Cornerstone Theater Company presents

WICOUN
A play with and about the Oceti Sakowin

Written by Larissa FastHorse
Directed by Michael John Garcés

Performances from May 25th to June 16th

See all show times and locations

Bring the whole family!
Cornerstone Theater Company collaborates with communities. Our work reflects complexity, disrupts assumptions, welcomes difference, and amplifies joy. We aim to advance a more compassionate, equitable, and just world. By combining the artistry of people with many levels of theatrical experience, we act upon the conviction that artistic expression is civic engagement and that access to a creative forum is essential to the wellness and health of every individual and community.

Cornerstone Theater Company acknowledges our presence primarily on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples, the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, South Channel Islands). We pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), ‘Ahiihirom (Elders) and ‘Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging. We are grateful for Indigenous nations’ stewardship of the places we call home.
CORNERSTONE THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

WICOUN
A PLAY WITH AND ABOUT THE OCETI SAKOWIN

WRITTEN BY Larissa FastHorse

DIRECTED BY Michael John García

SET AND PROP DESIGNER Nephele Andonyadis
PUPPET DESIGNER Lynn Jeffries
COSTUME DESIGNER Jeanette Tizapapalotl Godoy
SOUND DESIGNER Talon Bazeille-Ducheneaux

PERFORMANCES FROM May 25th to June 16th

Wicoun is made possible in part by grants from Creative Capital, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, First Peoples Fund, the MAP Fund, the Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts (Our Town), the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation (SHIFT Award), the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Theatre Project, the Network of Ensemble Theaters, Playwrights’ Center, the City of Rapid City, the Shubert Foundation, Venturous Theater Fund a fund of the Tides Foundation and the Kathryn Wanlass Charitable Foundation.

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The MAP Fund is primarily supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funds come from the Mellon Foundation.

Additional Cornerstone support is provided by the Annenberg Foundation; the California Arts Council, a state agency; California Community Foundation on behalf of LA Arts Recovery Fund; California Nonprofit Performing Arts Grant Program; California Office of the Small Business Advocate; California Venues Grant Program; Capital Group; Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; the Muriel Pollia Foundation; the Trout Lily Fund; U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and generous donations from numerous individuals.
CAST

[IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER]

9A (NEE-NUH) Äya
ROSETTA BADHAND-WALKER Elder Superhero, Ensemble
* PETER HOWARD All the Wašičus, Ensemble
GINA PROJECT CELEBRITY MALLORY Wówačhaŋtognake, Ensemble
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER PIÑA WówačhiŋtȞanka, Ensemble
VICTORIA PICOTTE-SUNBEAR Wóohitike, Ensemble
* KENNY RAMOS KȞoškálaka
BRANDON J. SAZUE SR. Zombie, Chris, Marcus, Ensemble

TIANA SPOTTED THUNDER Singer/Composer of Wicoun Theme
* MICHAEL GARCIA Rehearsal Stage Manager
ASH NICHOLS Tour Production Manager
* MARIA V. OLIVEIRA Performance Stage Manager
TRINITY DIETRICH Assistant Stage Manager
SAPPHIRE TIGER Assistant Director & Production Crew
GEOFF KORF Advance Production Manager

TESLAH “SOTA” KNIGHT Scenic Painter
FOCUS SMITH Graffiti Art and Scenic Assistant
ANTHONY KȟANǦI TȟANŋKA Traditional Regalia Designer
SAPPHIRE TIGER Lakota Beadwork
TOSA TWO HEART Lakota Costume Design Consultant
MATT USES KNIFE Scenic Painter: Backdrop
KAHOMY WESTON/LAKOTA CREATIONS Lakota Costume Construction
TARYN MARCELINO Costume Assistant

CLEMENTINE (MINNIE) BORDEAUX Community Advisor & Collaborator
PAULA DONNELLY Company Manager
SHAREA HOLCOMB Company Chef
JEROME KILLS SMALL Lakota Language Translator and Consultant
LUCIANA VALERO Graphic Designer

*APPEARING THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CORNERSTONE, AND ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES.
9A [NEE-NUH] (Actor) is an Oglala Lakota multi NAMA award winning singer / songwriter based on the Pine Ridge Reservation. She bills their music as “Lakota Pop” and features a story of their own titled “the Oglala wolf puppy w/ PTSD.” Her biggest platform is Tiktok (@9amatowin) with 17,041 followers currently. oglalapuppies.com

NEPHELIE ANDONYADIS* (Scenic Designer) is a theater artist, educator and gerontologist working at the intersection of community, arts and policy to help change the culture of care and care systems for all older adults. She has been a part of Cornerstone Theater Company since 1995, designing scenery and costumes with communities across California and the country.

