



Actor: Michelle Bardach | Photo: Matt Barnes

THE CULTCH PRESENTS
CHILDREN OF GOD

A NEW MUSICAL BY COREY PAYETTE

AN URBAN INK (VANCOUVER) PRODUCTION
 IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE ENGLISH THEATRE
 IN ASSOCIATION WITH RAVEN THEATRE (VANCOUVER)

Children of God offers a thrilling blend of ancient traditions and contemporary realities, celebrating resilience and the power of the Indigenous cultural spirit.

WORLD PREMIERE

May 17 — Jun 3
 York Theatre

RUNNING TIME:
 2 hours including intermission

URBAN INK WELCOME



Welcome to *Children of God*.

We are proudly producing this World Premiere production on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. *Children of God* was inspired to begin a journey to understand a fuller picture of our history. Through *Children of God* we honour and acknowledge the survivors of residential school, their children, grandchildren, and future generations for their strength and resilience in the face of this dark history.

At Urban Ink, we support both our artists and our audiences in being brave, and to enable the performing arts to function in their unique way, engaging us all in conversations about who we are as Canadians - a complex, interdependent, multicultural society based on a strong foundation of Indigeneity.

Theatre can shift how you see your world, no matter who you are or where you're from. This shifts how we interact with each other, it builds the webs of relationships and understanding our communities need in these challenging times.

We can only do this work with your support. We have the vision, we have the leadership, we have access to an enormous breadth of talented Indigenous and intercultural artists. The only thing we lack is the capacity. We are proud to be funded by all three levels of government, but in order to fulfil our potential, to provide more communities with access to work like *Children of God*, we want to invite you to join us on this exciting, necessary journey. You can ensure that these stories and their potential for positive change are amplified across the country and the globe. Consider making a contribution to Urban Ink through Canada Helps or contact us directly to discuss how you can be a part of the work we do. Please join us in creating stories that transform us.

Corey Payette & Dawn Brennan
 Artistic Director & Managing Director
www.urbanink.ca

URBAN INK
 STORIES THAT TRANSFORM US



THE COMPANY



Herbie Barnes



Cathy Elliott



Kim Harvey



Trish Lindström



Kevin Loring



Cheyenne Scott



Michael Torontow



Aaron M. Wells



Kaitlyn Yott



Corey Payette



Marshall McMahan



Allen Cole



Elliot Vaughan



Julie McIsaac



Jeff Harrison



Raes Calvert



Kris Boyd



Mike Kovac



Ryan McNeill Bolton



Samira Rose



Jessica Schacht



Brian Chan



Martin Reisle

CHILDREN OF GOD

A MUSICAL BY
COREY
PAYETTE

CAST

Herbie Barnes: Tom/Tommy
Cathy Elliott: Rita
Kim Harvey: Joanna/Secretary
Trish Lindström: Sister Bernadette
Kevin Loring: Wilson
Cheyenne Scott: Julia
Michael Torontow: Father Christopher
Aaron M. Wells: Vincent
Kaitlyn Yott: Elizabeth

CREATIVE TEAM

Book/Music/Lyrics & Director: Corey Payette
Production Designer: Marshall McMahan
Musical Director/Piano: Allen Cole
Orchestrator/Viola: Elliot Vaughan
Dramaturg: Sybille Pearson
Assistant Director: Julie McIsaac
Lighting Designer: Jeff Harrison
Movement Director: Raes Calvert
Sound Designer: Kris Boyd
Fight Directors: Mike Kovac & Ryan McNeill Bolton
Stage Manager: Samira Rose
Assistant Stage Manager: Jessica Schacht
Jewelry design: Helen Oro

MUSICIANS

Cello: Brian Chan
Piano: Allen Cole
Guitar: Martin Reisle
Viola: Elliot Vaughan

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer: Christie Watson
Production Manager: Adrian Muir
Head of Wardrobe: Darryl Milot
Props Master: Carol Macdonald
Sound Board Operator: Kyra Soko

SHOW INFO

Children of God received the developmental support of Urban Ink, Raven Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, T'kemlups te Secwepemc, a Collaboration through the National Arts Centre English Theatre, Full Circle First Nations Performance and the Talking Stick Festival, The Vancouver Playhouse, Firehall Arts Centre, Arts Club Theatre, Sunset Theatre, & Playwrights Theatre Centre.

