

DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR (PLAYWRIGHT) An Ojibway from the Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario, Mr. Taylor he has worn many hats in his literary career, from performing stand-up comedy at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., to being Artistic Director of Canada's premiere Native theatre company, Native Earth Performing Arts. He has been an award-winning playwright, a journalist/columnist (appearing regularly in several Canadian newspapers and magazines), short-story writer, novelist, television scriptwriter, and has worked on numerous documentaries exploring the Native experience. Most notably as a filmmaker, he wrote and directed REDSKINS, TRICKSTERS AND PUPPY STEW, a documentary on Native humour for the National Film Board of Canada, and for CBC, co-created SEARCHING FOR WINNITOU, an exploration of Germany's fascination with North American Indigenous culture.

An author of more than 20 plays (resulting in almost a hundred productions), his popular plays such as TORONTO AT DREAMER'S ROCK, ONLY DRUNKS AND CHILDREN TELL THE TRUTH, THE BERLIN BLUES, and COTTAGERS AND INDIANS have left their mark on the Canadian theatre scene. His novels include THE NIGHT WANDERER, MOTORCYCLES & SWEETGRASS (Finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction), TAKE US TO YOUR CHIEF AND OTHER STORIES, and CHASING PAINTED HORSES.

Self-described as a contemporary story teller, he co-created and was the head writer for MIXED BLESSINGS, a television comedy series as well as contributed scripts to four other popular Canadian television series including BEACHCOMBERS and NORTH OF 60. In 2007, a made-for-tv movie he wrote, IN A WORLD CREATED BY A DRUNKEN GOD (based on his play which was a finalist for the Governor General Award for Drama) was nominated for three Gemini Awards, including Best Movie. In 2011 and 2012, he wrote the script for the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, now known as the INDSPIRE AWARDS

The last few years has seen him proudly serve as the Writer-In-Residence at the Berton House in Dawson City Yukon, the University of Michigan, the University of Western Ontario, University of Luneburg (Germany), Ryerson University, Wilfrid Laurier, as well as a host of Canadian theatre companies i.e. Cahoots theatre, Blyth Theatre etc.

JONATHAN TAYLOR (CULTURAL CONSULTANT) Jonathan Taylor is an Anishnaabe from the Curve Lake First Nation in Ontario, Canada. He writes poetry, is an Anishnaabemowin language consultant, and teaches Anishnaabemowin to children and adults in his community. Jonathan's writing has appeared in Red Ink Magazine, The Yellow Medicine Review, Quills Canadian Poetry Journal, and the Muckleshoot Review. He belongs to the Turtle clan.

SHARON MCCUNE (Associate Producer & Curator, ETC Cycle) Ms. McCune is a mainstay of Pittsburgh theater, having performed most recently in Jay Ball's World Premiere adaptation of An Odyssey for Quantum, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Bricolage Production Company, The REP, and Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks as Brutus in Julius Caesar (the first all-female cast). Regionally, Ms. McCune has worked with Barter Theater, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, First-Stage Milwaukee (World Premiere of Burgess Clark's adaptation of Island of the Blue Dolphins), Phoenix Theater (Twelfth Night directed by Sir John Barton), Stage One, New Harmony Theater, American Players Theater, Native Voices at the Autry, Academy for New Musical Theater, Theater Neo, and the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, where she is a co-founding company member.

