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COTTAGERS & INDIANS

BY DREW
HAYDEN TAYLOR



#gctcCottagersAndIndians

TARRAGON THEATRE

NOV 26 — DEC 15 2019—20
SEASON

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES



PRESS CLIPPINGS AND AUDIENCE QUOTES ABOUT THIS PLAY INCLUDE PLENTY OF REFERENCES TO THE BALANCED NATURE OF ITS ARGUMENT AND THE PLAYWRIGHT'S GENEROSITY IN NOT TAKING SIDES.

He is generous, alright, but a considerable amount of that generosity is measured in the volume of shade that he casually tosses in the direction of ongoing colonialism. Without giving anything away, consider the ease with which the cottager attaches timelessness to something that spans less than a single generation. There's also a reference to the use of modern

technology while harvesting a traditional resource, as though the two things should be mutually exclusive. The notion that Indigenous people should exist in a kind of temporal vacuum is extremely problematic and, unfortunately, doesn't seem to be going away. I'm grateful that Indigenous artists from around the globe continue to challenge that position with increasingly effective work — even cursory visits to the magnificent *Ābadkone, Continuous Fire* at the National Gallery and *Inaabiwin* at the Ottawa Art Gallery will make this point more effectively than I can hope to do in 300 words.

If literature is more your bag, then, in addition to the suggestions on our *Stages and Pages* list (I especially endorse Chelsea Vowel's *Indigenous Writes*), I highly recommend several titles from my own reading list:

- *My Conversations With Canadians* by Lee Maracle
- *All My Relations* by Tanya Talaga
- *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King
- *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back* by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

All of these books provide a strong sense of the complexities of Indigenous life here, and I encourage everyone to explore the ideas that these authors offer. Thank you for joining us for *Cottagers and Indians* and thank you to our wonderful friends and colleagues at the Tarragon Theatre for sharing this production with Ottawa.

Hóy7sxaq'e,

ERIC COATES

Artistic Director, GCTC



IT'S BEEN SAID THAT EVERYTHING IS POLITICAL — WHERE YOU COME FROM, WHAT YOU EAT, WHERE YOU SPEND YOUR RECREATIONAL TIME, WHAT CEREAL YOU EAT, ETC.

A story like this epitomizes the unfortunate differences between cultures, economic status, and people. In one way, it's quite sad that *Cottagers and Indians* is loosely based on real events. On the other hand, it's quite silly too. You'll find this happens frequently in the First Nations community ... and in a few others I've heard but can't confirm. Please enjoy the story, the barbecue chicken, the *manoomin*, and the people (you may know people like this).

Special thanks to Richard, Tarragon, Patti and the cast and crew for bringing my story to life. If there is a theatre heaven, I'll make sure you have front row seats. If you're a theatrical agnostic, never mind.

Ch'meegwetch,

DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

Playwright, Cottagers and Indians

COTTAGERS AND INDIANS

BY DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM APPEAR IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

CAST

Arthur | **Herbie Barnes**
Maureen | **Philippa Domville**

CREATIVE TEAM

Set Designer | **Robin Fisher**
Stage Manager | **Meghan Speakman**
Costume Designer | **Sage Paul**
Assistant Director |
Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster
Lighting Designer | **Nick Andison**
Sound Designer | **Beau Dixon**
Director | **Richard Rose**

PRODUCTION CREW

Technical Director | **Kyle Ahluwalia**
Head of Props and Head Scenic Painter |
Stephanie Dahmer Brett
Head of Wardrobe | **Vanessa Imeson**
Assistant Technical Director and
Lighting Operator | **Sean Lamothe**
Assistant Technical Director (Studio) |
Jonah Lerner

PLEASE NOTE

- *Cottagers and Indians* runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.
- The use of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off.
- Please do not walk in the performance area of the stage.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

The cast and crew of *Cottagers and Indians* would like to thank the Centre for Indigenous Theatre for the loan of the canoe. The canoe frame was constructed by Tim Hill of The Rabbit's Choice.

The Great Canadian Theatre Company engages members of the Local 471 of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees.

We acknowledge the support of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), an agency of the Government of Ontario, which last year funded 1,737 individual artists and 1,095 organizations in 223 communities across Ontario for a total of \$52.1 million.