SONG LIST

1. **GOD ONLY KNOWS** - Full Company
2. **YOUR FATHER** - Rita
3. **PATER NOSTER** - All Students and Teachers
4. **THE CLOSEST THING TO HOME** - Tommy and Julia
5. **WHAT DO THEY TAKE US FOR?** - Wilson, Vincent, and Tommy
6. **WHO I WAS** - Tommy and Students
7. **RUNAWAY** - Julia
8. **GIMIKWENDEN INA (Do you remember?)**
- Tommy, Rita, and Students
9. **THIS IS WHAT YOU GET** - Full Company

INTERMISSION

10. **AWAY WE RIDE** - Wilson, Tommy, Vincent, and Father Christopher
11. **GOD ONLY KNOWS (reprise)**
- Sister Bernadette, Wilson, and all students
12. **THE CLOSEST THING TO HOME (reprise)** - Tommy
13. **HOMEWARD BOUND** - Julia
14. **PATER NOSTER (reprise)** - Students and Father Christopher
15. **THEIR SPIRITS ARE BROKEN** - Sister Bernadette
16. **WONDERLAND** - Tommy
17. **AND WE WAIT** - Tom and Rita
18. **BAAMAAPII KA WAB MIGO (until we see you again)**
- Rita and Full Company

SPECIAL THANKS

Lisz Keallan – ASL Interpreter, Steph Kirkand – Vocal Eye Audio Description, Allison Grant, Gloria May Eshkibok, Jillian Keiley, Sarah Garton Stanley, Nathan Medd, Andy Lunney, Heather Redfern, Daryl Cloran, Lori Marchand, Heather Cant, Kate Declerck, Sol Diana, Patrice Bowler, Renelta Arluk, Kwasuun Sarah Vedan, Guy Payette, Lindsay Drummond, Jennifer Lines, Arlie Worthing, Michelle Bardach, Micheal Querin, Quelema Sparrow, Josue Laboucane, Lance Cardinal, Andrew Wheeler, Lauren Bowler, Katey Wright, Renae Morriseau, Ronnie Dean Harris, Margo Kane, Marie Clements, Tanja Dixon-Warren, Rachel Ditor, Bill Miller, Donna Spencer, Robert McQueen, Max Reimer, Meredith Elliott, Chelsea McPeake Carlton, Elia Kirby, Great Northern Way Scene Shop, Omanie Elias, Julia Mackey, Steven Charles, Sean Bayntun, Clara Shandler, Steven Greenfield, Shane Pointe, Wes Nahanee, Bob Baker, Jordan Chin, Matt Barnes, Andrea Tétrault, Tanyss Knowles, Sarah Rush, Elizabeth Jones, Indian Residential School Survivors Society, Faith Sparrow Crawford, Jocelyn Macdougall, Linda Gorrie, Madelaine McCallum, Catherine Cook, Holding Space Productions, Kamila Sediego, Stephen Courtenay, Jan Hodgson, and National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

Urban Ink is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.



Photo: Mique'l Dangel

Welcome,

Growing up in Northern Ontario, we were never taught the history of residential schools. It wasn't something people talked about. When I learned of this history I felt I needed to do something about it and make sure that people knew what happened here. *Children of God* was born out of anger and frustration that this horrible history had happened and yet was hidden from the narrative of our country.

The journey started through years of research, speaking with survivors on the back of their pick-up trucks in rural BC, visiting abandoned school sites, and holding a workshop production at the Chief Louis Cultural Centre, a reclaimed former residential school on the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc in Kamloops, BC. Every step of this journey changed my outlook as a person, allowed me to have a deeper understanding of the history, and led me to recognize my responsibility in acknowledging the strength and resilience of residential school survivors and their descendants.

Over the past 7 years, I have witnessed the whole country expand their awareness through a similar transition. Through the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Canadians now have a better understanding of this history; what was once hidden is now a publicly recognized shameful chapter of our history, a subject of ongoing public and private conversations. I believe that for true reconciliation it can't just be Indigenous peoples who bear the burden of this work. It needs to be everyone, in every community, investing in this process and continuing the journey forward together.

