

INHERITANCE

A PICK-THE-PATH EXPERIENCE

A vast property is up for grabs.
You decide what happens.

www.inheritanceplay.ca

Alley
THEATRE

INHERITANCE

A PICK-THE-PATH EXPERIENCE

Written & Performed by
DANIEL ARNOLD, DARRELL DENNIS, and MEDINA HAHN
Also featuring MICHELLE BARDACH and TOM MCBEATH
Directed by HERBIE BARNES



Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards

**SIGNIFICANT ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT
(OUTSTANDING INNOVATIVE & IMMERSIVE THEATRE)**

Nominations

**OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR
(DARRELL DENNIS)**

**OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION
(LARGE THEATRE)**

World Premiere

March 3 – 15, 2020

ANNEX THEATRE (Vancouver Canada)

Produced by Alley Theatre and Touchstone Theatre
in association with Vancouver Moving Theatre
and community partnership with the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Classification:	Two Act play
Characters:	1 female, 2 male plus 1 female and 1 male on pre-recorded audio/video
Running Time:	1hr 55 mins, including intermission
Audience:	Mature subject matter, 13+

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

using our hashtag: #INHexperience

"A must see"

"Absolutely brilliant!"

"Life-changing and mind-blowing"

"One of the best plays I have ever seen"

"Incredible"

"Groundbreaking and innovative ... humor, depth and believe it or not, fun."

"Playful and provoking! So awesome and necessary."

"I can honestly say that I've never been so excited to see a show a second time."

"I loved it so much I'm going again."

"Extraordinary. Go see it!"

REVIEWS

"Inheritance is what theatre should be. It breaks boundaries, embraces new technology ... It is excellent. It should be required viewing. See it, ask questions, and enjoy the beauty of these incredible artists along the way." - Vancouver Presents

Full review [here](#).

"The creative team is definitely onto something ... digs into land claims and entitlement in engaging new ways, using a lively mix of humour and interactive technology to work through heavy concepts. Viewers go out into the night with the knowledge that land issues will never be solved with an easy click of the button. And more importantly, with plenty to think about their own role in the matter." – Georgia Straight

Full review [here](#).



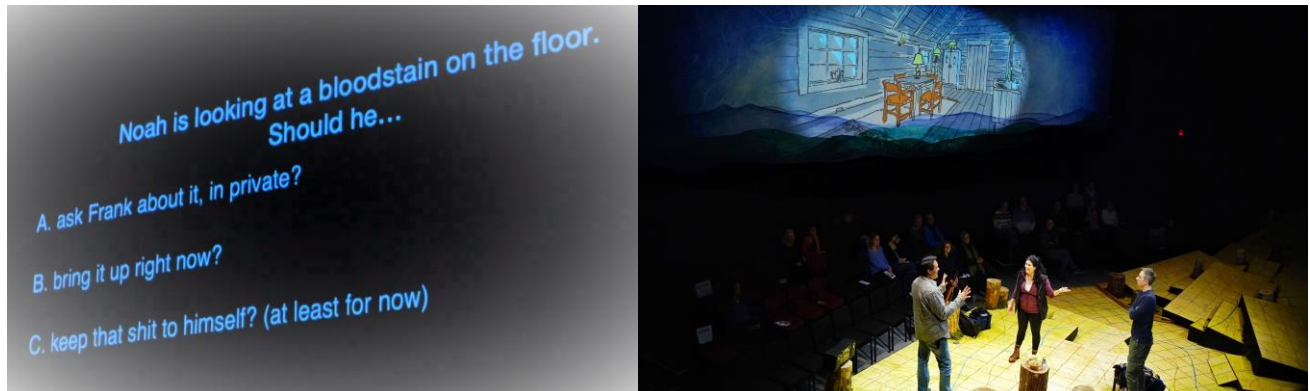
THE EXPERIENCE

You take your seat in the theatre.
You are given a remote control.
The play begins.

At crucial points the action is halted.
With a press of a button you vote for what you want to happen next.
The story proceeds according to audience choice.

Pre-scripted, pre-rehearsed, and over 50 variations.
This is Choose Your Own Adventure theatre.

Urban couple Abbey and Noah are on a getaway to visit her father at his vast rural estate.
But when they arrive, they find him missing and a local Indigenous man, Frank, staying there instead -- claiming that the colonial rights to this entire property are up for grabs.
With humor, suspense, and a race against time, the audience chooses what happens, ultimately deciding how the land will be stewarded, and by whom.



