

# NEW BLOOD

## A STORY OF RECONCILIATION

Conceived & Directed by Deanne Bertsch & Eulalia Running Rabbit

Featuring performers from Strathmore, Alberta & Siksika Nation

The music of Peter Gabriel and Blackfoot tradition combine in the inspiring true story of Vincent Yellow Old Woman – his journey of healing from residential school to becoming chief of his people. Featuring performers from Siksika Nation and the Alberta Badlands.

A BURNT THICKET THEATRE PRESENTATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

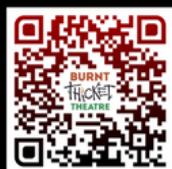
PERSEPHONE THEATRE & GORDON TOOTOOSIS NĪKĀNĪWIN THEATRE

MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> + 11<sup>TH</sup> AT Rawlco Radio Hall  
Remai Arts Centre

Get tickets & see trailers at:

**BURNTTHICKET.COM**

**BOX OFFICE: 306-384-7727**





Burnt Thicket Theatre is an indie company creating work that brings awareness to real issues in our community, planting seeds for positive social change.

We offer theatre events that give audiences a visceral immersion in another human being's lived experience, believing that "walking in someone else's shoes" is part of theatre's power. We believe in empowering artists to make new work, and most of our productions are the fruit of script development processes.

Created in 2007 in Calgary, Burnt Thicket Theatre moved to Saskatoon in 2017. To date we have generated 9 professional productions that performed in 27 cities across Canada. Our 2012 *She Has a Name* national tour impacted audiences from Halifax to Victoria with the struggle against human trafficking. Our most recent world premiere tour, *My Little Plastic Jesus*, provoked dialogue about religion, politics and identity in living rooms across the prairies. Our production of *Every Brilliant Thing* inspired honest conversation about suicide and emotional wellness, most recently among nearly two thousand patrons at Rosebud Theatre last summer. In 2021-2022 we produced two fiction podcast series of world premiere plays for the ear. The latest is *We Treaty People*, in which 49 Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists collaborated on 19 episodes about truth and reconciliation, now playing on our website and podcast apps.

We believe sharing stories that kindle hopeful change in people's lives matters greatly, and it only happens through the collaborative faith and effort of a host of artists, donors and supporters, far beyond the artists and our staff listed here.

**BTT Staff:** Brooklynn Bitner (Marketing Associate), Tim Bratton (Artistic Associate), Yulissa Campos (Producing Associate), Stephen Waldschmidt (Artistic Director)



## Land Acknowledgment

This beautiful land on which we gather today is Treaty Six territory. We are all Treaty People. Burnt Thicket Theatre works to honour the Indigenous spirit of the treaties, where treaty creates ties of kinship, of belonging together on the land, with commitments of reciprocity and mutual cooperation. So we work to collaborate respectfully with descendants of the original caretakers of these lands, and to participate in positive systemic change. This land is the traditional meeting ground and homeland of the First Nations, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Nakoda, Lakota, and Dakota Nations, as well as the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to create and perform on this land that we share, understanding that this place has a rich, living history of Indigenous arts and culture. We'd like to encourage all of us to continue our learning journeys towards truth, reconciliation, and growing as peacemakers in our neighbourhoods and our nations.

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Persephone Theatre and Gordon Tootoosis Nīkāniwin Theatre

### Cast

**Narrator** - Eulalia Running Rabbit

**Drummer** - Skip Wolf Leg

**Blackfoot Performers** - Trinity Pretty Youngman, Straeden Running Rabbit, Skylar Running Rabbit, Honey Ayoungman, Kiaora Morningbull, Lessia Breaker, Tia Wolfleg, Oceana Duck Chief, Destyn Wolfchild

**Child** - Trinity Pretty Young Man, Tia Wolfleg

**Spirit Dancers** - Trinity Haynes, Josie Herriot, Jenna Parkyn, Bailey Dallas, Lia Chang, Anthony Laycock, Preston Langille, Montana McHugh, Ayaka Sato, Sabrina Schultz

**Windows** - Katelyn Cumming, Roo Van Bussell, Preston Langille, Mary Harper, Raine Schraa

**Priest** - Anthony Laycock

**Hawk Spirit Protector** - Charlie Ziehr (principal)

**Singers** - Sho Blunderfield, Deanne Bertsch

### Artistic and Production Staff

**Director** - Deanne Bertsch

**Make-up Designer** - Lucie Brouillard

**Stage Manager** - Shyanne Hassett

**Lighting** - Laura Irwin

**Sound** - Jayden Donnelly

**Artwork** - George Littlechild

**Follow Spot Operators** - Ryder Hermanson, Adrianna Carlson

## **Program Order** (All music by Peter Gabriel)

**Rhythm of the Heat** – The Fur Trade

**Red Rain** – Small Pox

**Don't Give Up** – Taking the Children

**Down Side Up** – Reservations

**San Jacinto** – Losing Culture

**Wallflower** – Residential School

**In Your Eyes** – Return to the Cliffs

**Digging in the Dirt** – Unmarked Graves

**Mercy Street** – Addiction

**The Nest that Sailed the Sky** – Reclaiming Culture

**Solsbury Hill** – Coming Home

**The Book of Love** – Reconciliation

## **Poems Included**

**"The Indian in the Child"** by Sandra Sutter and Jim Pearce

**"Words to A Grandchild"** by Chief Dan George

## **Director's Note**

*New Blood* has taken me on a journey of learning, loving, understanding, and hope. It is probably the most important piece of theatre I have been lucky enough to be a part of. It has created relationships between cast members that wouldn't exist otherwise, and it has initiated valuable discussions between cast members and our audiences. It has helped to create reconciliation and healing for those who have experienced it.

