

sunset theatre

TOURING PACKAGE



Sunset Theatre Society, 2357 Pooley St., Wells BC, P.O. Box 22, V0K 2R0
250 994 3400, sunsettheatre@gmail.com, <http://www.sunset-theatre.com>



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



New Pathways to Gold



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

Service
Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

This is our 12th season offering programming during the summer at the Sunset Theatre. We have from the beginning offered A Presentation Series, Concert Series, Film Series, Production Series and what has become our signature - our Exploration Series.

Thanks to the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts, Council, New Pathways to Gold, and the Rural Dividend Fund, we are premiering 'The Drum is Calling You Home' by Marcel Gagnon, which began last year as part of our Exploration Series under the title of 'The Awakening of My People Through Sweat Lodge'. We hope to tour this production around the region, throughout the Province and across the country. The partnerships we are forming with our Indigenous Community has been incredibly humbling and it's been an honour to bring their stories to our stage, in a fusion of story-telling, music, theatre and ceremony.

Thank you to all of our artists who have come to the Sunset Theatre to share their talents, either through one of our programming opportunities or by performing through one of our community partners, such as Island Mountain Arts. However you have found us, we are grateful you are here.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Sunset Theatre Society, - a standing ovation and a heartfelt, Thank You - we could not go on without you!



Karen Jeffery, Artistic Director

History of the Sunset Theatre

The Sunset Theatre, built during the depression, opened its doors December 6, 1934, in the booming gold-mining town of Wells, set against the backdrop and rolling hills of the Cariboo Mountains. During the 1930's, Wells boasted a population of over 4000 residents, but hard times diminished the population to just over 250 residents and has remained close to this even today. Only 8km from the historic town of Barkerville and 28 km from the world-renowned Bowron Lake, Wells is becoming a popular Tourist Destination.

Originally built as a movie theatre in 1934, the Sunset has been a dance-hall, BC's first gambling hall (the Dominion Club), a community hall and even a morgue. But as the prospect of gold faded, so too did the town and the opening of the Lode Theatre on the Barkerville Highway all but sealed its fate and the theatre sat empty awaiting its inevitable demise due to the harsh and unforgiving elements of the Cariboo.

The Sunset Theatre has changed hands several times throughout its history and was operated by the Wells Historical Society for many years during the late 1970's through the early 80's, playing movies and hosting community gatherings. As one local recalls - "The Sunset Theatre became the King-Pin' of the community."

In 1999 the building was purchased by Karen Planden and soon after, along with her husband Dave and 4 children, began the journey of restoring the theatre beyond its former glory offering professional live theatre, movies, boot camps and a concert venue.

In 2006 the Sunset Theatre Society had its first inaugural season of programming but in the winter of 2009, after the majority of the renovations had been completed, the roof of the theatre had collapsed under the snow load. It was a devastating turn of events. With the help of the community, an incredible engineer and insurance the Sunset Theatre was saved and it raised the roof once again. This chart is an overview of creative activity that has taken place since reopening its doors in 2006.

Historical Overview

SUNSET THEATRE SOCIETY HISTORY AT A GLANCE										
	Exploration Retreats	Presentation	Production	Music Concerts	Sunset Cabaret	Film/Moonrise Film Festival	Boot Camps Training	Rentals	Other	Student Grants
2000	Purchased in 1999, Restoration and Renovations have been on going which have included: New Foundation, Roof, Electrical Upgrades, Plumbing, Flooring, Mezzanine, Technical Booth, Loge Boxes, Resource Library, Concession & Lobby Public Washrooms, Green Room, Dressing Rooms (x2) with full Bathrooms, Extended Stage, new Proscenium Arch, Refurbished 100 Historic Chairs through Chair Campaign THIS IS ON GOING ...IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING MADE ALL THE TIME									
2001										
2002										
2003										
2004	Primary season is July and August									2
2005	1	1		1				1		2
2006	3	4		5	3	18		1		2
2007	1	4	1	5	5	2		1		2
2008		6	2	3	5	4		1		2
2009	1	The Year the Roof Collapsed		1	2	The Year the Roof Collapsed				1
2010	4	3	3	1	3		1	3		1
2011	1	8		3	8		1	4		1
2012	1	2		3	4	1	1	5		1
2013	1	4		6	3	30	1	6		1
2014	5	4		2	4	30	1	7		1
2015	6	4	2	1	2	30	1	7	1	1
2016	3	3	2	2	5	30	0	9	4	4
2017	7	3	1	1	4	35	0	17		3
2018	7	3	2	4	6	35	1	15	3	4
Totals	41	49	13	38	54	215	7	77	8	28

