



**A STORY
BEFORE TIME**



A STORY BEFORE TIME

Written by Drew Hayden Taylor

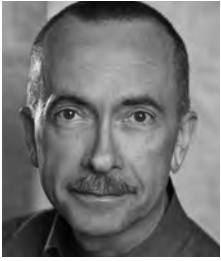
Produced by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

Co-production by The Banff Centre

Created by Artistic Director/Choreographer/Performer: Santee Smith

MAINSTAGE | OCT. 16-24, 2013

Message from the Artistic Director of YPT



Welcome to Young People's Theatre and our 48th season. We start the year off with this lovely production from Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. In ***A Story Before Time***, the Onkwehonwe creation story is re-told: a tiny young muskrat is the hero who helps to re-establish the land on which all creatures dwell. It is a fitting story to start our season of plays about the ingenuity and initiative of young people faced with grown-up challenges.

We hope you will join us many times throughout the season for more great stories about inspiring and ingenious young people including ***Annie***, ***Minotaur*** and ***Sultans of the Street***. Check them out on our website at youngpeoplestheatre.ca.

Thanks for coming and enjoy the show.

Allen MacInnis

Message from the Artistic Director of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre



It is my pleasure to share the incredible journey of ***A Story Before Time***. A cherished bedtime story, I grew up listening to my parents tell our Onkwehonwe story of Creation. The story with its connection to the stars and animals filled my imagination and so this production originates from my childhood dreaming. The Creation Story has and continues to play a profound role in my life-reminding me of the importance of listening to dreams, respecting the natural world and striving for balance and harmony with all living things in the universe especially our home on the turtle's back. It is my hope that the story becomes meaningful in your life as well.

Santee Smith

About Kaha:wi Dance Theatre



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 (Kahnyen'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.

Connect with Kaha:wi Dance Theatre:
416.923.7373 | info@kahawidance.org | kahawidance.org/

"...[H]er highly charged, traditional/contemporary/ballet fusion eats up the stage..." **Globe and Mail**
"Smith is a choreographer to watch out for..." **Vancouver Sun, 2009**
"Her choreography is bold, earthy, sensual and exciting..." **FFWD, 2005**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

PRESENTS



A STORY BEFORE TIME

Written by Drew Hayden Taylor
Produced by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre
Co-production by The Banff Centre
Created by Artistic Director/Choreographer/Performer: Santee Smith

CAST

Kateri (Storyteller)	Semiah Kaha:wi Smith
eyotsi'tsyane:karen (Exploding Flower)/ SkyWoman/Goose	Santee Smith
Great Chief/Goose/West Wind/Deer	Michael Demski
Sky Being/Katsi'tsyani:yonte (Hanging Flower)/Daughter/Raccoon	Emily Law
Sky Being/Goose/Otter/Taharonhawa:kon (Holder of the Heavens)	Zhenya Cerneacov
Sky Being/Goose/Otter/ Tawiskara (The Bent One)	Louis Laberge-Côté
Sky Being/Muskrat/ Chipmunk/Otter	Sarain Carson-Fox

CREATIVE TEAM

Created and produced by	Kaha:wi Dance Theatre
Co-production with	The Banff Centre for the Arts
Artistic Director/ Choreographer/Dancer	Santee Smith
Playwright	Drew Hayden Taylor
Composer	Donald Quan
Set/Costume Designer/ Original Lighting Designer	Harry Frehner
Musicians	Rick Shadrach Lazar, David R. Maracle, Bob Doidge
Singers/Songwriters	ElizaBeth Hill, David R. Maracle, Santee Smith, Amos Key Jr.
Singers	Faron Johns, Semiah Smith, O'Mush Singers
Additional Recording Studio	Grant Avenue Studio
Language Translator	Frank Miller, Amos Key Jr.
Photography	Don Lee

Photography and the videotaping or other video or audio recording
of this production is strictly prohibited.

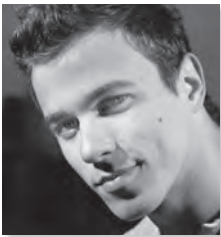
The performance will run approximately 50 minutes with no intermission.