Through this work, we honour and acknowledge the strength of survivors and their descendants. We are proud of Indigenous peoples' resilience in reclaiming our culture, language, and rightful place at the heart of our Canadian identity. Stories are powerful. They connect us, shape our understanding of ourselves and our relationship to one another, so that the true history of this country can be fully understood.

Miigwetch (Thank you) to all the people who have believed in this work over the years, to everyone at the National Arts Centre-English Theatre, The Cultch, Urban Ink and Raven Theatre, and to this remarkable company of artists for bringing *Children of God* to life. And to You, the audience, for being here, and including this work as a step on our journey to reconciliation.

All my relations,

Corey Payette
Bookwriter, Composer, Lyricist, and Director of *Children of God*

CAST

Herbie Barnes (Tom/Tommy) has principal roles in films like *Dance Me Outside*, *Spirit Rider*, and *Spirit Bear*. Television shows that feature him include *Guilt Free Zone*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Tipi Tales* and *The Rez*. Some of Herbie's best-known stage roles include Elwood P Dowd in *Harvey*, *Bilbo Baggins* in the Hobbitt, Norval Morrisseau in *Copper Thunderbird* and as a Wickersham Brother in *Seussical: The Musical*. Herbie spent a year in the ensemble of the National Arts Centre. Directing credits include *The Music Man* (Talk Is Free); *Oliver* (Bluff City Theatre); *Someday* (Native Earth); *Tales Of An Urban Indian* (Public Theatre NYC, Atriy Theatre LA); and *Dinky* (Native Earth).

Cathy Elliott (Rita) is a Dora-nominated actor (*Swallow*, *Happy Prince*), playwright, and composer. Red Barn Theatre premiered her musical *Fireweeds* in 1993. In 2011 she directed her all-Indigenous musical, *The Talking Stick*, commissioned by the Charlottetown Festival. Its finale was performed for the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge's PEI visit and a concert version was presented at the Halifax TRC Gathering. Selected roles: Sharon Sharpe, in her one-woman musical *Moving Day* (TIFT), Ariel in *Tempest* (New World Theatre Project), Rita in *Children of God* (Urban Ink/RavenTheatre/WCT). Upcoming: Lonecloud is under development with Native Earth Performing Arts for *Weesagechak 30*; writing the libretto (Leslie Arden, composer/lyricist) for *Starlight Tours*, Grand Theatre.

Kim Harvey (Joanna/Secretary) is from the Tshilqot'in, Syilx, Kutenai, Dakelh and Canada Nations and is a Director, Writer, and Actor. Past acting highlights include; *Rez Sisters*, *Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout*, *The Laurier Memorial*, *Salmon Row*, the Governor General's Award-winning play and National Tour of *Where the Blood Mixes*, and Gordon Tootoosis' final show *Gordon Winter*. Kim is excited to work with Savage Society, Rumble Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, the Arts Club, Bard on the Beach, Urban Ink, and The Cultch in Directing and Assistant Directing roles. Kim was most recently shortlisted for the 2017 Gina Wilkinson National Prize for her work in Directing. Kim would like to dedicate this show to her Mom, the strongest Indian she's ever met.

Trish Lindström (Sister Bernadette) Select credits: *The Wedding Party* (Crow's/TIFT); *Once* (Mirvish; DORA award); *Liberty Valance* (RMTC); *As You Like It*, *The Hypochondriac*, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Chamber Play*, *The Tempest*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Cabaret*, *Trojan Women*, *The Miracle Worker* (Stratford); *The Game of Love and Chance* (CanStage/Centaur); *Bloodless* (Theatre20); *The Vibrator Play*, *Mimi* (Tarragon; DORA nom); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Exit the King* (Soulpepper); *Assassins* (TIFT/Birdland; DORA nom); *Shaw* (five seasons); *All Shook Up* (TNW); *Love's Labours Lost* (NAC); Emily

(Charlottetown). Graduate: The National Theatre School; Born/raised: Toronto www.trishlindstrom.org With gratitude.