The Sunset Theatre is a a Not-For-Profit Organization
formed in 1999, S-41346

This new play, written and performed by Marcel Gagnon, takes the audience on a journey spanning over sixty years - depicted in four rounds with story-telling, music, theatre and ceremony. Each round tells Marcel's story; from a young man discovering his aboriginal roots to making peace with the inner callings of his heritage in search of his identity.

"Gagnon's autobiographical piece is stark, beautiful, humourous, and deeply affecting – a powerful recollection of growing up Indigenous in Canada."

This theatrical fusion of First Nations Storytelling, Music and Ceremony is depicted in Four Rounds each representing a time period in the life of Lheidli T'enneh Elder Marcel Gagnon.

ROUND 1

Childhood, Youth
Yellow, Spring
FEAR

ROUND 2

Adolecnce, Teen, Young Adult
Blue, Summer
DENIAL, ESCAPE

ROUND 3

Adulthood
White, Fall
CALLING, SEARCHING

ROUND 4

Elder
Red, Winter
ACCEPTANCE, TEACHING

The Drum is Calling You Home is a new creation piece in
One Act depicted in four Rounds

Cast & Company

Elder/Storyteller/Composer Marcel Gagnon
Susyaz/Little Bear, Benny Hulo Aaron M. Wells*
Director & Creative Facilitator..... Karen Planden*
Set Designer..... Hans Seafkow
Costume Designer & Seamstress..... Lahna Lampson
Traditional Costume Builder Keom Johnson
Lighting /Set Carpenter..... Dave Jeffery
Sound Designer Jenn Lewis
Sound Operator David Leiffertz
Stage Manager..... Duncan Gillespie

* The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)."

All Songs Written and Composed by Marcel Gagnon
In Order of Performance

Drum Song
The Wolf Song
Compassion King
Tom Crow
Master of the House
Master Master
Crazy Maker
The Sweat

All songs are available through [Marcel Gagnon's Website:](#)

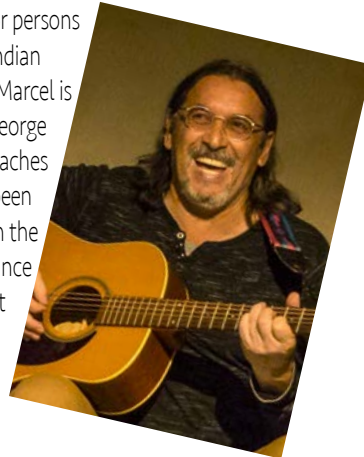
About Elder Marcel Gagnon



Marcel Gagnon - Elder, Storyteller, Composer

Born in Prince George, BC, an Elder of the Lheidli T'enneh Band and the 16th of 20 children. Gagnon was involved in music from his youth, playing for dances, weddings and private functions, as well as for radio shows. His career was interrupted by severe alcoholism, but after undertaking a recovery program, he recorded his breakthrough album *Crazy Maker* at the Banff Centre for the Arts for which he received a Juno Award nomination for Best Aboriginal Album of 2002; he now has a total of four albums. In 1997, he graduated from University of the Fraser Valley with a degree in addictions counselling. Himself, affected by fetal alcohol syndrome disorder, Gagnon became a founding Director of the Whitecrow Village FASD Society in 2002. He is a prominent advocate and counsellor for persons affected by the Canadian Indian residential school system. Marcel is

also the designated elder for the 'Aghelh Nebun Camp and the Prince George Activators Society working with men released from incarceration. He teaches the Dakelh (Carrier) spiritual doctrine that "Man's struggle has always been dark against light. Negative versus positive".⁸ Recently Marcel was given the honor of being an elder on the newly established Indigenous court in Prince George BC. He will be one of several elders to hear cases when the court is in session.