PICT
classic theatre

EXPAND  CANON

2021-2022 STAGED READING CYCLE

COTTAGERS & INDIANS

BY DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

DECEMBER 12, 2021 | 2PM & 7PM
LEVY HALL AT RODEF SHALOM
DIRECTED BY VANESSA VIVAS

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



PRESENTS

COTTAGERS & INDIANS

BY DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

DIRECTED BY VANESSA VIVAS

STAGE MANAGEMENT BY KAREN BAUM*

STARRING:

ERNEST BRIGGS* ARTHUR COPPER
AMY LANDIS* MAUREEN POOLE

CULTURAL CONSULTANT
JONATHAN TAYLOR

COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER & SERIES CURATOR
SHARON MCCUNE

SPECIAL THANKS TO
MARLEE LYONS & THE STAFF OF RODEF SHALOM
ELISA BLANDFORD & NATIVE VOICES AT THE AUTRY

ERNEST BRIGGS* (ARTHUR COPPER) Ernest is a proud Native American (White Earth Band of Chippewa) professional actor from the Twin Cities who has worked in Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles and Florida (Film, T.V., Stage, & commercial) for over 10 years and is the current artistic Director of Turtle Theater Collective. Ernest is currently a visiting professor at Gustavus Adolphus College and is teaching improv and acting at the Guthrie Theater.

Ernest received his Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Florida and attended the American Academy of the Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. He also studied improv at Brave New Workshop in Minneapolis and Upright Citizens Brigade in Los Angeles.

As an actor Ernest has been seen on stage at the Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Teatro Del Pueblo, Nimbus Theatre, Wanderlust Productions, Turtle Theater Collective, Artistry Theatre, SideKick Theater, Minnesota History Theatre, South Coast Repertory (Costa mesa, California), Tilted Windmills Theatricals (Gainesville, Florida) and Native Voices at the Autry (Los Angeles, California) to name a few. In addition, Ernest has had supporting roles in such independent feature films as Atarax, A Method, Area of Conflict, To Say Goodbye, Nina of the Woods and SOLD OUT (currently streaming on Amazon prime), among others.

When Ernest is not acting, writing, directing, producing or teaching he spends his time with his wife and children. www.ernestbriggs.com

AMY LANDIS*(MAUREEN POOLE) Amy is excited to be part of Expand the Canon at PICT! Most recently, Amy appeared with Pittsburgh Public Theater in Black Ballerina, and Tartuffe for PlayTime and Sweat on the mainstage. Recent NYC: Urban Stages/Off Broadway: The Pink Unicorn. Regional Theater: American Repertory Theatre, Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre (MA); Meadow Brook Theatre (MI); Fulton Opera House, Gretna Playhouse, Actor's Company of Pennsylvania, Independent EYE, Open Stage of Harrisburg (PA); Centenary Stage, (NJ); Seven Angels (CT). Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Public Theater (seven seasons), Off The WALL (four seasons); Pittsburgh Playhouse-The REP (six seasons), Bricolage Production Company (six seasons), and others. Amy serves on the faculty of the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University and is a Teaching Artist at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre and CLO. She is a graduate of the American Repertory Theatre Institute at Harvard University.

KAREN BAUM* (STAGE MANAGER) This marks Karen's 27th PICT production. A proud AEA and SAG-AFTRA member, she has worked in her hometown with The Pittsburgh Public, City Theatre, Off the WALL, UnSeam'd Shakespeare, St. Vincent, Bricolage, No Name Players, The REP, SQUONK Opera, CMU Interactive, and in local film; regionally in KY, NY, and IL. She teaches acting and Shakespeare for PICT, The Public, Pittsburgh CLO, and Hope Academy. Thanks to Alan for the opportunity, and Catherine Kolos & Cory Goddard for their patient teaching.

VANESSA VIVAS (DIRECTOR) Vanessa Vivas (she/her) is a Venezuelan actress, writer, director, and multi-hyphenate creator based in Brooklyn, NY. She recently had her NYC stage production debut as the stage manager for Randomly Specific Theatre's Last Chance for Mama at The Chain Theatre. She has received honorable mentions for "Best First-Time Director (Female)" and "Best Women Short" at the Independent Shorts Awards for her directorial film debut "Transplant". She is a graduate of Point Park University's Theatre Arts program. She is ecstatic and grateful to be part of this year's Expand The Canon Series.



*Artists appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union of Actors & Stage Managers in the United States of America. PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING OF THIS READING IS PROHIBITED