ROSETTA BADHAND-WALKER (Actor), Sicangu Lakota, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, resides in Tempe, AZ, with her husband and daughter. Rosetta is a community advocate and influencer in the Native American community, widely recognized as an activist with emphasis on education, voter outreach and the arts. She works at ASU-Tempe as the Elder-in-Residence program aide. Rosetta’s first acting experience was playing the role of Ana in Native Nation, the 2019 ASU Gammage/Cornerstone collaboration.

CLEMENTINE [MINNIE] BORDEAUX (Community Advisor/Collaborator) was raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation. A board member for Cornerstone Theater Company, Clementine has supported the development of Wicoun as a community member and was a part of CTC’s production of Urban Rez in 2016. Clementine will be graduating with a PhD from UCLA during the tour of Wicoun!

TRINITY DIETRICH (Assistant Stage Manager) grew up in the Black Hills. She is currently a senior at Black Hills State University, she will be graduating in the spring of 2024 with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Theatre. This will be her first show with Cornerstone, and she is very excited to be a part of this project.

PAULA DONNELLY* (Company Manager) is grateful to the people who have contributed personal time, interest, stories, and talent to make this play, especially the cast for their trust and commitment. This is her 45th-ish Cornerstone production. She lives in California and really enjoys the skies over the lands of the Oceti Sakowin.

TALON BAZILLE DUCHENEAX (Sound Designer), Dakota & Lakota, began working on sound design with productions like “We The Peoples Before” in 2021-2022, however, this is his first front-to-back sound designing of a play. He is a proud member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe & Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and thankful to be a part of a production that tours many places where he grew up.
**Larissa FastHorse** (Playwright), Sicangu Lakota, grew up primarily in Pierre, and is thrilled to be doing her third Cornerstone play. This time in her homelands. She currently lives in Los Angeles and makes theater around the country. She is a proud MacArthur Fellow and just opened her first play on Broadway.

**Michael John Garcés** (Director) has been a member of Cornerstone’s ensemble since 2006. He has been excited and inspired to meet so many wonderful, generous individuals across the state and get to know some incredible organizations serving the Oceti Sakowin here in South Dakota. He is deeply grateful to everyone who has been a part of making this production happen.

**Michael Garcia** (Rehearsal Stage Manager) is grateful for being a guest of the Oceti Sakowin to help get this important show running, and is proud of the work of all the humans putting this show together. He is on the Cornerstone staff as Associate Producer and is a member of the ensemble.

**Jeanette Tizapapalotl Godoy** (Costume Designer) TLAZOHCAMATI to the elements that give us life, the two-legged, four legged and winged ancestors, both past and present, of the Oceti Sakowin, original caretakers of the sacred lands of He Sapa. Jeanette Godoy holds an MFA in Theater from UCLA and looks forward to beautiful journeys with the amazing cast and crew of Wicoun.

**Peter Howard** (Actor) has been working with Cornerstone since 1986, creating theater in collaboration with urban and rural communities across the country. He is very grateful for his time on this beautiful South Dakota land, and for all who have generously shared their stories, wisdom and artistry on this journey of creating Wicoun.

**Lynn Jeffries** (Puppet Designer) lives in Los Angeles. She has designed sets, costumes, and puppets for over sixty Cornerstone Theater productions since 1986. After sitting at home for years during the pandemic, she is thrilled to be on the road again seeing new places, meeting new people, and making art.

**Teslah “Sota” Knight** (Scenic Painter) is Mnicoujou, Oglala, and Diné. She is studying Graphic Arts at Oglala Lakota College. Sota resides with her family in Mni Luzahan (Rapid City, SD). This is her first involvement in theater production and she is full of gratitude to be part of such a beautiful experience.