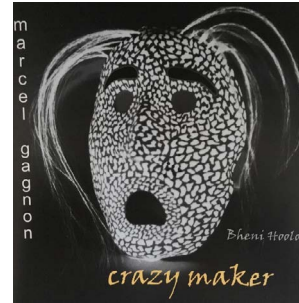


Marcel at about 8 years old

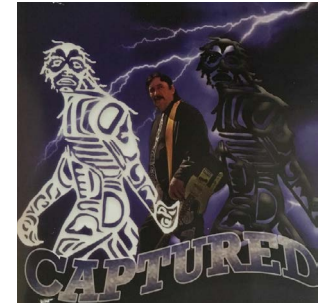


Marcel with his first Guitar, age 4

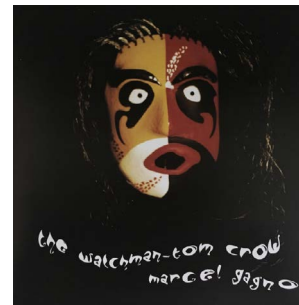
Marcel Gagnon's CD's and Art Work



Crazy Maker, Bheni Hoolo



Captured



The Watchman - Tom Crow



The CBC Sessions - New Years Day

All songs are available through [Marcel Gagnon's Website](http://www.marcelgagnon.com)



Sample of Drum Paintings by Marcel Gagnon



Karen Planden - Director, Creative Facilitator

Karen Jeffery (nee Planden) A theatre professional of over 30 years Karen juggles her passion of theatre between acting, singing, producing, designing, writing and being an arts administrator. In 1999 Karen purchased the Sunset Theatre in Wells BC and along with her husband Dave restored it to what you see today. The Sunset Theatre Society was formed in 2000 for the purposes of bringing professional theatre to the Cariboo region dedicated to the creation of new plays. Karen went

to theatre school at HB Studios in New York and has worked professionally in Toronto, Stratford, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver and spent a short time in Nashville, living in a tent pursuing a career as a country and western singer. Not afraid of new frontiers, Karen accepted a contract with the 2010 Vancouver Olympics responsible for creating the cultural programming for the Athletes Villages and an 18 day Arts and Cultural Festival for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Karen now splits her time between Wells, and Lions Bay BC and is a proud Step Mom and Mom of four incredible human beings and bright lights.



Aaron M. Wells - Susyaz, Little Bear, Benny Hulo

Aaron M. Wells comes from the Ehattesaht and Lax Kw'alaams tribes of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Tsimshian Nations. A graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts; Aaron has been involved in the creation of new Indigenous Canadian works as well as being involved in discussions with the National Arts Centre and the Stratford Festival in investigating the Indigenous voice and space on stages and in rehearsals halls with other First Nations, Inuit and Metis artists from across the Nation. Klecco! Klecco!



Hans Saefkow- Set Designer

Hans has been designing, painting and building for theatre for over 25 years, most recently as the Head Scenic Painter at Alberta Theatre Projects during the 2017-18 season. Some design highlights include Kevin Loring's 'Where The Blood Mixes' and 'The Drowning Girls' both at Theatre North West. Hans is excited to be working with Marcel and Sunset Theatre on a brand new piece of theatre!



Lahna Lampson- Costume Designer

Lahna is a fourth year applied theatre student at the University of Victoria, taking a minor in Psychology. She plans on doing a masters in Drama Therapy. Lahna has worked in devised theatre before and thoroughly enjoys it. She works at the costume shop at UVIC's theatre department during her studies. This is Lahna's first full show as costume designer and she loves it. This kind of theatre is exactly why Lahna is doing what she does. She is very thankful for the opportunity.