Cast



**SARAIN
CARSON-FOX**
SKY BEING/MUSKRAT/
CHIPMUNK/OTTER
Of Anishinabe
lineage, Sarain
is a passionate
spokesperson for
her Aboriginal
community North

of Toronto and wears the beauty of her heritage with pride. Sarain has been studying and performing as a professional dancer for the past ten years. She has attended the Canadian Children's Dance Theatre, the Quinte Ballet School and the Alvin Ailey Bachelor of Fine Arts Program in New York City. She has performed at The Canada Dance Festival 2008, The Barrie Jazz And Blues Festival VIII, the 2002, 2007 and 2012 Aboriginal Achievement Awards, and two summers with the Ajkun Ballet Theatre Company in New York City. She was a member of Kaha:wi Dance theatre and has attended three Indigenous dance residencies at The Banff Centre, which allowed her to work with Neil Iremia of Black Grace and Javier Dezule of Dezule dance. Sarain is currently the newest member of Untitled Collective; a NYC based Australian Aboriginal modern dance collective. On and off the dance floor, this stellar entity of artistic expulsion is truly always on her toes



**ZHENYA
CERNEACOV**
SKY BEING/
GOOSE/OTTER/
TAHARONHAWA:KON
(HOLDER OF THE
HEAVENS)

Featured as one of Canada's "Bright young things you need to know" by Flare Magazine in the cover story "GENERATION NEXT", Zhenya has come a long way from his hometown of Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. Zhenya grew up in a household of musicians and from an early age developed a great passion for the arts. After studying ballroom dance for nine years, he was invited to become a member of Moldova's Show Ballet Theodor. In 2006, Zhenya moved to Canada where he quickly became an active member of the contemporary dance scene, broadening his

horizons to include works in Contemporary, Bharatanatyam, Modern, Aboriginal Dance, Contemporary Ballet and Argentine Tango with over fifteen companies including Chimera Project, Coleman Lemieux & Company, Danny Grossman Dance Company, Kaeja d'Dance and Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. For the past 7 years Zhenya has been a member of the core ensemble of Dusk Dances with which he has toured throughout Canada. Zhenya is co-founder and co-choreographer for the "Throwdown Collective" with which he co-created three critically-acclaimed commissions for Dusk Dances. In August 2013, Throwdown Collective's "Various Concert" won the "Audience Choice Award" at dance: made in canada/fait au canada festival. In April 2011, Zhenya co-founded "Cadence Dance Studio" with partner Courtnae Bowman with whom he shares artistic direction.



MICHAEL DEMSKI
GREAT CHIEF/GOOSE/
WEST WIND/DEER
Michael Demski
was born and life
began in the wild
landscape of the
Rocky Mountains
(Canada). He spent
his 7 years of

adolescence sailing around the world with his parents and two brothers. Michael's lifelong passion of martial arts, of which he has practiced over 10 different styles, led to his discovery of his love of dance and passion for movement and expression. After training and dancing for several years in France and Holland, he soon returned to Canada. Michael Demski is currently launching himself into the industry of acting, having recently finished the intense acting program for Film, TV, and Theatre at Toronto Film School. He hopes to continue his passion for acting and dancing with great love and discipline. Michael would like to thank Santee for this opportunity, and to enjoy this time as much as possible.



**LOUIS
LABERGE-CÔTÉ**
SKY BEING/GOOSE/
OTTER/TAWISKARA
(THE BENT ONE)

Louis Laberge-Côté is a Toronto-based dancer, choreographer and teacher. A

graduate of both L'École de Danse de Québec and The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, he joined Toronto Dance Theatre in 1999, and has danced with the company for 8 seasons, under the artistic direction of Christopher House. Meanwhile, Louis has built an exceptionally active career as a freelance artist. He has worked with several esteemed choreographers, and has toured in North America, Europe, and Asia. Between 2009 and 2011, he joined the Kevin O'Day - Ballett Nationaltheater Mannheim (Germany) as a soloist dancer and contemporary dance teacher. His work has garnered him 5 Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for Outstanding Performance and Choreography, and NOW Magazine named him "Toronto's Dance Most Valuable Player" in 2006. His choreographic work has been presented and commissioned in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Switzerland, and been described as a "wonderfully sophisticated jewel" (Die Rheinpfalz) and a "triumph... with tremendous depth and subtext" (Classical 96.3FM). A sought-after pedagogue, he has taught master classes and workshops all across the country and was on faculty at Ryerson University from 2007-2008. He was the Chair of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists - Ontario Chapter between 2005 and 2007 and currently shares the Vice-Presidency at the Canadian Dance Assembly. He also sits on the Toronto Arts Council Dance Committee.