Kevin Loring (Wilson) is Nlakap'amux (Thompson) from The Lytton First Nation in British Columbia. He's a graduate of Studio 58, and Full Circle First Nations Performance: Ensemble Training Program. As an actor he has performed in numerous plays across Canada. Favourite productions include the world premieres of Marie Clements' plays *Burning Vision*, *Copper Thunderbird*, and *The Edward Curtis Project*. He played Edmund in the National Arts Centre Production of *King Lear* featuring an all aboriginal cast in 2012. He was a Playwright in Residence and a member of the English Theatre Acting Company at the National Arts Centre. He received the Governor General's mentorship award, and the 2009 Governor Generals Literary Award for *Where the Blood Mixes*. Kevin is the Artistic Director of Savage Society, a theatre company dedicated to telling Aboriginal stories.

Cheyenne Scott (Julia) (Coast Salish) is an actor, writer, producer based in Toronto. Her work is an exploration and celebration of her indigenous heritage through impactful personal expression and storytelling. She wrote the play *SPAWN* currently being presented as part of the rEvolver Festival. Acting credits include: *Squawk/Sidewalk Chalk* (Geordie Productions), *Savage* (Native Earth), *Passion Play* (Outside the March/Sheep No Wool/Convergence), *Grief Circus* (Steady State), *Zero Visibility* (AMY Project).

Michael Torontov (Father Christopher) Selected Theatre: *Bittergirl* (RMTC); *The Light in the Piazza* (Theatre Calgary—Calgary Theatre Critics nomination for Best Supporting Actor In A Musical); *Floyd Collins* (Patrick Street/TIFT); *All Shook Up*, *Forever Plaid*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (StageWest); *Side By Side By Sondheim* (The Grand); *The Full Monty* (The Rose); *The Last 5 Years* (Theatre St. Johns); *Lies My Father Told Me* (Segal Centre); *Dirty Dancing*, *Hairspray* (Mirvish); *Mamma Mia!* (US National Tour). Selected TV: Mr. T in *Lost and Found Music Studios*; *Remedy*; *Reign*; *Hannibal*; *Being Erica*. Selected Training: BA in Theatre (UofO), Yoriko Tanno, Lenard Whiting, Stuart Hamilton, Elaine Overholt (Voice).

Aaron M. Wells (Vincent) comes from the Ehattesaht and Lax Kw'alaams First Nations and has just recently graduated Company C, the third year program at the Canadian College of Performing Arts. Previous roles include *Filthy Billy - A Cure For Death By Lightning* (WCT), the Baker - *Into the Woods* (CCPA), Vincent - *Children of God*-workshop (WCT). He has also taken part in discussions with the NAC and Stratford in investigating the Indigenous voice and space in Canada and the national stage with other Indigenous artists. Since picking up the story that this show it has allowed me to regain some piece of identity and healing which I hope to bring to all who see it.

Kaitlyn Yott (Elizabeth) is honoured to make her debut with Urban Ink, releasing her inner activist and telling an important story. A descendant of the people of Haida Gwaii, she is a Vancouver-based performer and a 2015 graduate of Capilano University studying Musical Theatre. Select credits include: *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Carousel Theatre) *Les Filles Du Roi* (Fugue Theatre), *West Side Story* (TUTS), *Fiddler on the Roof* (RCMT). All of my love and gratitude to Corey, Julie and Julie, three incomparable artists who have never stopped believing in me. Your inspiration means the world. Thank you for helping me find my fire.

CREATIVE TEAM

Corey Payette (Book/Music/Lyrics & Director) is proud of his Oji-Cree heritage from Northern Ontario and has worked as a playwright, actor, composer, and director across Canada. He is the Artistic Director of Urban Ink (Vancouver, BC), was the 2014-15 Artist-in-Residence with National Arts Centre [NAC] English Theatre, and the founder of Raven Theatre (Vancouver, BC). He was the Artistic Associate for The Indigenous Cycle at the NAC which resulted in the creation of a new department of Indigenous Theatre to begin in 2019. Credits include: *Moonlodge* (Urban Ink), *A Christmas Carol* (NAC English Theatre), *Our Town* (Caravan Farm Theatre), *The Road Forward* (red diva/PuSh/National Film Board of Canada), *Indian Arm* (Rumble Theatre), *AMIN AMIR* (Aircastle Feature Film/OMNI TV), *Justice* (Gwaandak Theatre/NAC Northern Scene), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Vancouver Playhouse), and *Beyond Eden* (Theatre Calgary/Vancouver Playhouse). As a musical theatre creator, he's writing a new musical *Les Filles du Roi* (music & Direction, co-book/lyrics w/Julie Mclsaac) in English, French, and Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) commissioned by Fugue Theatre and his original musical *Children of God* (book/music/lyrics & direction) is touring next season to the Citadel Theatre (Edmonton) and to Western Canada Theatre (Kamloops). www.coreypayette.com