**Geoff Korf** (Advance Production Manager) Began working with Cornerstone in 1992 & became an Ensemble member in 1996. Geoff was born into membership of the Korf Family Circus in 1960. Geoff teaches Lighting Design and is the Chair at the University of Washington-Seattle’s School of Drama.
GINA PROJECT CELEBRITY MALLORY (Actor) Born Yankton, SD. Raised in Lakota Homes and Sioux Addition, Rapid City, SD. From the Sicangu Miniconjou Lakota, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux. Independent videographer, model, actor, culinary arts graduate from the Box Elder Job Corps in Nemo, SD. Your favorite Cousin, Aunty, Niece.

ASH NICHOLS (Production Manager), they/them, is excited to be collaborating with all the humans on Wicoun, and to be working (and touring) with Cornerstone again! Ash loves working in community, making theatre, and writing poetry. Past Cornerstone productions include: Lunch Lady Courage, Love on San Pedro, Bliss Point, California: The Tempest, & Urban Rez.

MARIA V. OLIVEIRA (Performance Stage Manager) has worked with Cornerstone frequently since graduating from UC Irvine. Previous shows include Magic Fruit, A Jordan Downs Illumination, the San Pedro Project and 36 Yesses. She enjoys working predominantly in L.A. and Orange Counties and is especially grateful when it gives her the opportunity to travel.

VICTORIA PICOTTE-SUNBEAR (Actor) is from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe as well as the Yankton Sioux Tribe. This is her first time working as an actor, along with being a first-time participant with Cornerstone Theater. Victoria is a mother of two daughters and currently pregnant with her third child. She is also a wife and loving auntie.

CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER PIÑA (Actor) My Lakota name is Wačante Ognaka Wičasa. Standing Rock Hunkapapa Sioux. My grandma Betty Hayes/Handley went through Boarding School. My great great grandma Luella Hayes lived in Oshkosh Indian Camp. My great great great grandma Angela RedFox Uses Arrow followed Sitting Bull after the defeat of Custer and traveled to Canada after the Battle of Little BigHorn, then down to North Dakota.

KENNY RAMOS* (Actor) is from the Barona Band of Mission Indians/Kumeyaay Nation and grew up on the Barona Indian Reservation in California. He got involved with Cornerstone in 2014 as a community actor in Urban Rez, and then joined the ensemble in 2019 while working on Native Nation. Wopila to his Lakota relatives for welcoming him to Očhéti Śakówiŋ lands.

BRANDON J. SAZUE SR. (Actor) I am Dakota (Hunkpati) from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. Former Tribal Chairman, employee for Crow Creek Tribal Schools, I am now an actor for Cornerstone Theater Company out of Los Angeles, California. Wopida family and friends of the Great Oceti Sakowin.

FOCUS SMITH (Scenic Assistant & Painter) Ya’ah ah teeh. From my father’s family I am Dine’. From my mother’s – Hunkpapa Lakota. Growing up in graffiti culture, a passion ignited in me to create in the public arena. In South Dakota, I found my roots and strength in Lakota Culture. I combine graffiti and Lakota culture to create classes, local and international murals, programs that center on identity through culture, building a community around the strengths we have inherently in our souls.
**ANTHONY KĦAŊGI TĦÂNKÅ** (Traditional Regalia Designer) Oglála na Sičánŋu Lakȟóta, born and raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Anthony is a Lakhota Cultural Bearer, Two-Spirit Activist, and Artist. Currently enrolled at UMN Morris on Dakȟóta homelands studying for a BS in Computer Science.

**TIANA SPOTTED THUNDER** (Singer/Composer of *Wicoun* music) is a recording artist from the Black Hills in SD. Tiana proudly carries her Lakota name, “Tašiyagmuká Hó Wašte Win,” which translates to “Good Voice Meadowlark Woman.” She specializes in traditional Lakota and Indigenous music such as honoring, round dance, and hand game songs. Tiana travels to powwows as a singer for prestige drum groups, and solo performances. Her vocal range represents the pride of her identity as a Lakota woman.

**SAPPHIRE TIGER** (Assistant Director, Crew), Mnícoujou/Sičánŋu Lakota & Navajo, is from Eagle Butte, SD, located on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. She is currently a student at Black Hills State University studying Communications and Media with a minor is Mass Communications and American Indian Studies. She is happy to be a part of a Cornerstone Theater production and able to represent her community!