TEAM

Director

Herbie Barnes (Anishinaabe)

Written & Performed by

Daniel Arnold (3rd gen European)

Darrell Dennis (Secwepemc)

Medina Hahn (3rd gen Lebanese/Irish)



Also featuring

Michelle Bardach (Squamish and We Wai Kai First Nation)

Tom McBeath

Production & Design

Production Manager & Technical Director: Mimi Abrahams

Associate Production Manager: Andrew Pye

Stage Manager: Yvonne Yip

Apprentice Stage Manager: Diana Bartosh

Projection Designer: Sammy Chien / Chimerik Collective 似不像

Associate Projection Designer: Yvonne Wallace (Ucwalmicw from the Lil'wat Nation)

Sound Designer & Composer: Mary Jane Paquette

Set Designer: Lauchlin Johnston

Props Designer: Bill Beauregarde (Cree)

Lighting Designer: Jill White

Costume Designer: Carmen Thompson (Diitiidaht/Kyuquot/Coast Salish)

Secwepemc Creative Advisors

Mayuk Manuel and Percy Casper (Secwepemc land defenders)

Local Territory Advisors

Shane Pointe (Musqueam)

Agi Mattias-Paul (Squamish)

Charlene Aleck (Tsleil-Waututh)

Community Engagement Team

Outreach & Engagement Coordinator: Eugene Crain (Cree)

Research & Evaluation Leader: Jennica Nichols

Emotional Support Worker: Ray Thunderchild (Cree)

Post-Show Dialogue Facilitator: Renae Morrissette (Cree / Salteaux)

Advisory & Advocacy Council

Maxine Matilpi and the RELAW project (Revitalizing Indigenous Land, Air and Water)

Krista James and Kathleen Cunningham (BC Law Institute)

Susan Spratt (Council of Canadians)

Stephen Mussell (Cree-Metis lawyer with Mandell-Pinder)

Justin B Neal (TESTIFY Indigenous Law & Arts collective)

Fawn Adolph (Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society)

This production was also a community engagement platform.

\$2 from every ticket sold was donated to our community partner the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, who was crucial in helping to develop the play.

For each performance, we also invited special Guest Witnesses.



Guest Witnesses included:

- Miles Richardson (President of Haida Nation)
- David Suzuki (activist)
- Cecilia Pointe (Director of Aboriginal Tourism)
- The Manuel family (Secwepemc land defenders)
- Chief Bill George Williams (Hereditary Chief of the Squamish Nation)
- Chief Judy Wilson (Neskonlith Indian Band)
- Stephen Mussell (Mandell-Pinder)

Prior to every performance the cast & crew presented each Guest Witness the gift of a blanket, tobacco and a \$100 honorarium.

The guests were invited to speak during the facilitated Post-Show Audience Discussion, which was held after every single performance.



#Inheritance4Action

Before leaving the theatre, each audience member was also given a **fridge magnet** with some simple actions they could take in their everyday lives toward social justice and Indigenous rights.

This magnet was made in collaboration with our Advisory Council.

#Inheritance4Action
What can I do?

LEARN

- Research the territory you were born on and live on
- Know your ancestry and what that means to you
- Read books by Indigenous authors, eg. *Unsettling Canada*, *Peace Pipe Dreams*
- Understand vital documents, eg. TRC report, MMIWG Findings, UNDRIP, The Indian Act

EXPERIENCE

- Check if local Bands or Nations offer educational opportunities
- Attend Indigenous events, eg. Talking Stick Festival, MOA, National Indigenous People's Day
- Take a decolonization workshop, eg. indigenousrelationsconsultation.com, decolonizingpractices.org

TALK

- Question assumptions. Start a conversation.
- Connect with and listen to Indigenous folk, Elders, activists, leaders
- Follow Indigenous folks on social media - amplify their voices!
- Share your knowledge! family, friends, colleagues, neighbours

DO

- Donate to Indigenous nations or causes - add them to your will!
Land/Legal Defence Funds, Friendship Centres
- Support Indigenous protests
- Volunteer
- Refuse to buy property on stolen land
- Hold your government accountable
phone, write letters, vote!

Map based on First Nations of BC (MOA) and www.native-land.ca

Detailed resource list alleytheatre.ca/inheritance4action

Use this as you see fit: On your fridge • At work • Give it to a friend • Put it on a lamp post • Share it on social media

For more information on our community engagement and action, please visit:

www.alleytheatre.ca/inheritance4action

One audience member was so affected by the play that she changed her will.