Over a decade ago I was invited to choreograph Burnt Thicket Theatre's *She Has A Name*. Working on that production moved me towards devising theatre inspired by the people and social justice realities around us, plays that could truly make a difference, and that led, in part, to *New Blood*. We are so excited to bring this story to Saskatoon and share it with you.

Thank you to Burnt Thicket, Stephen Waldschmidt, Persephone Theatre, and Gordon Tootoosis Nīkāniwin Theatre for your support and for hosting us with such generous spirits.

*-Deanne Bertsch*



## Artistic Directors' Notes

We've wanted to bring *New Blood* to Saskatoon for years. Deanne Bertsch's choreography was a central part of our *She Has a Name* national tour, which shone a light on human trafficking. I'm grateful that Deanne's experience with that show influenced her work since, and became one of the paths that led to *New Blood*. May this beautiful story, in resonance with our *We Treaty People* fiction podcast, invite each of us to take another step forward towards truth, reconciliation, and healing.

–Stephen Waldschmidt, Artistic Director, Burnt Thicket Theatre

*New Blood* is a unique performance that heads straight to the heart. A piece that keeps the forgotten unforgotten.

–Jennifer Dawn Bishop, Artistic Director, Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre

*New Blood* brings beauty and strength to the journey towards reconciliation, through a powerful story of cultural reclamation. I am looking forward to the deep conversations our community will have as a result of witnessing it.

–Heather Cant, Artistic Director, Persephone Theatre

## What's your next step toward Truth and Reconciliation?

Here are a few ideas:

- Go for a walk in a neighbourhood that is not yours and say hello to someone you don't know.
- Ask a friend to join you in reading the TRC's Calls To Action and commit together to act on them: [tinyurl.com/TRC-CallsToAction](https://tinyurl.com/TRC-CallsToAction) or [nctr.ca](https://nctr.ca)
- Check out online resources like:
  - Reconciliation Saskatoon's paths to action: <https://www.beaconnectr.org/>
  - We Treaty People's ways to learn & take action: <https://burntthicket.com/we-treaty-people-action/>
  - Office of the Treaty Commissioner's ways to get involved: <http://www.otc.ca/>



## Burnt Thicket sends special thanks to:

Deanne Bertsch, Eulalia Running Rabbit, and all the artists of New Blood;

Heather Cant and all the staff at Persephone Theatre for supporting us in every department, including Melanie Vanderlinde, Dan Hudson and the Box Office Team, Derek Butt, and Jody Longworth;

Jennifer Dawn Bishop, Ed Mendez, and all the staff at Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre;

Yvette Nolan, Lyndon Linklater, Elizabeth Ahenakew, Darrell Paskimen, the drummers of Oskayak High School and Principal Ted View;

All our sponsors (see front cover); especially presentation sponsor Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation; student matinee sponsors Mennonite Central Committee SK and Lakeview Church; and Executive Arrangements;

Randy Klassen, Paul Morgan, Rhett Sangster and The Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Carrie and Reconciliation Saskatoon, Don Ewles and Saskatoon Community Foundation, Alan Long and Wanuskewin, Rachel Smith and Bannock Express, Quality Inn and Suites, Sam David, Santosh Ninan, and Søren Siebert;

Our Board Members: Jessica Isaak, Carol Tebay, Grant Schroeder, Adam Bourassa, Brendan Andrews, Rod Schellenberg, and Becky Thomas;

Burnt Thicket's generous donors, without whom we could not create and present theatre that matters.

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Circle of Voices 2022 - 2023

# Dead Hand Signal

Written by  
Logan Martin-Arcand

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 **Persephone**  
theatre

A TARRAGON THEATRE AND BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP PRODUCTION

# OUR FATHERS, SONS, LOVERS AND LITTLE BROTHERS

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY  
MAKAMBE K SIMAMBA

March 16 - 29, 2023  
Backstage Stage  
[persephonetheatre.org](http://persephonetheatre.org)





# WE TREATY PEOPLE

**9 digital audio plays** and **9 interviews** by a diverse group of 49 artists exploring the question, **"What does it mean to embrace all our relations?"** Be provoked by this original fiction podcast and hear the stirring call to truth and reconciliation in our neighbourhoods, all across Canada. **Captivating, unsettling, refreshing.**

**BURNT  
THICKET  
THEATRE**

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wherever you get your podcasts or at:  
**[burntthicket.com](http://burntthicket.com)**

Gratefully created on Treaty 6 Territory and the  
traditional homeland of the Métis



**Help us create more theatre that kindles hopeful change!**



We do our best to keep ticket prices affordable for everyone, but it means ticket revenues only cover half our expenses. We're able to tell stories that matter through generous support from private donors like you. Consider playing-it-forward and donating today to ensure someone else gets to experience stories like this.

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Or send an e-transfer to [donate@burntthicket.com](mailto:donate@burntthicket.com), or a cheque payable to Burnt Thicket Theatre, 50 Neilson Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 3N5. Thank you for your consideration. Our CRA Charitable Registration number is 820034635RR0001.