

ABOUT RED SKY PERFORMANCE

Sandra Laronde, Artistic Director

Internationally renowned for its artistry and innovation, Red Sky is Canada's leading company of world Indigenous performance in dance, theatre, and music. Established in 2000 by Sandra Laronde, this multiaward-winning company creates, produces, and tours original work for audiences on stages across Canada and around the world. Red Sky has garnered an international reputation for collaborating on landmark projects with some of the most prestigious artists and companies from around the globe. Since its inception, Red Sky has captured and ignited the imagination of close to 550,000 people from nine countries on four continents. Red Sky's work highlights the originality and potential of what is possible within contemporary Indigenous performance.



ABOUT THE SHOW

Mistatim is about the taming of a wild horse and the forging of the truest of friendships. A story of reconciliation for children and their families, Mistatim is an intercultural story that combines dance, theatre, mask, storytelling and music into one unforgettable audience experience.

Under a prairie sky, a simple wooden fence is all that separates Calvin on his ranch and Speck on her reservation, but in many ways they are worlds apart, that is – until a wild horse named Mistatim turns their worlds upside down. An unlikely friendship is struck between the two 11-year olds when Calvin attempts to "break" a wild horse that no one else can tame in order to prove himself to his father. Speck, who is struggling to find her place in her family, discovers her incredible gift to communicate with horses. She finds she can empathize with the horse, Mistatim (the Cree word for horse). Working together to rein in the wild horse, Calvin and Speck learn to communicate with one another across the divide of their own cultures.

CULTURE QUIZ

The word *culture* refers to the beliefs, arts, and customs of groups of people. Take this quiz to record some parts of your own culture. After you've filled in your answers, pair up with a classmate to learn about each other.

- 1. What language or languages do you and your family speak?
- 2. What holidays do you celebrate?

DID YOU KNOW?

The United States government established a system of boarding schools similar to the Canadian residential school system referenced in this play. Between 1879 and the mid-1980s, hundreds of thousands of children were enrolled in American Indian boarding schools and separated from their families and culture. The impact of this system is still felt to this day.

- 3. Name your favorite kind of music (or a favorite song):
- 4. Do you know of an "old family recipe" or favorite food for a special occasion? What is it?
- 5. What are ways that we can learn about our own culture or other cultures?

POST-SHOW QUESTIONS

You will have a chance to ask the cast of *Mistatim* questions right after the performance! Here are a few more questions to think about after you leave Krannert Center:

- 1. Speck and Calvin live on either side of a fence.
 Fences can be used to separate things, to keep things out, or to keep things in. Was the fence used in these ways? How did Calvin, Speck, and Mistatim interact with the fence?
- 2. How were dance, movement, and music used to help tell the story of *Mistatim*?
- 3. As Calvin and Speck become friends, they also help each other find ways to face their problems. Describe a time when you had a problem that was hard to face and you got help from someone, or helped someone else.
- 4. How does Speck's relationship with her grandmother change? How does Calvin's relationship with his father change? What role does Mistatim play in making these changes possible?

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MISTATIM CREATED + PRODUCED BY **RED SKY PERFORMANCE**

Concept by Sandra Laronde Written by Erin Shields Directed by Andrea Donaldson Choreographed by Sandra Laronde and Carlos Rivera

Youth Series Performances

Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 10am and 12:30pm Friday, February 10, 2017, at 10am Colwell Playhouse Approximately 45 minutes + 15-minute Q&A

Recommended for grades 3-6

Marquee Public Performance Friday, February 10, 2017, at 7pm

Campaign for Young Audiences

Phyllis and Kyle Robeson, Lead Sponsors **JSM** Susan and Michael Haney Gertrude Brokaw McCloy Endowment Dr. Donna Murray Tiedge and Robert Tiedge WCIA3 Anonymous (2)

Youth Series Programming

Dorothy Buzzard Karen Grano Brenda and Stephen Pacey Jill and James Quisenberry Anne and David Sharpe Prudence and Bernard Spodek The Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed Fund for Youth Programming (Suzi was the founder/developer of the Krannert Center Youth Series) **UpClose Marketing & Printing**

Mistatim

Brenda & Stephen Pacey, Patron Co-sponsors Anonymous, Patron Co-sponsor

Red Sky's touring performances of Mistatim are made possible in part by a grant from Ontario Arts Council's National and International Touring program and Canada Council for the Arts.



Canada Council Conseil des arts for the Arts du Canada







Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to Mistatim on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

www.champaign.org www.urbanafreelibrary.org

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

Krannert Center

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