PLAY INSPIRES WOMAN TO REWRITE HER WILL

Fwd: Inheritance - I picked the path for who to leave my house to!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[REDACTED]@shaw.ca>

Date: Tue, Mar 10, 2020, 1:00 PM

Subject: Re: Inheritance - I picked the path for who to leave my house to!

To: info <info@alleytheatre.ca>

Hi all,

I stopped off after Sunday's performance to talk with the actors and Jennica about how this play made me think about what to do with my house when I die.

Just wanted to let you know I've now written my will so that the proceeds from the sale of my house will go to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship fund. I chose that one because, like his ancestor Joe Capilano, he fought for land rights and because the part in the play where the Frank's daughter couldn't afford to go to UBC really affected me.

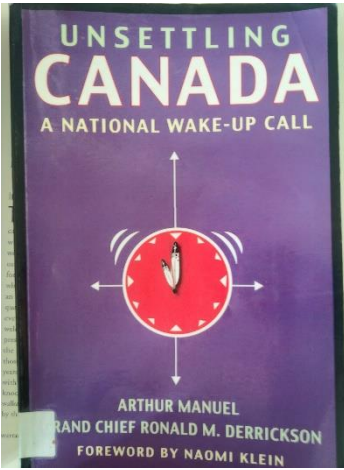
In fact the whole inheritance thing was so well expressed by 'Frank' that it gave me a moment of clarity about what to do - I have no kids or family. For First Nations it isn't just the loss of the land, it's the impact of generations of missing out on the things that ownership of that land could have provided - the freedom brought by financial security, opportunities and self determination. This has an impact on physical and mental health, educational achievement.....so many things.

My great-grandparents, two great uncles and a great aunt were 'given' quarter sections in BC in 1920. Never considered before who had the authority to 'give' that. Didn't know this branch of the family at all, and the land was sold on in the 1960s, but I realised my Vancouver house = land that isn't really mine either. So I decided to do something about that.

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Alley Theatre began developing this play in 2016 and has hosted numerous in-progress voting-readings at various locations, including in Secwepemc territory for the community in which the play is set.

A partnership with the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre was formed in 2017 and includes Indigenous outreach and advisory in exchange for promotion of the Centre, donations to the Centre by attendees at development readings, and \$2 from every ticket sold donated to the Centre.



During development, we received permission from Local Territory Elders to continue working on the play, and some of those Elders continue to advise on wise practices. We paid honorariums for Indigenous persons to attend in-progress readings and give their feedback, and permission for the play to include passages from the book *Unsettling Canada* was granted by BTL Publishing, the Manuel family, and Grand Chief Ron M Derrickson.



Darrell Dennis, Medina Hahn, and Daniel Arnold performing a staged reading (Shadbolt Centre, 2019)

LEAD TEAM BIOGRAPHIES:

HERBIE BARNES – Director

Herbie Barnes (Anishinaabe from Aundeck Omni Kaning on Manitoulin Island) directed ***Tales of an Urban Indian*** (various tours) and other shows including: ***The Remember*** (MTYP), ***Dinky*** and Hayden Taylor’s ***Someday*** (Native Earth), ***Music Man*** (Talk is Free Theatre), ***Oliver the Musical***, ***Alice in Wonderland***, and ***Cotton Patch Gospel*** (Bluff City Theatre, USA). Herbie has taught in inner city high schools, private schools, universities, and many theatre companies and his workshop “***Dropping the Mask***” has been used in treatment centres for work with survivors of abuse. Also an actor, credits include ***Copper Thunderbird*** (National Arts Centre) and the national tour of ***Children of God***.

DANIEL ARNOLD – Writer/Performer (Co-producer at Alley Theatre)

Daniel is a third-generation European settler who grew up in small-town Alberta. He co-wrote/performed two plays with Medina Hahn, ***Tuesdays & Sundays*** and ***Any Night***, both of which toured nationally and internationally to places such as National Arts Centre, Edinburgh, Prague, New Mexico, and New York, consistently being hailed among the “Best Productions of the Year”. Both plays were published in Canada and USA and were nominated for three Jessie Awards each. Daniel also co-wrote and starred in the feature film adaptation of ***Lawrence & Holloman***, and he is a protégé recipient of Canada’s largest theatre award, The Siminovitch Prize.

As an actor and producer: Daniel has performed with the Arts Club, Vancouver Playhouse, Gateway, Firehall, Touchstone, Cultch, Newworld, Blackbird, Pacific, Presentation House, Globe, Centaur, Theatre Network, Theatre Calgary, Vertigo, Theatre Junction, Free Will Players, Western Canada Theatre, TheatreOne, and Sunshine Theatre, garnering an Edmonton Sterling Award and two more nominations and four Vancouver Jessie nominations. With Alley Theatre, he has performed in and co-produced ***The Ridiculous Darkness*** (also adaptation, two Jessie nominations), ***Tape*** (Jessie nominations for Outstanding Actor and Outstanding Production), ***Little One*** (Overall Production Award at New York Fringe), and ***Mrs. Warren’s Profession***, for which he also produced an interactive docu-website and audience digital-interaction.

DARRELL DENNIS – Writer/Performer

Hailing from the Secwepemc Nation in the interior of British Columbia, Darrell’s break-out one-person show ***Tales of an Urban Indian*** was nominated for two Dora Awards and toured extensively across North America. His five other plays include ***The Trickster of 3rd Avenue East*** (Native Earth) and ***Home of the Running Brave*** (The Autry LA, Von-Marie Atchley Excellent in Playwrighting Award), and he also wrote the non-fiction book ***Peace Pipe Dreams: The Truth about Lies about Indians*** (Periodical Marketers of Canada Aboriginal Literature Award). For four years he produced and hosted the CBC Radio One doc series ***ReVision Quest***.

As an actor: Darrell has performed in plays at the National Arts Centre, Native Earth, The Public Theatre in New York, Los Angeles Theatre Centre, Western Canada Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Second City, Magnus Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, and Carousel, among others, and he maintains an active film and television career, most recently writing, performing and directing for APTN’s ***Guilt Free Zone***. Darrell also still performs stand-up comedy in venues all over North America, and his Mom is really proud of him.

MEDINA HAHN – writer/performer

Medina is an award-winning actor and writer of Lebanese and Irish descent. A graduate of the University of Alberta and the University of Victoria, her work has been seen across Canada, in the USA and Europe. With Daniel Arnold, she co-wrote and performed the internationally acclaimed *Tuesdays & Sundays* and *Any Night*. *Tuesdays & Sundays* was also broadcast as a radio play on CBC and BBC (with David Tennant), and Medina and Daniel starred in a month-long run of *Any Night* Off-Broadway. As a creator, she won two Edmonton Sterling Awards and the protégé portion of the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre.

As an actor: Medina's local credits include *Motherload* (The Chop Theatre), *Miss Shakespeare* (Firehall/Musical Theatre Works, Jessie Award Outstanding Musical Production), *J Caesar* (Musical Theatre Works), *The Dissemblers* (Touchstone), *Tideline* (Touchstone/Newworld), *Any Night* (Touchstone/The Cultch) and *Tuesdays & Sundays* (DualMinds/The Cultch), and she has also worked at the Citadel Theatre, Theatre Network, Theatre Calgary, Western Canada Theatre, Workshop West, The Globe, Sunshine Theatre, Catalyst Theatre, Theatre Inconnu and Eureka Theatre. She has also appeared in film and television and is a proud Mom.

MARISA EMMA SMITH – Co-producer (Alley Theatre)

Marisa is of mixed European settler heritage. She has produced ten productions with Alley Theatre including a 44-person intercommunity production and an interactive docu-website. She was resident producer at Newworld Theatre (2012-14), Artistic Producer at Solo Collective (2014-15), and Artist-in-Residence at Vancouver Moving Theatre (2017). Marisa also works as a producer for *The Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival* and was an associate producer on Vancouver Moving Theatre's *Weaving Reconciliation: Our Way*. Her Alley Theatre productions have been nominated for eleven Jessie Awards, winning two, and she won the Joanna Maratta Award for "displaying the most potential to contribute to the Vancouver theatre community".