EMILY LAW
SKY BEING/
KATSI'TSYANI:YONTE
(HANGING FLOWER)/
DAUGHTER/RACCOON

Emily Law has many passions including contemporary dance, various styles of street

dance, and visual art. She is a graduate

of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and The Etobicoke School of the Arts. She is a founding member of the Toronto house dance crew Warehouse Jacks. Emily has enjoyed working with Kaha:wi Dance Theatre for the past six years. She has also worked with 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 Dora Mavor Moore Award and a Gemini Award for her work with Kaha:wi Dance Theatre.



SEMIAH SMITH
KATERI (STORYTELLER)

Semiah Kaha:wi Smith is from the Kahnnyen'kehàka (Mohawk) Nation, Turtle Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario. She attends

Ancaster High School and is in grade 10 of the International Baccalaureate program. Semiah is a featured singer on the *Kaha:wi* soundtrack (2003) and *A Story Before Time* (2007). At the age of 9, she was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best Performance in the Dance Division (Ensemble) for *A Story Before Time*. Semiah is excited to be reprising her role as "Kateri" the Storyteller in this production. She enjoys playing lacrosse, water polo and traveling. Her touring has taken her to Japan, France, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Creative Team



SANTEE SMITH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR (KDT)/
CHOREOGRAPHER/
PERFORMER -

SKYWOMAN/GOOSE
Santee Smith is from the Kahnnyen'kehàka (Mohawk) Nation, Turtle Clan from

Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario. She is a mother, artist, and founding

Artistic Director/Choreographer of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. Her performances and collaborations have occurred in Canada, United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, France, Japan and Indonesia. In 2013, Santee received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Choreography in the Dance Division for *Susuriwka - willow bridge*. Smith's formal training occurred at Canada's National Ballet School. She holds Kinesiology and Psychology degrees from McMaster University and a Masters Degree in Dance from York University. 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* (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, 2008), *Susuriwka - willow bridge* (co-produced by Yokohama Noh Theatre, Planet IndigenUS, Harbourfront Centre, 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), *The Honouring* (2013) and upcoming *NeolIndigenA*. Santee is a frequent academic lecturer, writer and inspirational speaker on contemporary dance and performance, Indigenous dance, music and culture.

dramatic television series as well as written and directed documentary and variety programming and served on the Minister's Advisory Council for the Arts and Culture.



ALAINA PERTULLA

STAGE MANAGER & LIGHTING DESIGN

Alaina is a Dora-nominated Lighting Designer who works in dance, theatre, television and corporate live entertainment. In

her 10 years working in the industry, she has had the pleasure of working alongside many talented artists, and is very excited to help remount *A Story Before Time* in her home city! Recent credits include Lighting Design for *The Honouring*, *Susuriwka: Willow Bridge* and *TransMigration* (Kaha:wi Dance Theatre), Production Management *loveloss* (Dancemakers) and Stage Management for *Half Life Motel* (Blue Ceiling Dance/Flightworks). Coming up in November, Alaina is excited to be working as the Lighting Designer for this year's Cavalcade of Lights at Nathan Phillips Square! When she's not freelancing, Alaina is the Head Studio Technician and Production Coordinator for Dancemakers & the Centre for Creation. She also works full time for Westbury National Show Systems Ltd. as a Lighting Technician and Moving Light Programmer.



DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

PLAYWRIGHT

Drew Hayden Taylor is one of Canada's leading Native writers and humorists. His unique style of Native commentary

and storytelling has struck a chord with audiences not only at home but abroad, leading to his considerable success as playwright, author and screenwriter. Taylor's plays have won several awards and been produced throughout Canada and the U.S. and studied as far away as Germany Italy and New Zealand. He is a frequent lecturer and speaker for universities in Canada and the U.S. He has also lent his voice to many of Canada's most celebrated

Background Information on the Creation of the Show

A Story Before Time premiered as a part of The Banff Centre for the Arts, Summer Arts Festival in 2007. The production has toured to the following venues: Sanderson Centre (2008), Betty Oliphant Theatre (2008), Nozhem First People's Performance Space (2008), Mashantucket Pequot Museum (2008), Connecticut (2008), Dofasco Centre for the Arts, Hamilton, ON (2008), Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, Oakville, ON (2008), Centre for the Arts, Brock University, St. Catharine's, ON (2008), River Run Centre, Guelph, ON (2008), Market Hall Theatre, Peterborough (2009), Calgary International Children's Festival, Martha Cohen Theatre (2009), Surrey International Children's Festival, Surrey Arts Centre (2009), Saskatchewan International Children's Festival, Saskatoon, Broadway Theatre (2009), Hartwick College, New York (2010), International Performing Arts for Youth Conference, Pittsburgh International Children's Theater (2010).

A Story Before Time was nominated for two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Performance (Ensemble) in Dance.

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Special Thanks to Jacquie Lazar

For Discussion After the Play

- How did the human characters and the animal characters work together in the story? What did this teamwork allow them to achieve?
- Where in the performance did we see characters take responsibility for their environment?
- How did The Bent One and Holder of the Heavens' relationship change the world?
- What does rivalry mean? What impact do rivalry and conflict have on our world?
- Why do people dance? What are some different reasons that we use dance today (i.e. in celebration, ceremony, or to tell a story)?

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE (YPT) is the oldest continuously operating theatre company in Toronto and is a national producer and presenter of theatre for young audiences. Over the past 48 years many of the important pieces that form the canon of plays for young audiences in Canada have appeared on our stages. We continue to develop new work and create partnerships with theatre companies across the country and around the world.

Learning is at the centre of everything we do. When young people come to our theatre, we hope that they will be entertained – but not just by a pleasant, fleeting distraction. We want them to be imprinted with so powerful an experience that it expands their capacity to learn. When young people are immersed in the imaginary world of a play, the experience isn't less important to them because it isn't real. Children make imagined experience *real* experience.

Through the professional theatrical work produced on our stages, and through the enriched learning experiences we offer with our Education & Participation programs, YPT provides young people with ways to develop their whole being. This is central to YPT's artistic policy. We want to have a positive and lasting impact on the emotional, social, and intellectual development of young people – in order for them to grow into the unique and wonderful people they were born to be.

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Drama School Throughout the Year

Fall/Winter/Spring Sessions

SEPTEMBER - JUNE | GRADES JK - 12

Confidence, Communication, Creativity

Explore and experiment with essential drama skills in the Fall and Winter sessions. The Spring session culminates in a final presentation on the Mainstage.

Summer Camps

JULY - AUGUST | AGES 6 - 18

Two-week sessions of excitement, creativity and non-stop fun. Have a blast, make great friends and create a play. Registration opens in January.

March Break Camps

MARCH 10 - 14, 2014 | GRADES JK - 6

Make this a Spring Break to beat any trip south! Just like our Summer Session, and just as much fun!

The Ensemble Programs

JANUARY - JUNE | GRADES 9 - 12 & 7 - 8

Write, act, create! An exciting collective piece for committed students who want to take their skills a level further.

Audition Coaching

JULY - JUNE | GRADES 7 - 12

Personal coaching sessions are available, providing invaluable preparation for that big audition for an arts school or new play. YPT will put you in contact with selected members of our talented faculty to address the particular needs of the student.

CALL OR CLICK TODAY!
416.862.2222 | YOUNGPEOPLESTHEATRE.CA

Annie TYA



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EXTENDED! ON THE MAINSTAGE | NOV. 11 - DEC. 29
2 SHOWS DAILY DURING HOLIDAY WEEK (DEC. 26-29)
RECOMMENDED FOR SK-GRADE 7 | AGES 5 & UP

**A tuneful Broadway classic
to brighten up your winter.**



Jenny Weisz (with Monty); Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann