factory Theatre); *Alien Creature* (TPM). **OTHER THEATRE:** Actor: *The Rez Sisters* (Stratford Festival); *King Lear/Mother Courage* (NAC). **FILM & TELEVISION** Actor: *Ruby and the Well*, *Something Undone*, *Saving Hope*, *Mr. Dress-Up*, *Conspiracy of Silence*. **OTHER:** Juno nominated singer-songwriter. Her company Paper Canoe Projects produces her original creations: *A Side of Dreams*, *I Call myself Princess* and *Prophecy Fog*.



**KEN MACKENZIE** was born in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** Set Design: *Where the Blood Mixes, King Lear, Queen Goneril*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Jesus Hopped the A Train* (2020), *Almighty Voice and his Wife* (2019), *Betrayal* (2019), *La Bête* (2018), *The Royale* (2018), *Animal Farm* (2018). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage), *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse* (Shaw Festival), *The Events* (Necessary Angel), *Stars: Together* (Crow's Theatre). **OTHER:** Ken is an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan in the department of Drama and has been the president of the Associated Designers of Canada.



**KAI MASAOKA** makes art happen. A maverick of theatre abilities, he oils the wheels of ideas with his skills in sound design and engineering, lighting, rigging, and carpentry at indie theatres and adventurous out of the way venues around Toronto. Known for his love of picnics, Kai fights off theatre scurvy by roaming the city on his blue coaster cruiser bicycle most days the weather is nice. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where The Blood Mixes*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Window on Toronto* (2011), *John and Waleed* (2011), *A Raisin in the Sun* (2010).



**SAMANTHA MCCUE** is Anishinaabekwe from the Chippewas of Georgina Island and Ned'u'ten from Lake Babine First Nation. She grew up on the Musqueam Reserve in Vancouver, BC, and currently lives in Ottawa. Samantha graduated from York University's Theatre Production program in 2017. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where The Blood Mixes*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Selected design credits include: *The Herd* (Citadel Theatre); *Little Red Warrior and His Lawyer* (Belfry Theatre); *I Am William* (Stratford Festival); *Honour Beat* (The Grand); *Aqsarniit* (Confederation Centre of the Arts); *Kamloopa* (Western Canada Theatre), *The Monument* (Factory Theatre), *Thanks For Giving* (Arts Club Theatre Company)



**VALERIE PLANCHE** **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Blow Wind High Water, Major Barbara, Liberation Days, The Crucible, A Christmas Carol* (1992 - 98, 2011), *Much Ado About Nothing, Timothy Findley's The Wars, Cyrano DeBergerac, Much Ado About Nothing, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Amadeus* (Theatre Calgary); *Equus, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Crucible* (Citadel Theatre); *Becky's New Car, Half Life, Age of Arousal, Treasure Island, Marion Bridge, Down the Main Drag, Perfect Pie, Red Lips* (ATP); *Little Elephants* (Shadow Theatre); *Dreary and Izzy* (Theatre Northwest); *Music for Contortionists, Frozen, Scorched* (Sage); *The Constant Wife, Boy Gets Girl, The Good Life* (Theatre Junction); *Elizabeth Rex* (Mob Hit). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Billy The Kid, Under the Banner of Heaven, Left Behind, Blackstone, Burn Your Maps, It's Not My Fault and I Don't Care Anyway, Broke Back Mountain, The Reckoning, Right Side of Wrong, Shanghai-Noon, The Jack Bull, Heartland*. **OTHER:** Elizabeth Sterling Hayes Award for *Little Elephants*, Betty Mitchell Award for *Communion and The Good Life* and Best Director for *Bad Jews* - Theatre Calgary, Betty Mitchell Award Nominations for *Music for Contortionists, Elizabeth Rex, The Constant Wife, Perfect Pie*. Valerie was awarded the Michelle Dias Award in 2018 from Theatre Alberta, and the Gina Wilkinson Prize from the Shaw Festival in 2015.