GCTC invites you to visit the

LORRAINE 'FRITZI' YALE GALLERY

in the Upper Lobby of the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre to view the artwork of **Izzy Grant**, on exhibit between **Nov 26, 2019 – Jan 19, 2020**.

The exhibition is curated by the Ottawa School of Art.

FICTION

MOTORCYCLES AND SWEETGRASS

Drew Hayden Taylor, 2010. 348pp.

Also available in eBook format.

A mysterious stranger rides into the Otter Lake reserve, throwing the community into turmoil. Drew Hayden Taylor uses the same light-hearted humour that characterizes his plays to tackle tough subjects in his first adult novel.

MOCCASIN SQUARE GARDENS: SHORT STORIES

Richard Van Camp, 2019. 160pp.

Also available in eBook format.

An irreverently funny collection of stories about modern life in and around Fort Smith, NWT, featuring a memorable cast of Indigenous characters and a surprisingly dark undercurrent of environmental horror.

A SHORT HISTORY OF INDIANS IN CANADA

Thomas King, 2005. 232pp.

In this eclectic collection of darkly humorous stories King makes cutting commentary on historical and modern injustices.

NON-FICTION

RETURN TO MANOMIN (FILM)

*Michelle DeRosier, 2012. 67 min.
Available on DVD and streaming video.*

This intimate film documents three years as the filmmaker and her family attempt to revive their traditional wild rice harvesting practice.

ME FUNNY

Drew Hayden Taylor, 2006. 176pp.

A collection of articles by North-American Indigenous writers on the broad topic of Indigenous humour, mixed with occasional jokes — funny and thought-provoking.

INDIGENOUS WRITES: A GUIDE TO FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT ISSUES IN CANADA

*Chelsea Vowel, 2016. 290pp.
Also available in eBook format.*

This accessible book is a great resource for learning more about Indigenous issues in Canada.

PLANTS HAVE SO MUCH TO GIVE US, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ASK: ANISHINAABE BOTANICAL TEACHINGS

Mary Siisip Geniusz, 2015. 372pp.

History, culture and botany are interwoven in this collaboration between an Ojibwe author and medicine woman and her daughter, a professor of Ojibwe language.



HERBIE BARNES – ARTHUR COPPER

For Tarragon | *Cottagers and Indians*

Selected Credits | *Sir John Eh!*, *Stuff Happens*,
Alice Through the Looking Glass

Selected Film and Television | *Guilt Free Zone*, *Tipi Tales*

Upcoming | *Inheritance* (Directing), *Sir John Eh!* (Acting)

Awards | Sterling, John Hirsch (Directing)

Other | To my family that lets me play...TY.

Also this year marks 30 years of working with Drew Hayden Taylor.



BEAU DIXON – COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGN

Selected Theatre | *Christmas Carol* (St. John Theatre Co.);

291 Letters (Ryerson); *The Big Sleep* (Vertigo Theatre);

Rifles (Shaw/Praxis/NSTF/Factory); *Othello* (Mysterious Entity);

Oregano (Storefront Theatre); *Wings Of Wax* (EC Theatre);

Berlin Blues, *Bad Luck Bank Robbers* (4th Line Theatre)

Selected Acting | *Ghost Quartet* (Crow's/Eclipse); *Hamlet*,

Harlem Duet, *Next To Normal* (Tarragon); *Guys 'n' Dolls*,

HMS Pinafore (Stratford Festival); *The Father* (Coalmine Theatre);

Motherf@#ler With The Hat (Alberta Theatre Projects)

Selected Writing | *Once A Flame*, *From Here To Africville*

(Factory Theatre) *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story*
(Lunchbox Theatre)

Awards and Nominations | Calgary Critic's Award (Best Individual Performance), nomination (Best Touring Play), two Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Best New Play, Best Individual Performance TYA), Betty Mitchell nomination (Best Male Performance).

