

The Cultch

CROW'S



AS YOU LIKE IT OR THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



YORK
THEATRE

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
CLIFF CARDINAL

SEPT 25–
SEPT 29, 2024

PHOTO // CLIFF CARDINAL BY DAHLIA KATZ



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AS YOU LIKE IT OR THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Written and Performed by Cliff Cardinal
A Crow's Theatre Production (Toronto)

SEPT 25–29, 2024
YORK THEATRE

90 minutes, no intermission

Recommended for Ages 14+
This production contains strong language and examines mature themes.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Written and Performed by
Cliff Cardinal

Lighting Designer
Logan Cracknell

Stage Manager
Jennifer Stobart

Crow's Theatre Artistic Director
Chris Abraham

Crow's Theatre Executive Director
Sherrie Johnson

The Cultch stage crew are members of Local 118 of IATSE



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Cultch acknowledges that it is on unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

We encourage everyone to learn more about the land you live on by visiting and exploring native-land.ca, to read the Truth and Reconciliation Report, which you can find at trc.ca, and to donate to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society atirsss.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM HEATHER AND NICOLE

Hello dear friends and welcome back to The Cultch.

We hope you have had a summer that provided time and space for remarkable experiences and time to ponder. Time away gives you an opportunity to explore a place or thoughts in a way that does not include a schedule or a to-do list. For many of us it is a time to dream of what might be possible. Every season we do at The Cultch starts with dreaming.

For the past few years, Nicole and I have worked together to bring remarkable seasons of performance to you. We have an incredible team at The Cultch, many of whom have been with us for years, that supports each show you see. So, from all of us at The Cultch we are proud and pleased to kick off our 51st Season with a funny and challenging evening of irreverent importance:

AS YOU LIKE IT OR THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Cliff Cardinal, the creator and performer of *As You Like It*, won the 2023 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama with this play. It is one of the few shows in Canada that has been able to straddle not-for-profit and for-profit theatres in Canada. After runs in Toronto at Crow's Theatre, it was picked up by Mirvish Productions and held over multiple times. All of this for good reason, as you are about to experience.

For Nicole and I, we were able to host PuSh International Performing Arts Festival's limited run in 2022, when we were all masked and socially distant. We saw the brilliance of the work and have now succeeded in bringing it back to East Vancouver so you can have this experience tonight.

Thank you for being here.
Please let us know what you think.
It really matters.

Hugs,

Heather Redfern,
Executive Director

Nicole McLuckie
Associate Executive Director



Photo // Heather Redfern & Nicole McLuckie by Lisa Wu



CLIFF CARDINAL Creator, Writer, and Performer
Named by The Globe and Mail as a Canadian Cultural Icon, Cliff Cardinal is a polarizing writer and performer known for his black humour and compassionate poeticism. Born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, he studied playwriting at the National Theatre School of Canada and fronts the hilarious and nefarious Cliff Cardinal and The Skylarks.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S AS YOU LIKE IT: A RADICAL RETELLING BY CLIFF CARDINAL, launched the Crow's Theatre 2021/22 season, following the pandemic shutdown, and sold-out and was held over twice. The show was presented by Mirvish Productions at the CAA Theatre as **THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR AS YOU LIKE IT**, in April 2023 which was also extended. **AS YOU LIKE IT, A RADICAL RETELLING** was short-listed for the Ontario Trillium Book Award and received the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. The show has been touring internationally since its premiere and continues to do so.

Prior to premiering **AS YOU LIKE IT, A RADICAL RETELLING**, Cardinal was best known for his one-man play *Huff*, which he has performed over 200 times. This harrowing yet hilarious show about youth who abuse solvent at high risk of suicide won the Buddies in Bad Times' Vanguard Award for Risk and Innovation, two Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Outstanding Performance, Outstanding New Play), RBC's Emerging Playwright Award, The Lustrum Award (which recognizes the greatest moments at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and was short-listed for Amnesty International's Freedom of Expression Award. The production garnered a five-star review in The Guardian Observer titled "a hard-hitting tour de force." *Huff* has been published, translated into French, continues to tour, and was released as a podcast by the CBC.

