STAGING EQUALITY RETURNS WITH AN INSPIRING THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES PERFORMANCE

Local IBPoC Artists and UVic Students Collaborate to Bring Powerful Tales to Life

The Staging Equality team who brought you *Journey to Mapu* (2021), *Kamloopa: An Indigenous Matriarch Story* (2021), *Im:print* (2022) and *It's Just Black Hair* (2023) is back with more performances for, with, and about Indigenous, Black, and people of colour.

This added season show premieres two original performances inspired by children's storybooks. Presented as a double-bill in collaboration with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and sponsored by Island Parent.

The Woman Who Outshone the Sun
By Rosalma Zubizarreta, Harriet Rohmer, David Schecter.
Based on a poem by Alejandro Cruz Martinez

Lucia Zenteno's arrival in the remote mountains of central Mexico stirs both fear and wonder among the villagers. Some believe her long black hair eclipses the sun, while others see it as a radiant light. When Lucia is banished from the village due to fear, they witness an astonishing phenomenon: their cherished river refuses to part from Lucia. The legend of Lucia Zenteno unfolds as the entire village embarks on a quest to seek her forgiveness and receive their water back.

Through vivid imagery and lyrical language, it explores themes of judgement, discrimination and the true meaning of forgiveness, woven against the backdrop of nature, land and the precarity of these natural gifts.

Shi-shi-etko
By Nicola Campbell

A heartfelt children's story that traces the journey of a young Indigenous girl as she prepares to leave her family and attend residential school. Shi-shi-etko devotes her final days to her homeland, immersing herself in the beauty and wisdom of the natural world and exploring the Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

The story artfully depicts Shi-shi-etko's profound connection with her culture, surroundings and family. This touching tale navigates themes of love, resilience and the importance of preserving heritage in the face of adversity.

Featuring Krystal Cook, Shi-shi-etko narrator
Krystal Cook is a Kwakwaka'wakw woman from the Namgis First Nation of Alert Bay, B.C. She has been a writer, performer of theatre and poet, and has worked as facilitator of Healing through the Arts for over ten years. She is a graduate of the En'owkin International School of Writing at the University of Victoria, and the Centre for Indigenous Theatre in Toronto. Krystal has performed her one-woman show Emergence at IMPACT Theatre Festival, Uno Fest, FemFest, and Puente Meli Festival. Krystal currently works in Aboriginal Education with the Aboriginal Nations Education Division in Victoria.

Featuring Paulina Grainger, The Woman who Outshone the Sun narrator
Grainger is an arts administrator, actor-producer and a storyteller who creates innovative projects that use film, photography, movement, storytelling, theatre and mask work to bring the immigrant and refugee experience to life. Currently with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, she is committed to telling the stories of newcomers while continuing to challenge and deepen the community's learning and understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in Canada.

Subscriptions on sale now. Single tickets on sale October 3, 2023