Duncan Gillespie - Stage Manager

Duncan is a 3rd year Stage Management student at the University of Alberta. At this point Duncan was going to write something clever, maybe tell like a funny little anecdote or something, but he couldn't think of anything, so he just typed out his inner monologue for a couple of lines to really pad up that word count and make this look slick and professional or whatever. Okay thanks buh bye!



Jenn Lewis - Sound Designer

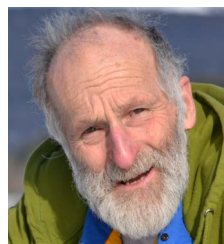
Jenn has been working with sound across many genres, for 35 years. She graduated from the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology and has been the house engineer at a several music recording studios. She helped create some of the earliest virtual reality projects, as well as recorded jazz, orchestral and electro-acoustic music at the Banff Centre for the Arts. In Vancouver, Jenn freelanced in location recording, sound design for TV and film, music production and helped build a studio downtown.

In 1994 Jenn stumbled into the game audio community at Electronic Arts Canada, and was drawn in completely. Her game credits include the top selling series: Need For Speed, James Bond 007, SSX, March Madness, NHL & NBA. She created the sound department at Relic Entertainment where she worked on the Company of Heroes & Warhammer 40k franchises. She has also enjoyed 15 years of teaching sound through the Vancouver Film School, Arts Institute, OIART & UBC. Her last project, a film called The Doctor's Case, introduced her to the amazing people of Wells, who fed her passion and stole her attention. Jenn now resides in Wells.



David Liefertz - Sound Operator

Dave has been making sound from a very early age, most notably on the piano from age six. He has since traveled extensively across the continent and over to Europe, singing and playing, as well as writing, arranging and musical directing the thirty-year veteran comedy-band-group The CREW. While in the Cariboo you may see him jazzing it up in local venues, or even during your search for gold in Barkerville, with his amazing wife and beautiful twin girls.



Dave Jeffery- House Technician, Jack of all Trades

Originally from New Zealand, Dave Jeffery has built his career in Western Canada, specializing first in Outdoor Education and then in drama education. He has taught all age levels from 8 to 18, with First Nations, the Alberta Youth Justice System, and in Calgary public schools. More than 100 of his former students are now working in film or theatre-related careers.



Zach Running Coyote House - Development Cast An Indigenous actor, theatre maker, musician, writer, the sum total of storyteller, based in Rosebud Alberta and completing training as an apprentice actor at Rosebud School of the Arts. Recent credits include Romeo in R & J at Bard on the Bower, Red Deer and furthering the creation of his play, Kohkum and Me.



Amy Collisson - Development Stage Manager

Originally from New Zealand, Dave Jeffery has built his career in Western Canada, specializing first in Outdoor Education and then in drama education. He has taught all age levels from 8 to 18, with First Nations, the Alberta Youth Justice System, and in Calgary public schools. More than 100 of his former students are now working in film or theatre-related careers.

History of The Drum is Calling You Home by Marcel Gagnon...

Early in 2017 Marcel contacted me and asked if I would help him create a piece of theatre around his storytelling. Of course, I responded with a resounding yes. Marcel sent me an outline of some of his stories and songs and by June of 2017 a creative team gathered at the Sunset Theatre in Wells BC, to create the first iteration of the The Drum is Calling You Home under the working title of 'The Awakening of My People Through Sweat Lodge'. The team consisted of Amy Collison as Stage Manager, Zach Running Coyote in the role of the Trickster/Fool/As Cast, Marcel Gagnon and myself as director.

During this creation period through the Exploration Series at the Sunset Theatre, we listened to many of Marcel's stories, songs while Marcel shared his knowledge of ceremony and sweat lodge. It was through this process that we decided to structure the play in 'Rounds' rather than 'Acts' and incorporated a fusion of Storytelling, Concert, Theatre and Traditional Ceremony.

It was clear from this hybrid version of what you are now witnessing, that Marcel's stories and songs along with this considerable wisdom and humour made for great theatre.

