

Red Sky Performance: *TRACE*

Friday
APR 8
7:30 pm

Groundbreaking Indigenous performance art



This performance is funded, in part, by:

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This event is in association with the annual KU Powwow & Indigenous Cultures Festival. Join us on Saturday, April 9, for a full day of free activities presented by the KU First Nations Student Association. In addition to the KU Powwow, there will be educational workshops, children's activities and much more. Visit lied.ku.edu for the event schedule.

There will be no intermission during this performance.

Red Sky Performance
TRACE

DIRECTION/CONCEPT	Sandra Laronde
CHOREOGRAPHY	Jera Wolfe
DANCERS	Sarah Di Iorio, Miyeko Ferguson, Lindsay Harpham, Tyler Layton-Olson, Jessica Mak, Connor Mitton
COMPOSER.....	Eliot Britton
RECORDED MUSIC.....	Rick Sacks, Bryant Didier, Ora Barlow-Tukaki
RECORDED VOCALS.....	Ora Barlow-Tukaki, Nelson Tagoona
COSTUMES	Kinoo Arcentales
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Alexis Bowles
LIGHTING DIRECTOR	Logan Cracknell
CREATIVE VIDEO DIRECTOR.....	Marcella Grimaux
HEAD MOTION DESIGNER	Daniel Faubert
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER....	Kate Redding

Artistic Director's Note

TRACE is a highly kinetic contemporary dance and music work inspired by Indigenous (Anishinaabe) sky and star stories, offering a glimpse into our origin as well as our future evolution. We are traceable to the beginnings of the universe, our ancestral origins stretching across the Milky Way to the atoms burning inside of us in the here and now. *TRACE* is a sumptuous creation that looks at all things traceable and what we leave behind as humans, as a culture, as a nation and as an individual. *TRACE* leads us right back to source, to origin—so the question becomes, what is our origin as Indigenous peoples? As Anishinaabe? The search for origin takes us to the beginning of time where we originated in the core of a star a long time ago. As Anishinaabe, we are known as the star people.

We deeply thank all of our relations and the Indigenous people of this land.

—Sandra Laronde, founder & artistic director of Red Sky Performance

Red Sky Performance

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide. Led by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde of the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water), the company is currently in its 21st year of dance, theatre, music and media.

Red Sky's mission is to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that transform society. They create, produce and tour original work to expand the ecology of contemporary Indigenous performance.

They are dedicated to working with emerging and established artists as they hone their artistic practice, particularly through an Indigenous lens, offering unique opportunities for these practitioners to thrive creatively and professionally.

Touring since 2003, Red Sky has delivered over 2,978 performances across Canada and 198 international performances in 17 countries on four continents, including at landmark events such as two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), the World Expo in Shanghai, Venice Biennale and Jacob's Pillow. At the same time, they have remained deeply rooted and invested on a grassroots level and regularly perform in urban, rural and reserve communities across Turtle Island ('Turtle Island' is the name for the lands now known as North and Central America).

Red Sky is the recipient of 16 Dora Mavor Moore Awards and nominations, two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, three International Youth Drama Awards from Shenzhen, China and the Smithsonian Expressive Award, among other recognitions. Learn more at www.redskyperformance.com.

Sandra Laronde | Executive & Artistic Director

A highly accomplished arts leader, creator and innovator, Sandra Laronde (Misko Kizhigoo Migizii Kwe), which means "Red Sky Eagle Woman" in the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway) language, is from the Teme-Augama-Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water) in Temagami, northern Ontario and is based in Toronto.

Sandra plays a pivotal role in the ongoing Indigenous cultural resurgence of Canada. She is the artistic director of Red Sky Performance, a company she founded in 2000. She has conceived, developed, produced and toured award-winning productions that are Indigenous, multi- and inter-disciplinary, and intergenerational.

All of her work is fundamentally based on 'story,' and the exploration of story, cultural identity and ongoing experimentation is paramount to her work. The body of work that Sandra has created or co-created has led to powerful, transformational arts experiences that make a profound difference and impact.

Jera Wolfe | Choreographer

Jera Wolfe is a dancer and choreographer. His choreographic works have been presented by Canadian Stage, Fall for Dance North, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and the Venice Biennale. Jera has worked extensively with Red Sky performing in *Backbone* in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Poland. His choreographic work will include new creations for Canada's National Ballet School, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and Company, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, School of Contemporary Dancers and Tulsa Ballet Centre for Dance Education. Jera won the 2019 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Choreographer for *TRACE*.