**PAULINE SHIRT** was born and raised in Saddle Lake Reserve, Alberta. Pauline is greatly recognized for her commitment to the Toronto Indigenous community and for her dedication as a teacher and lecturer. She is a member of the Three Fires Society and the Buffalo Dance Society. She is a Founder of Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School. She serves many Indigenous organizations to enhance the betterment of the Toronto Indigenous community. Today, Pauline serves as a mentor to many Indigenous youth and young families as an experienced and trusted Grandmother.



**TARA SKY** was born and raised in Tkaronto however their family lives all across the west coast. Mixed Indigenous; Métis, Haisla, and settler. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Reasonable doubt* (Persephone Theatre); *Think of the Children, Serious Money, 7 Stories, We came from dust* (NTS); *Holy Mothers* (SummerWorks); *Nativity* (NAC). FILM & TV: *Delivery, The River You Step In,*

*Ruby Sky P.I.* **OTHER:** You can also catch them in the 2022 season at Stratford. They would like to thank the trailblazers that came before them to allow for a young Indigenous Queer to be on stages like this.



**JAMES DALLAS SMITH** **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Almighty Voice and His Wife* (2019 - Dora Nomination for Outstanding Performance), *Three Sisters* (2007), *The Time of Your Life* (2007), *King Lear* (2006), *Our Town* (2006), *The Government Inspector* (2006.) **OTHER THEATRE:** *MacBeth* (Great Southwest Shakespeare Festival); *This is How We Got Here, Ipperwash* (Native Earth Performing

Arts); *The Berlin Blues, Ipperwash* (Blyth); *The Drawer Boy, Proof* (Centaur); *Hard Times for These Times* (NAC); *A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It* (Driftwood Theatre); *Danny, King of the Basement* (MTYP); *Hayfever, Anne of Green Gables* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); and *Heart of a Distant Tribe* (CIT/Equity Showcase Theatre)



**ARUN SRINIVASAN** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where The Blood Mixes*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Lessons In Forgetting* (Pleides Theatre); *Take The Moment* (Musical Stage Co.); *I Am William* (Stratford); *Wendy & Peter Pan* (Stratford); *MixTape* (Crow's Theatre); *Six Essential Questions* (Factory Theatre); *The Enchanted Loom* (Cahoots); *Singkil* (fuGEN); *People Power* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre); *The Tempest, Romeo & Juliet* (Canadian Stage); *Doubt, A Parable, A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* (Globe Theatre). **OTHER:** He has been nominated for 8 Doras for Outstanding Lighting Design in both the Theatre and Dance categories.



**COLE VINCENT** was born in Clinton, ON and raised in Grand Bend, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Welcome to My Home - Her Words Festival* (2021), *Rose* (2019). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Sexy Laundry, The New Canadian Curling Club* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Eraser : A New Normal* (Theatre Direct); *Kitne Saare Laloo Yahan Pey Hain* (NextStage Festival); *Room, The Glass Menagerie* (The Grand Theatre); *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre); *Aqsarniit, Anne of Green Gables, Jesus Christ Superstar* (Charlottetown Festival); *Eraser* (The Riser Project - Why Not Theatre, Theatre Direct); *Birds of a Feather* (Roseneath Theatre); *King Lear, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, All's Well That Ends Well* (Canadian Stage) **OTHER:** Venue Stage Manager at the Toronto International Film Festival, BFA Theatre Production and Design - York University.

## **Audiences may find some content of *Where the Blood Mixes* distressing – there is someone to talk to:**

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#### **First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line (For Indigenous communities)**

- [bit.ly/HealthCanada-FirstNationsandInuitHealth](https://bit.ly/HealthCanada-FirstNationsandInuitHealth)
- Phone: 1-855-242-3310

### **Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line (For former students)**

- [bit.ly/CanadianIndianResidentialSchoolCrisisLine](https://bit.ly/CanadianIndianResidentialSchoolCrisisLine)
- Phone: 1-866-925-4419

### **Six Nations Crisis Services (For Six Nations band members)**

- Phone: 1-866-445-2204 or (445-2204)