In the fall we applied to the Canada Council for the Arts to further develop and premiere a full scale production which was awarded in March of 2018. One year later we with a modified team that included Zach Running Coyote, Lahna Lampson, Duncan Gillespie, Hans Saefkow, Marcel and myself, we began the process of deconstructing the original structure, pulling in more stories, delving into personal and vulnerable territory and eventually piecing back together what you are now witnessing.

This project has been developed through the Exploration Series at the Sunset Theatre and supported by the BC Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, the District of Wells, the Province of BC and New Pathways to Gold along with various individual, business and private donations.



Round 2. Elder Marcel Drumming

Pictures from the development phase at the Sunset Theatre through the Exploration Series.
Creation Cast: Marcel Gagnon,
Zach Running Coyote
Director: Karen Planden
Stage Manager: Amy Collison



Round 1. Zach Running Coyote creating the Wolf shadow



Round 2. Zach Running Coyote creating the Raven shadow



Round 3. Zach Running Coyote & Elder Marcel



Round 4. Elder Marcel Gagnon in the final Sweatlodge scene

"I believe I spent over a month in Wells. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I learned so much including, the fourth wall. Emotional, challenging and fulfilling. Thank you Karen for walking me through uncharted waters. It felt at times I was about to drown but you all reached out and saved me. This will be the best experience thus far. I will now rest and try to absorb all I've learned"Marcel Gagnon

"Witnessed, watched, laughed, cried and loudly applauded my friend's opening night of his play, The Drum is Calling You Home at the Sunset Theatre last night in Wells. It is based on the stories and music of his life and is brilliantly and beautifully crafted, designed, directed and delivered by an AMAZING TEAM of theatre artists"
....Danielea Castell

The Drum is Calling You Home is a story that needs to be told and heard during this reclamation period. As an aboriginal lady, I so related to all of it. The alcohol, not being told I love you and the medicine being bad. I watched it three times and each time it was better than the last.

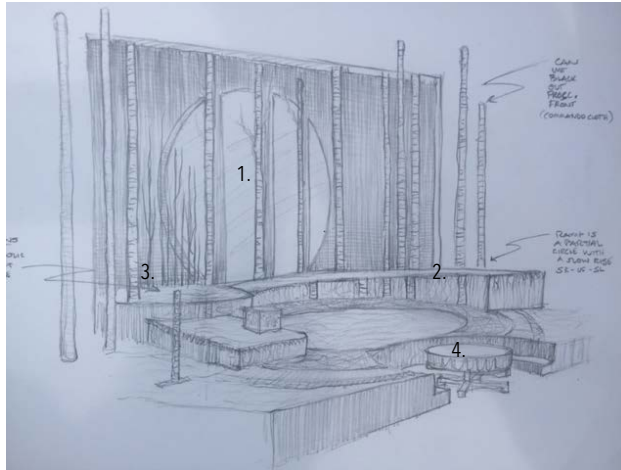
....Le-Anne McFeetas, Chetwynd, BC and Sunset Theatre Patron

"I found The Drum Is Calling You Home to be a very moving and compelling piece that beautifully intertwines music and theatre. Marcel Gagnon is a mesmerizing and natural story-teller as well as an accomplished musician. His vulnerability as he lets us into the journey that led him back to his indigenous roots is extremely moving, and he also shares some very funny experiences as well. We witness Marcel's journey as the 16th child of 20, and he reveals some of the heartbreaking hardships he endured in his youth and the circumstances that lead him to find his way back home. Aaron Wells plays Marcel at different stages of his life, and his musicality and presence on stage are eminently watchable. The combination of Aaron and Marcel's voices in this important piece is medicine for the ears and the heart."