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE – Co-producer (original production)

Touchstone has been a leading force in Canadian play development for over 40 years. The company's all-Canadian mandate has helped launch and develop some of the country's most important playwrights and actors, and its substantial body of work has garnered over 70 local and national awards. Touchstone also co-founded the *PuSh Festival*.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE – community partner

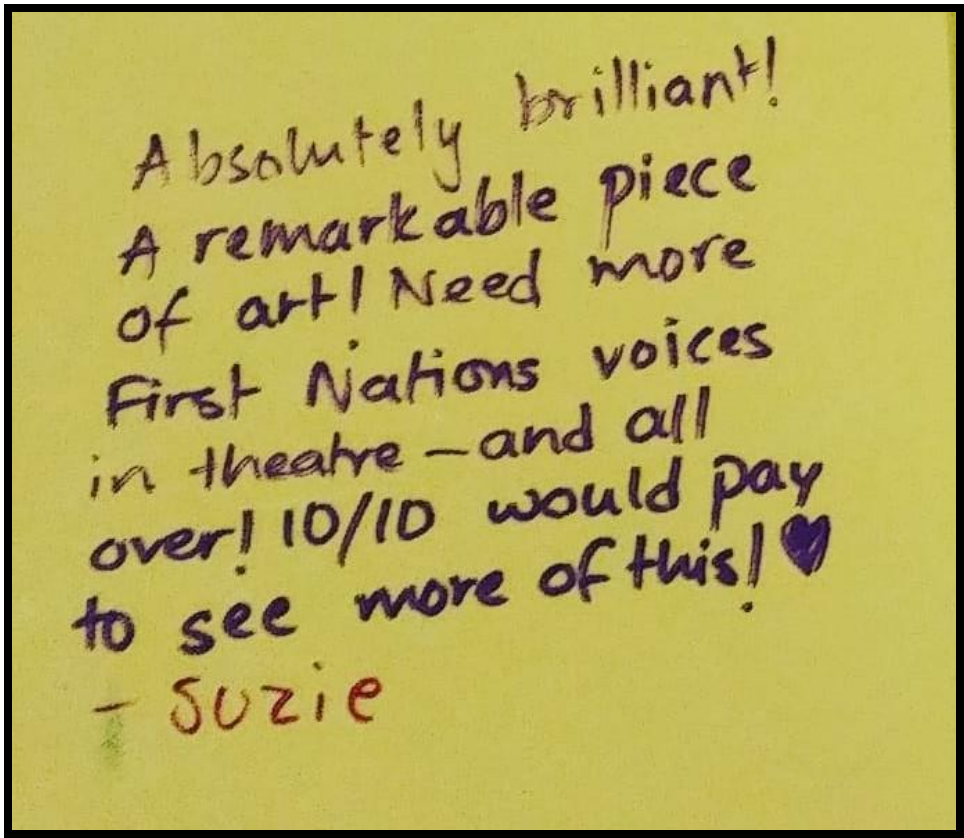
The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society has been providing quality programs and services for over 50 years and is currently located at 1607 East Hastings Street. VAFCS is a charitable organization that helps children, youth, families, adults and elders maintain their Aboriginal cultural ties through various programs and traditional community activities. VAFCS helps Aboriginal people access education, housing needs and support for families. The centre strives to provide holistic and cultural services to the over 40,000 urban Aboriginal People who are identified and targeted as the clientele base of the VAFCS in its catchment area of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

MAYUK MANUEL – creative advisor

Mayuk is a Secwepemc woman who lives on unceded Secwepemc territory in Neskonlith Reserve. She is the granddaughter of George Manuel who among other achievements co-founded the “World Council of Indigenous Peoples”. She is the daughter of Arthur Manuel who continued his father’s legacy, fighting for Aboriginal rights at home, at the United Nations, and internationally and wrote the books *Unsettling Canada* and *The Reconciliation Manifesto*. Mayuk is the twin sister of Kanahus, and together they continue their ancestors’ struggle. This includes starting the “Tiny House Warriors”, a movement of solar-panelled, tiny houses on wheels that are currently on the front lines to stop the Transmountain Pipeline Expansion.

PERCY CASPER – creative advisor

Percy is a Secwepemc native living in Bonaparte Indian Reserve. Percy fought on the front lines of the American Indian Movement, including at Wounded Knee in 1973. He has worked for Canada’s Correctional Services and is also a traditional beader.



Absolutely brilliant!
A remarkable piece
of art! Need more
First Nations voices
in theatre – and all
over! 10/10 would pay
to see more of this! ♥
– SUZIE

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Video [Clip 1](#)

Video [Clip 2](#)

Archival Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/422864331>

Full Archival recording of livestreamed performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4Y02hmtUlw&feature=youtu.be>

This is a private video for promotional purposes only.

MORE INFORMATION & TECHNICAL RIDER

PLEASE CONTACT

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co-producer Alley Theatre

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