Marshall McMahan (Production Designer) designs include two seasons at Bard on the Beach, *Rock of Ages*, *Avenue Q*, & *Spamalot* (Arts Club), *Moonlodge* (Urban Ink), *All the Way Home* (Electric Company), *Chelsea Hotel* (Firehall Arts Centre, and National Tour), *The East Van Panto* (Theatre Replacement/Cultch), and many more with Pacific Opera Victoria, Gateway, Western Canada, Carousel, Green Thumb, and Caravan Farm Theatre. He is the recipient of a 2014 Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award, a Jessie Award, and three Ovation Awards. He is a graduate of UBC, and a member of Associated Designers of Canada.

Allen Cole (Musical Director/Piano) has worked variously as composer, musical director, lyricist and/or book writer on musical theatre works such as *The Wrong Son* (NAC), *Mimi* (Tarragon Theatre), and *Anything That Moves* (with Ann-Marie MacDonald and Alisa Palmer). Allen has composed music for many theatre companies, including the Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival and Soulpepper. He has won four Doras, and a Best Film Score Award from the Atlantic Film Festival. His musical *Rockbound*

won five Merritt Awards, and was nominated for the Lieutenant- Governor of Nova Scotia's Masterworks Award. His musical *The Miracle Man* played at Two Planks in 2014, and won Merritts for Musical Direction and Best Original Score. His musical based on *Alice in Wonderland* (with Peter Hinton) premiered in May 2016 at the Shaw Festival.

Elliot Vaughan (Viola/Orchestrator) is a Vancouver-based musician. He focuses on creating within collaborative, interdisciplinary projects. He has worked on theatre projects with Leaky Heaven, Touchstone, Urban Ink, and others; dance shows with Dezza Dance, Iris Lau, con8 collective, and others; concert music for international chamber ensembles; and records with The End Tree, Jay Malinowski, and Iffy South. His compositions have been performed in 17 countries. He holds a composition degree from SFU. Elliot's primary instrument is the viola. He has toured Europe, the UK, and Canada, performed with over 30 pop acts, and appeared on over a dozen records.

Sybille Pearson (Dramaturg) Books for musicals include: *Baby*, Tony nomination for Best Book, *Giant and Rain*. Plays include: *Sally and Marsha*, *Phantasia*, *Watching The Dog*, *Unfinished Stories*, *True History and Real Adventure*. Opera includes: *And A Night*. Sybille has won the Berrilla Kerr Award for Playwriting, the Darryl Roth Creative Spirit Award, recipient of a Rockefeller Playwrights Fellowship and is an Artistic Resident at the Vineyard Theater in New York City. She lectures on bookwriting throughout the USA and in Canada. She is on the faculty for The Graduate Program For Musical Theater Writing at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

Julie Mclsaac (Assistant Director) is a founding member of the Honest Fishmongers, Artistic Associate of Twenty Something Theatre, and currently Artist-in-Residence with Pacific Opera Victoria. She is a four-time Jessie nominee, and directing highlights include: *The Marriage of Figaro* (VCM/Opera Studio), *Pride and Prejudice* (Cheminus), *My Rabbi* (Sum Theatre) and *The Exquisite Hour* (Relephant Theatre; Playhouse Fringe Award). She is also the playwright and composer/arranger of *The Out Vigil* (2016 Jessie award with Jay Clift for Outstanding Sound Design / Original Composition), and is now co-writing the new trilingual musical *Les Filles du Roi* (with Corey Payette). Thank-you, Corey, for inviting me to walk alongside you on this astonishing journey.