.....Julia Mackey, Playwright & Performer - Jake's Gift,
Juno Productions, www.jakesgift.com

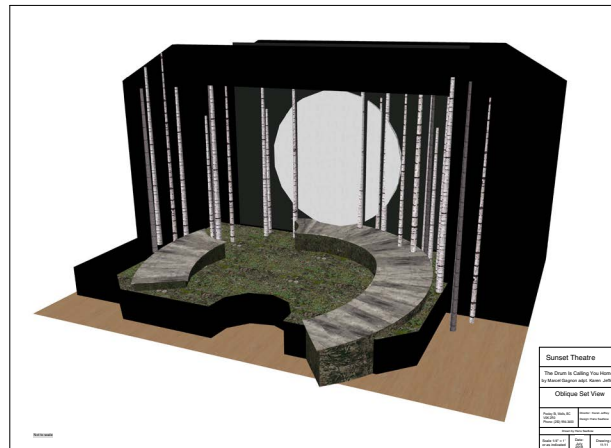
The Sunset Theatre would like to acknowledge that the 'The Drum is Calling You Home' was created on the unceded traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation

Set Design and Renderings for 'The Drum is Calling you Home' by Hans Saefkow



As part of our Canada Council grant, our objective was to engage a professional set designer to take the production and our theatre company to the next level. Hans Saefkow from Smithers was a perfect fit. He understood the needs of 'smaller theatres' and how they differ from the 'larger houses' and was able to help us expand and grow and make this dream a reality.

Hans sat with the team during the redevelopment phase prior to rehearsal and sketched out his first concepts for the set design. If you look closely, each circle represents the four Rounds and each Round honours one of the four drums.



1. The 'Moon Drum' or Sky Drum used as a backdrop and some of the shadow work developed in the first workshop version in 2017.

2. The pathway in the shape of a curcle or a Drum that helps elevate and separate the past and the present.

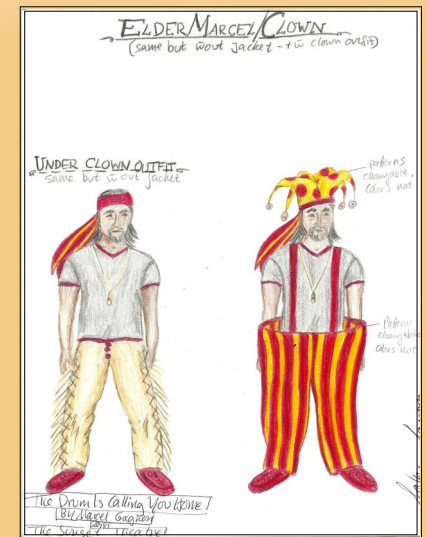
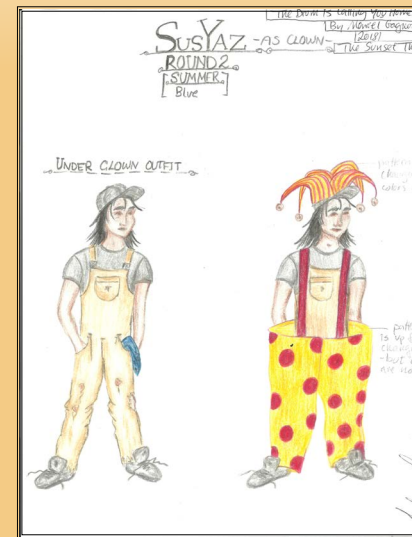
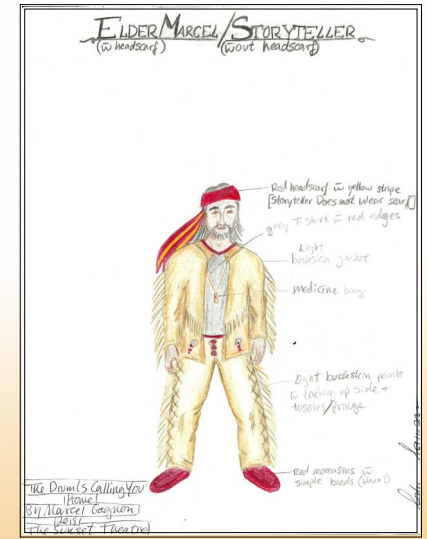
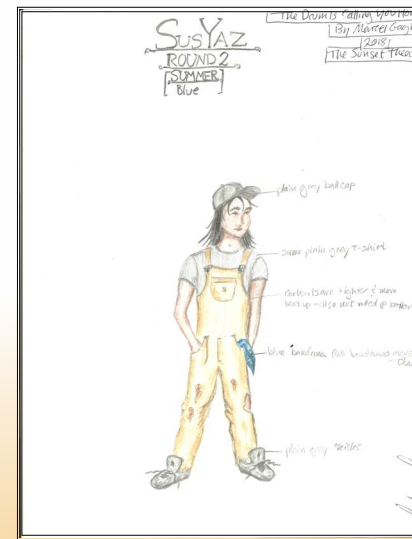
3. The Spirit Circle Drum
honouring the willows that
transform into the the Sweat
Lodge at the end of the play.