**TOSA TWO HEART** (Lakota Costume Design Consultant), Oglala Lakota, was born and raised on Pine Ridge Reservation. She resides in Rapid City, SD. She designs and sells fashion via the web, tosatwoheart.com. Her work is inspired by her Lakota culture and her life’s journey. She humbly thanks Cornerstone for this opportunity to share her designs in costume.

**MATT USES KNIFE** (Scenic Painter: Backdrop) University of MN graduate 1958, BA in Studio Arts. 20 years working as a Lakota Language Teacher. Retired. Writing a language book. Born on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

**LUCIANA VALERO** (Graphic Design) is an interdisciplinary artist from Mexico City. She has been working with Cornerstone since 2022, after graduating from UC Irvine. She is grateful to have the opportunity to be creating art with the amazing people making this show possible.

**MEGAN WANLASS** (Managing Director) joined Cornerstone in January 2014. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, she lived in New York and was the Executive Director for Anne Bogart and SITI Company. After years of planning this project from afar, Megan is excited to be here on the lands of the Oceti Sakowin producing *Wicoun*.

* indicates a member of Cornerstone’s Ensemble, an evolving group of people at the artistic heart of this theater company creating through conversation, play, compassion and consensus.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Michael Garcia, Associate Producer
Bruce Lemon Jr., Associate Artistic Director
Luciana Valero, Administrative Associate
Megan Wanlass, Managing Director

*Appearing through an Agreement between Cornerstone, and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Cornerstone Theater Company operates under an agreement with Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers. Actors’ Equity Association (“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

Due to union regulations the use of cameras or recording devices of any kind are not permitted. There should be no recording of any kind either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited for reproduction purposes.

Nephelie Andonyadis is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.
**Production Notes**

Wicoun is the third in a series of productions in collaboration with playwright Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation) and Indigenous people of U.S. lands. Following Urban Rez with and about Native people of and/or living in the Los Angeles Basin, and Native Nation, a collaboration with those of and/or living in the Phoenix, Arizona area. This project, begun in 2019, builds on these two processes and explores the strength, beauty, humor, and perseverance of the Indigenous culture, language and identity of the Northern Plains.

This new production is created with and for the interconnected, but widely dispersed residents of the Sicangu Lakota Nation (Rosebud), Oglala Lakota Nation (Pine Ridge), Ihanktonwan Dakota Oyate (Yankton), and other reservations, as well as Indigenous communities. *Wicoun* will perform in these and other South Dakota communities in late May and early June, 2023.

**WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO THESE COMMUNITY ADVISORS, PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR STAFF:**

Black Hills Playhouse, Linda Anderson, Dan Workman and BHP Staff  
Black Hills Community Theater, Merlyn Sell, and BHCT Staff  
Brave Heart Society and Faith Spotted Eagle  
Cheyenne River Youth Project, Julie Garreau and CRYP Staff  
Cheyenne Eagle Butte School’s students & staff, especially Chip Bird Necklace  
Christopher and Deborah Bordeaux  
The City of Rapid City and Mayor Allender  
First Peoples Fund, Lori Pourier and FPF Staff  
Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board and Tosa Two Heart and Rae Damon  
Ground Control Indoor Skate Park and Kyle Mesteth  
The Heritage Center and Red Cloud Indian School  
Lakota Youth Development and Marla Bull Bear  
Little Wound School  
Multi-Cultural Center of Sioux Falls  
Placerville Camp and Sharla Steever and Kerry Steever  
Racing Magpie, Mary Bordeaux and Peter Strong  
Rapid City Performing Arts Center and Nick Johnson  
Red Shirt School and Brian O’Connor  
Saint Francis Indian School and Scott Fishel  
Sandra Mollman  
Standing Rock CDC and Lawrence Archambault  
Todd County Middle School  
Two-Spirit Pow-Wow Committee  
University of South Dakota Native Student Services, Megan and John
ADDITIONAL THANKS TO


We are grateful to the fifty-five people, aged 4 to 60, who auditioned for this play. This play benefitted from the time brief time we spent together, your talent, openness and bravery. We enjoyed meeting you very much and only wish we could have included each of you.

Wicoun Theme, by Tiana Spotted Thunder

Ečaš blihimič‘iye  (I promise to encourage myself)
Tohanl tehiya waun we  (when it gets tough)
Blihimič‘iye  (I encourage myself)
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