Beau is a KM Hunter award finalist and a recipient of Peterborough's Pathway of Fame. He is also a recording artist with three solo albums under his name. www.beaudixon.com



COURTNEY CH'NG LANCASTER – ASST. DIRECTOR

For Tarragon | *Three Women of Swatow* (Upcoming), *The Message*

Elsewhere | Director, *The Wolves* (Crow's Theatre/Howland

Company); *52 Pick-Up* (Howland Company); *Cannibal* (Scrap Paper

Theatre); *Gray* (Theatre Inamorata); appeared in *Cyrano de Bergerac*

and *Man and Superman* (Shaw Festival); *I Call myself Princess*

(Cahoots/Native Earth/Paper Canoe); *Innocence Lost: A Play about*

Steven Truscott, *Idomeneus*, *Incident at Vichy*, *Marat/Sade*,

Eurydice, Blood Wedding, Spoon River, Alligator Pie, Of Human Bondage, Idiot's Delight, The Barber of Seville, The Royal Comedians, The Crucible (Soulpepper); *Other Jesus* (Public Recordings); *The Flood Thereafter* (Canadian Stage), *The Tin Drum* (UnSpun Theatre); *Pride and Prejudice* (Citadel Theatre); *Anywhere* (One Four One Collective); *Macbeth: Nach Shakespeare* (Theatre Conspiracy)
Training | University of British Columbia; Soulpepper Academy; Citadel Banff Professional Theatre Programme, Loran Scholar



MEGHAN SPEAKMAN – STAGE MANAGER

For Tarragon | *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs, The Children's Republic* Selected Credits: *The Election* (Common Boots), *Hand to God* (Coal Mine), *Outside, The Money Tree, Spirit Horse* (Roseneath), *Athabasca* (Convergence Theatre), *Animal Farm, A Moveable Feast: Paris in the 20s* (Soulpepper), *Stupidhead!* (Passe Muraille), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre), *Dib and Dob and the Journey Home, Peg & the Yeti* (MTYP), *Come Down From Up River* (Foster Festival), *Early August, Real Estate* (Lighthouse), *Lunenburg, One Slight Hitch* (Upper Canada Playhouse)

Upcoming | *Ministry Of Grace* (Belfry Theatre)

Other | Thrilled to be back with Tarragon, and taking this show on the road! Much love to Ephraim, as always.



DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR – PLAYWRIGHT

During the last twenty-five years of his life, Drew Hayden Taylor has done many things, most of which he is proud of. An Ojibway from the Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario, 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 (with over 70 productions of his work), a journalist/columnist (appearing regularly in several Canadian newspapers and magazines), short-story writer, novelist, television scriptwriter, and has worked on over 17 documentaries exploring the Native experience. Most notably, he wrote and directed *REDSKINS, TRICKSTERS AND PUPPY STEW*, a documentary on Native humour for the National Film Board of Canada.



NICK ANDISON – LIGHTING DESIGN

For Tarragon | As lighting designer: *Mustard*, *Midsummer* (*A Play with Songs*); as assistant lighting designer: *The Realistic Joneses*, *Wormwood*, *The Valley*, *No Great Mischief*

Elsewhere | Theatre Smash (as lighting designer: *Das Ding*), Shaw Festival 2017 (as assistant lighting designer: *The Madness of George III*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *A Christmas Carol*), Mirvish (as assistant lighting designer: *Butcher*), Soulpepper (as assistant lighting designer: *True West*, *Farther West*), Thousand Islands Playhouse (as lighting designer: *Das Ding*, as assistant lighting designer: *No Great Mischief*), Fujiwara Dance Interventions (as Technical & Lighting Director: *EUNOIA*)

Other | Graduate of Ryerson Theatre School, BFA Honors 2013



ROBIN FISHER – SET DESIGNER

Elsewhere | Set and costumes for *Obeah Opera* (Luminato Festival/ Asah productions), *Torn Through Time* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), *Avenue Q* (Citadel Theatre), *The Dining Room* (Soulpepper), *The Boy in the Moon* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon* (Globe Theatre), *Hand of Bridge/ Telephone* (Canadian Opera Company)

Set | *Acquiesce* (Factory Theatre) and *Munschtime!* (Young People's Theatre)

Costumes | *Dream a Little Dream* (The Grand Theatre), *Mamma, Mia!* (Globe Theatre), and *The Wizard of Oz* (YPT)

Upcoming | Set and Costume Design for *Wendy & Peter Pan* (Stratford Festival)

Robin is the recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore awards and the 2015 Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award for Costume Design.
www.robinfisher.ca