### **Kids Help Phone (For youth and young adults)**

- [kidshelpphone.ca](https://kidshelpphone.ca)
- Phone: 1-800-668-6868 – available 24/7

### **Crisis Text Line**

- [crisistextline.ca](https://crisistextline.ca) (Powered by Kids Help Phone)
- Text: #686868

### **Good2Talk (For post-secondary students in Ontario)**

- [good2talk.ca](https://good2talk.ca)
- Phone: 1-866-925-5454

### **Connex Ontario/Mental Health Helpline (For everyone)**

- [connexontario.ca](https://connexontario.ca)
- Phone: 1-866-531-2600

### **Crisis Services Canada - Suicide Prevention and Support (For everyone)**

- [crisisservicescanada.ca/en/](https://crisisservicescanada.ca/en/)
- Phone: 1-833-456-4566
- Text: #45645, text 'start'

### **Toronto Distress Centre (For Toronto and area residents)**

- [torontodistresscentre.com](https://torontodistresscentre.com)
- Phone: 416-408-HELP

### **Bereaved Families of Ontario (For everyone)**

- [bfotoronto.ca](https://bfotoronto.ca)
- Phone: (416) 440-0290

### **Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (For everyone)**

- [suicideprevention.ca](https://suicideprevention.ca)

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**Sun Life**

# Native Earth

## Performing Arts

Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's premiere Indigenous performing arts company. We are dedicated to sharing stories of the Indigenous experience through theatre, dance, and multidisciplinary arts. For 39 years, Native Earth has led the creation of the Indigenous body of work in Canada and developed the work of over 200 artists through *Weesageechak Begins to Dance*, our annual development festival of new Indigenous works.



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Native Earth is grateful to our supporters who contribute toward sustaining the work of a range of contemporary artists from across Turtle Island. With their support, we are able to support Indigenous creators, develop new work and produce theatre, dance, and multi-disciplinary work.

The need to continue supporting artists to create work remains constant. Help us make that difference. To make a donation, visit [nativeearth.ca/donate](http://nativeearth.ca/donate)

**Native Earth Performing Arts is a charitable organization. Registration number 119052116RR0001**

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**T**he title and location of *Where the Blood Mixes* comes from the town of Kumsheen, the place where the Thompson and the Fraser Rivers meet. A more accurate translation is “the place inside the heart where the blood mixes.” Kumsheen, also known as Lytton, BC, is the heart of the N'laka'pamux Nation, and the Lytton First Nation.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the town of Lytton, the Lytton First Nation, and the surrounding area were devastated by a wildfire that ripped through the entire community following three consecutive days of the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Canada. Within a matter of minutes over 90% of the town was destroyed.

This is the first time this play has been produced since the wildfire. We bring this work to life with care and with the thoughts of the thousands of

people who lost their homes and their community, including playwright Kevin Loring. Kevin described how he saw the house he grew up in and his hometown in flames, throughout videos circulating online. “The first 10 seconds, it’s my house. It’s the house I grew up in. It’s on repeat,” said Loring.

Rebuilding and recovering will take time – if you would you like to contribute to the Lytton First Nation’s rebuilding efforts, you can send e-transfers to:

**[lfndonations@lfn.band](mailto:lfndonations@lfn.band)**

Your support will be felt by the community.

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## COMING SOON TO SOULPEPPER

# KAMLOOPA

BY KIM SENKLIP HARVEY



ON STAGE: JUNE 23 – JULY 24

***ALWAYS DANCE LIKE THE  
ANCESTORS ARE WATCHING.***

With brilliance, irreverence, and fearless wit, three Indigenous women hit the road on their way to the largest powwow on the West Coast – and to self-discovery. But how do you discover yourself when Columbus allegedly already did that? Come along for the ride to connect with the ancestors on this mind bending and boundary blurring adventure.

**Winner of the Governor  
General's Award for Drama**

*Kamloopa* is a Co-Production with Native Earth Performing Arts

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