



## **BIZHIKI CULTURE & DANCE COMPANY**

Friday, September 20, 2019, at 7:30pm

Tryon Festival Theatre

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## **Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.

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# PROGRAM

## BIZHIKI CULTURE & DANCE COMPANY

### PERFORMANCES

Grand Entry  
Flag Song/Veterans Song  
Invocation  
Men's Traditional  
Women's Jingle  
Men's Woodland  
Women's Traditional  
Men's Grass  
Women's Fancy  
Men's Fancy  
What's Up with the Drum?  
Sneak-up  
Side Step  
Fish Dance  
Round Dance

The Bizhiki Culture & Dance Company loves to engage audiences of all ages. Frequently, the crew enjoys bringing audience members on stage to participate and learn first-hand about the dances and songs. If you are asked to come on stage, it's considered a great honor. Please respect the show and participate. You won't regret it!

If you haven't noticed, humor is a big part of the show. Please don't take offense to any jokes or humor.

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*Krannert Center is grateful for its partnership with Native American House at the University of Illinois in its role as co-curator and cultural consultant for this artist residency.*

This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Illinois Arts Council and the Crane Group. Additional support from the Western Arts Alliance Advancing Indigenous Performance Touring Fund, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS PERFORMANCE

With deep gratitude, Krannert Center thanks all 2019-20 Patron Sponsors and Corporate and Community Sponsors, and all those who have invested in Krannert Center. Please view their names later in this program and join us in thanking them for their support.

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# PROFILES

**BIZHIKIINS** (Bad River)—Bizhikiins is the name that was given to Dylan Jennings who is an enrolled member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. Jennings has served as a tribal councilman for the Bad River Tribe, as the appointed council liaison for the Johnson O'Malley Education Committee, and as a member of the Bad River Drug Task Force. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and archaeology with certificates in American Indian studies and environmental studies. Jennings is committed to living a traditional way of life and to teaching environmental practices, harvesting techniques, and traditional subsistence. Jennings is a staunch advocate for education, language preservation, and environmental protection through reciprocity, and he believes that language and culture can be maintained through a strong connection to and understanding of the environment.

**JASON SCHLENDER** (Lac Courte Oreilles)—Jason Schlender is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. He has served as vice chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board and currently serves as the chairman of Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute and as chairman of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's Voigt Inter-Tribal Taskforce. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and a Master of Arts in tribal administration and governance from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He was previously an instructor at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCOOCC) and was a

culture and language specialist at the Red Cliff Early Childhood Center. Schlender is a second language learner of the Ojibwe language, has studied the Ojibwe language at LCOOCC, and has acquired language by immersing himself in Ojibwe ceremonies and life ways. Schlender is an active treaty rights practitioner and assists his community with seasonal harvest activities and ceremonial events.

**JOSH ATCHEYNUM** (Sweetgrass First Nations)—Josh Atcheynum is a men's northern traditional dancer who has always had a passion for dance. Starting at the age of five, his parents encouraged him to pursue it. Atcheynum's passion for educating people about Native histories, dances, and songs has allowed him to travel all over the world. He says it truly is a blessing to be able to educate people about the first peoples of the land and is always thankful for his parents instilling cultural values into his everyday life.

**SHEENA CAIN** (Lac Courte Oreilles)—Sheena Cain is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. She grew up in a family that always instilled cultural values; today, she passes these values on to her two daughters. Cain is a jingle dress dancer who fell in love with the style at a young age after hearing the stories of healing brought by the dress and dance. She dances for those who need healing, for those who cannot dance, and for those who simply enjoy watching the beauty of our cultures. Dancing is her way of sharing the stories that have been passed down to her to the future generations.

**OGIDIKAAMIG** (Lac Courte Oreilles)—Ogidiikaamig's English name is Mike DeMain. He is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe who grew up steeped in Ojibwe lifeways. Very early on, he understood the importance of passing on teachings from one generation to the next. DeMain is a versatile dancer who began as a men's northern traditional dancer and today dances Woodland. Learning the stories and protocol of both styles of dance, he is well respected in the powwow arena. He is also one of the founding members of the award-winning drum group Pipestone and is known nationally for his singing. DeMain is a devoted father of six who passes these ways on to his children and to the students at the LCO Tribal School where he serves as the cultural teacher.

**NAGAMO-GWIIWIZENS** (Bad River)—Nagamo-Giiwiizens' English name is Bryton Jennings. Jennings is an enrolled member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe in northern Wisconsin. Jennings is a University of Wisconsin-Madison alumnus and currently serves as a bacteriologist in microbiology lab. Jennings has been around the powwow circle for over 20 years, both as a singer and a dancer. He has always had an intense connection to the drum and the lifestyle it has brought him.

**ISHKODE-MA'IINGAN** (Bad River)—Ishkode Ma'iingan's English name is Nathaniel Ante. Ante is a Bad River tribal member with ties to the Milwaukee Indian Community. He has sung with many well-known powwow groups across Indian Country. He currently serves the Bad River community as a youth program director, which provides culturally charged activities and programming for children and teens.

**WAABIZHESHII** (Bad River and Red Cliff)—Waabizheshii's English name is Martin Powless. He comes from both the Bad River Band and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. His career as a singer and dancer began at a very young age. Powless has traveled the country singing with powerhouse drum groups and sharing his gifts around Indian Country. Throughout the region, Powless is also known for his Ojibwe language skills as well as his commitment to ceremonial life and sobriety. Powless currently works for the Bad River Health and Wellness Center as a pharmacy technician.