SAGE PAUL – COSTUME DESIGN

Sage Paul is an urban Dene woman and a member of the English River First Nation. She champions community, sovereignty and resistance for balance and makes fashion, costume and craft. Some design credits include: "Awakening" (Short Film, Danis Goulet), "Robin's Hood" (Short Film, Kent Monkman), *Munschtime!* (Young Peoples Theatre), *Almighty Voice and His Wife* (Theatre Kingston), *Divine* (Storefront Theatre), and *Gashkigwaaso* (Dance, Waawaate Fobister). Some of her work has shown at the Royal Ontario Museum, The Centre for Craft, Creativity and Design (North Carolina, USA), and a curated program at Western Canada Fashion Week by Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective. In 2017,

Sage received the Design Exchange RBC Emerging Designer Award in the fashion category, was recognized by FLARE Magazine in their #HowIMadeIt campaign that celebrates 100+ talented and ambitious Canadian women and was honoured by the Ontario Ministry of the Status of Women as a trailblazing woman who is transforming Ontario. Sage is the founder of Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto and is working on two fashion-based projects: Giving Life and The Mint Sweater Project.



RICHARD ROSE – DIRECTOR

Richard Rose is the Artistic Director of Tarragon Theatre. Prior to joining the Tarragon in 2002, Richard was Founding Artistic Director at Necessary Angel (a position he held from 1978–2002), Associate Director for Canadian Stage Company, Director of the Stratford Festival Young Company and spent ten seasons directing at the Stratford Festival.

He has directed plays across Canada, the United States, and in London's West End in styles ranging from the environmental to the classical. Richard is well known for developing new work, including four plays that won the Governor General's Award and nine other nominated plays. He is a four-time Dora award winner for direction and production and has had numerous nominations.

At Tarragon, as director | *Guarded Girls, The Message, The Bake-lite Masterpiece, The Summoned, Wormwood, The Realistic Jones, Abyss, Much Ado About Nothing, An Enemy of the People, A God in Need of Help, The Valley, This is War, No Great Mischief, The Real World?, Forests, Courageous, Another Home Invasion, Molière, Democracy, Scorched, Léo, Humble Boy, Remnants, 3 in the Back, 2 in the Head, It's All True, Prague.*



PATTI SHAUGHNESSY – ORIGINAL DIRECTION

Making her Canadian directing debut with Tarragon Theatre's *Cottagers and Indians*, Patti Shaughnessy is a proud activist, actor, director, and artistic producer of a range of theatre and multi-arts projects over the past decade. Previous international directing credits include, *Ananna A/S (Casa Matriz)*; *Rosa Marie-p tiquartik-kaluarnera (The Occupation of Heather Rose)*; and *Arnatsialaat, (The Rez Sisters)* — all part of Patti's work over the past 5 years as director, instructor, and tour leader for the National Theatre of Greenland.



PHILIPPA DOMVILLE – MAUREEN POOLE

For Tarragon | *Within the Glass, The Trouble with Mr. Adams, If We Were Birds, Chimera, Gravity Calling*

Selected Credits | *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Rough); *Macbeth* (Canadian Stage); *Top Girls* (MTC); *The Penelopiad* (Royal Shakespeare Company/NAC); *Much Ado about Nothing, Comedy of Errors* (Theatre by the Bay); *Time After Time, The Chet Baker Project* (Crow's/Theatre Passe Muraille); *Uncle Vanya, The Madras House, In Good King Charles' Golden Days* (Shaw Festival); *Comedy of Errors, Bacchae, Fair Liberty's Call* (Stratford Festival)

Selected Film and Television | *In the Shadow of the Moon, Damnation, Murdoch Mysteries, Beauty and the Beast, Sworn to Silence, An Accidental Friendship*

Choreography | *Penelopiad* (The Grand Theatre); *The Tempest* (Stratford Festival); *Marilyn the Mermaid, Persephone Project, Grymme* (Theatre Petit Jeu)

Directing | *Skinny Saints* (Theatre Petit Jeu)

Awards | Dora Nomination, Christopher Plumber International Fellowship (Globe Theatre, London England)

Other | Theatre Movement Instructor Ryerson University, Member of ARCA; Artists for Real Climate Action



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Luke Brown

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