Jeff Harrison (Lighting Designer) is a Vancouver based designer. When he is not designing, Jeff is the Technical Director for Ballet BC touring North America and Europe. Jeff is a graduate of SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts, attended the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada. Past design credits include: *Floyd Collins*, *Bat Boy*, *The Full Monty* (Patrick St. Productions), *Wizard of Oz*, *Cat in the Hat*, (Carousel Theatre), *Blasted* (Pi Theatre), *Hansel & Gretel* (Vancouver Opera) *The Unplugging* (Arts Club Theatre)

Raes Calvert (Movement Director) is a Métis theatre artist who lives and works in Vancouver. As a performer he has toured Nationally and International with such companies as Axis Theatre, GreenThumb Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Newworld Theatre and The Presentation House Theatre. Raes regularly choreographs and devises movement for productions with his own company Hardline Productions. Last year he Mentored with Physical Theatre Master Wendy Gorling thanks to an Early Career Development Grant from the BC Arts Council. Raes is a two time Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominee and one time recipient.

Kris Boyd (Sound Designer) is pleased to return to sound design after many years focused on mixing concert audio. Favorite credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Hoarse Raven Theatre), *A Wrinkle in Time* (Pacific Theatre), and *Capo* (MovEnt). He enjoyed many years as sound engineer for Randy Bachman, Vancouver New Music and as Head of Audio for The Cultch. Kris holds a music diploma in mandolin performance from Vancouver Community College. He is currently Technical Director for The Cultch and the York Theatre.

Mike Kovac (Co-Fight Director) is an Advanced Actor Combatant/Apprentice with Fight Directors Canada as well as a graduate of the Capilano University ASAS program, Mike has been trained in professional wrestling, kung fu, and weapon combat. Mike has been a fight coordinator for shows including *The Men in White*, *Baskerville*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Arts Club Theatre), *Crazy For You* (Gateway Theatre), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Treasure Island* (Exit 22), *Edward II*, and *The Arabian Nights* (UBC). He has also been a part of such films as *Yesterday*, *Mon Ami*, *Extraterrestrial*, and *Interrogation*. As well, look for him in the *Legends of Tomorrow*, *iZombie*, *Some Assembly Required*, *Elektra Woman* and *Dyna Girl*, and *Supernatural* television series.

Ryan McNeill Bolton (Co-Fight Director) has recently co-designed (with Mike Kovac) fights for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Cabaret* (Exit 22); *Men in White*, *Bakersfield Mist*, *Baskerville*, *The Valley*, *One Man Two Guvvorns*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Artsclub); *Crazy For You* (Gateway); and *Belfast Girls* (Peninsula Productions). He also works as a guest artist instructor for a variety of educational institutions around the GVA including UBC, Capilano University, and Bard on the Beach's youth education program, *Bard in the Classroom*.

Samira Rose (Stage Manager) Noises Off (Segal Centre), Belles Soeurs: The Musical (Segal/Copa D'Oro) NAC (A Christmas Carol, The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God, Innocence Lost (Centaur Theatre), King Lear, Saint Carmen Of The Main (Canadian Stage), The Drowsy Chaperone (Citadel Theatre/Vancouver Playhouse), The Ecstasy of Rita Joe (WCT) and Shakespeare's Dog (RMTG), GCTC (Proud, Vimy, (NAC), The Syringa Tree, The Drawer Boy), Belfry Theatre (Big Mama!), Opera Lyra Ottawa

(Don Giovanni, Otello (MOC), The Barber of Seville, Falstaff), Grand Chief Election (Sovereign Alliances), Red Diva Projects (The Road Forward), and NCC/ CBC Canada Day on Parliament Hill. Thanks to Dad.

Jessica Schacht (Assistant Stage Manager) is honored to be helping bring this show to life among such a talented team of creators. Recent credits include *This Little Light*, *The Last Wife*, and *The Valley*, (Belfry Theatre). Up next she will be making her directorial debut at the Vancouver Fringe Festival with her play *Adult Company* this fall. Jessica is a student member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Playwrights Theatre Centre, and the apprentice dramaturge for Theatre One's *Emerging Voices* series. Born and raised on Vancouver Island, she is proud of her Metis heritage and calls the Cowichan Valley home.

Helen Oro (Jewelry Design) owner operator of fashion label Helen Oro Designs Inc. Helen is plains Cree from Pelican Lake First Nation. She takes her traditional First Nation beadwork and adorns modern day accessories such as heels, sunglasses, clutch purses etc. not only does Helen create one of a kind creations but creates opportunities for indigenous people aspiring to pursue careers in the fashion/ model world. Internationally recognized for her designs and work Helen aims to create a positive image for indigenous women everywhere.