4. The Big Pow Wow Drum down stage centre, calling you home.

The set is decorated with Birch trees and disiguous plants creating a warm welcoming forest grove.



Costume Designs by Lahna Lampson 'The Drum is Calling you Home' Sunset Theatre



Keom Johnson - Traditional Costume Builder

Keom lives in Prince George and is highly respected as a traditional builder for First Nations Regalia. For The Drum is Calling you Home, Keom built the Moccasins, Vest with Family Beaver Crest, Trousers with Fringe and Clown outfits. Picture not available.

Pictures from the premiere production of 'The Drum is Calling you Home' at the Sunset Theatre

Photos by Thomas Draskauskis, Bowron Lake Photography



Staff
Pouch
Cross
Medicine Box
Medicine Jars
Medicine Box Stands
Feather
Smudge Bowl
Match Container
5 Lava Rocks
Fish Bag
Dip Pole
Shaker
1 Large Shipping Box
1 Small Shipping Box
Stack of Paycheques
Crumpled Brown Paper Bag with Bottle
Flask
Pow Wow Drum with two Drum Sticks

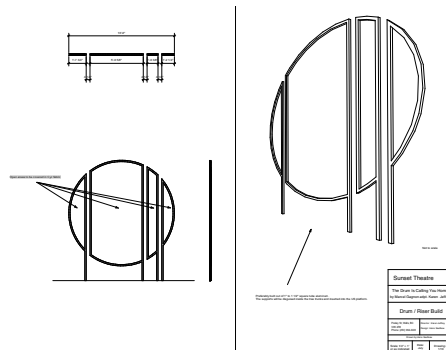
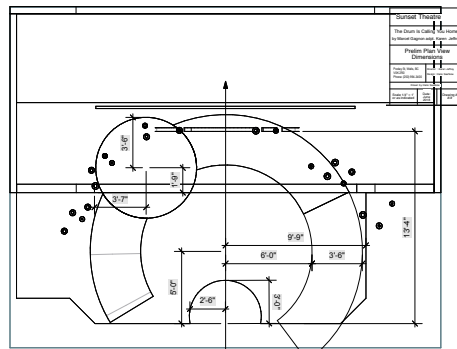
2 Male Performers (1 CAEA)
1 Director (CAEA)
1 Stage Manager (could be in-house)
1 TD (In House)

Point of Origin
1 - Sunset Theatre Wells, BC
1- Prince George
1 - Vancouver

Travel needs are by both ground and air
Accommodation dependent on location

Talk Back
It would be beneficial to have a talk back
session after each performance if possible.

- 2 x Guitar Remote Pick Up
- 2 x Headsets, Remote
(only one in a small house)
- Rear lighting for Drum Shawdows
(8 Ft Throw)
- Sound Playback, Q Lab
- 8 stands and hooks for Sweat Lodge
- Lighting Plot to be supplied
- Night breakup
- Cool Night
- Drum Specials
- Spirit Circle Special
- Story Telling Special DSR
- Dipping Stand Special DSL
- Scrim
- Installtion of Birch Trees # optional



Full Length Video Archive
August 9th, 2018

To book a show, or for more information, contact
Karen Jeffery, Artistic Director -Sunset Theatre Society:
Phone: 250 994 3400
Email: sunsettheatre@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.sunset-theatre.com>