MUSICIANS

Brian Chan (Cello) is a Vancouver-based cellist and recording engineer. An active performer, Chan can be seen in collaboration with indie pop artists Jordan Klassen, Dear Rouge, and The Tourist Company. Touring highlights include The Reeperbahn festival in Germany and The Vinyl Café roadshow. At home, Chan enjoys being in the studio both in front and behind the glass. Currently he records music for CBC radio, but loves to make and record music anywhere really.

Martin Reisle (Guitar) is a composer, calligrapher, and performer. A lover of sounds delicate and strange, his eclectic scores present a unique and rewarding challenge for players and audience alike. He studied classical guitar with Michael Strutt, and composition with Keith Hamel and Giorgio Magnanensi. As a guitarist, cellist, vocalist and composer he has toured Europe, and America for the past eight years. He has written for numerous commercial releases such as *Maria in the Shower's III* (2012) Jay Malinowski & The Deadcoast's *Martel* (2013), David Ward's *Transitioning* (2015), *Violet, Rose & Gold* (2017) and *The End Tree* and 54-40's upcoming releases.

WHO WE ARE

Based in Vancouver, **Urban Ink Productions** creates, produces and disseminates original live performance works by Indigenous and Intercultural artists. Across Canada, Urban Ink is putting the power in the hands of Indigenous and Intercultural artists to tell their own stories in their own unique voice.

Founded in 2001, Urban Ink has always been a company where Canadian stories are told. Today, under the passionate artistic direction of Corey Payette, our company goes even further, promoting Intercultural understanding, igniting conversations from coast to coast, and celebrating the rich history of its land by bringing communities together in a National conversation that affirms diversity as a shared Canadian value.

OUR CORE TEAM

Artistic Director: Corey Payette
 Managing Director: Dawn Brennan
 Programs Coordinator: Jordan Chin

BOARD

Chair: Odette Wilson
 Vice-Chair: Obediya Jones-Darrell
 Treasurer: Jorge Zylberberg
 Director: Amy Martin-Ko
 Director: Olivia Davies

OUR SUPPORT TEAM

2016-17 Artist in Residence: Kamila Sediego
 Artist Training Program Director: Reneltta Arluk
 Dramaturgs for Writer's Group: Lindsay Drummond & Kwasuun Sarah Vedan
 Boldskool Workshop Director: Omari Newton

At Urban Ink we believe in the development of the next generation of Indigenous and Intercultural artists. The following artists are taking part in our artistic training programs:

Collective: Mariam Barry, Natalie Davidson, Grace Dove, Jessica Leung, Albert Tsai, Robert Thomson, Krys Yuan.

Writers Group: Angie Descalzi, Sarah Hager, Brenda Prince, Kamila Sediego, Hanna Waswa

DONORS

Dawn Brennan, Hugh Brewster, Marilyn Chotem, Tare Chotem, Acxsys Corporation, Rena Cohen and Rick Parnell, John Cooper, Olivia Davies, Sapna Dayal, Dave Deveau, Sarah Downey, Rachel Forbes, Schein Foundation, Sarah Garton Stanley, Linda Gorrie, Chole Gow-Jarrett, Franca Gucciardi, Jane Heyman, Valeri Hussey, Alessandro Juliani, Drew Jurecka, Lori Nancy Kalamanski, Peter Katz, DD Kugler, Tony Lanier, Jeanne LeSage, Judy Leroux, Christina Lisinka, Jajube Mandiela, Matthew McEvoy, Liz McMahan, Marshall McMahan, Dara Parker, Corey Payette, Michael de Pencier, William Reid, Claire Sakaki, Sabrina Salvatore, Kathleen Richardson-Scott, Paul Shore, Joel Solomon, Heidi Taylor, Stephanie Vellins, Tim Watson, Christine Willes, Deborah Williams, Carmen Wiseman, Elizabeth Murdoch, Anonymous x7

URBAN INK PRODUCTIONS

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www.urbanink.ca

Urban Ink is proudly located on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

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**URBAN
 INK**
 STORIES THAT
 TRANSFORM US