Cardinal is an associate artist at VideoCabaret where he develops his new work including, most recently, *(Everyone I Love Has) A Terrible Fate (Befall Them)* as part of The Crow's Theatre's 40th anniversary season; and his first multi-character play, *Too Good To Be True*, which Cardinal directed for VideoCabaret's 2019 season opener. "This captivating tale of an off-grid mother and her desperate children solidifies Cardinal as one of the most talented and intriguing writers in the country."—*NOW Magazine*

Other solo theatre productions include *Stitch*, and *Cliff Cardinal's CBC Special*, a songwriter/storyteller performance which won the Jon Kaplan Spotlight Award for the top performance at Toronto's Summer Works Festival and toured festivals in Ottawa, Calgary, St. Catharines, Kingston, and through Canada's North starting in Yellowknife.

Cliff Cardinal and The Skylarks' first recording, *This is Not a Mistake* was released in 2016 and their follow up *Gonna Be Fine* was released in 2020, both are available online. The band's third album *Suicidal Valentine* is out on Merlainen Music. The title track has risen to number six on the Indigenous Music Countdown.

BIOGRAPHIES



LOGAN RAJU CRACKNELL Lighting Designer

A Toronto based theatre artist specializing in lighting design and live stream creation. Their work has taken them across the country, and they are truly excited to see what journeys lie ahead. Recent works include: *Prodigal* (The Howland Company, Crow's Theatre), *William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Radical Retelling* by Cliff Cardinal and *Orphans for the Czar* (Crow's Theatre), *The Extinction Therapist* (Theatre Aquarius), *Alice in Wonderland* (Bad Hats

Theatre), *BLACKOUT* (The Musical Stage Company), *Lady Day* at Emerson's Bar and Grill (Theatre Calgary), *Dixon Road* (The Musical Stage Company, Obsidian Theatre), *As You Like It* (Canadian Stage Company), and *Concord Floral and Casimir and Caroline* (Theatre Sheridan), and *Fairview* (Canadian Stage Company, Obsidian Theatre).



JENNIFER STOBART Stage Manager

A veteran of live theatre, having stage managed over 180 professional productions, Jennifer has toured across Canada and the United States, to Dublin, Ireland, Brighton and London, England, Sydney and Perth Australia, and Edinburgh, Scotland. Recent credits include *our place* (Cahoots Theatre/Theatre Passe Muraille); *The Chronicles of Sarnia* (Blyth Festival Theatre); *(Everyone I Love Has) A Terrible Fate (Befall Them)* (VideoCabaret/Crow's

Theatre); *Huff* (Grand Theatre and Crows Theatre); *The Christie Pits Riots* (The Hogtown Collective); *The Land Acknowledgement* or *As You Like It* (Mirvish Productions/Crow's Theatre); *As You Like It, a Radical Re-telling* by Cliff Cardinal (Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Peterborough, Ottawa, and New York City). Upcoming Jennifer will tour British Columbia and to Sydney, Australia. As always, she sends her love to her Mom.



CHRIS ABRAHAM Crow's Theatre Artistic Director

The driving force of Crow's since the 2008/09 season. He has successfully led the company through several major milestones including last season's record breaking 40th anniversary of the company, as well as building Streetcar Crowsnest, a pioneering, state of the art facility with three venues in the east end of Toronto. For Crow's, Chris has directed numerous award-winning plays including *Natasha*, *Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, *The Master Plan*,

Uncle Vanya, *MixTape*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, *Stars: Together*, *The Wedding Party*, *True Crime*, *Boy in the Moon*, *The Assembly*, *The Watershed*, *The Seagull*, *Winners & Losers*, *Someone Else*, *Eternal Hydra*, and *I, Claudia*, and served as a co-conspirator with Cliff Cardinal for *As You Like It, A Radical Retelling*. In 2003, Chris directed the film adaptation of Kristen Thomson's award-winning hit *I, Claudia* for which he won a Gemini Award. Other directing credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Tartuffe*, *The Taming of the Shrew*,

Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello, The Matchmaker, The Little Years, For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again (Stratford Festival); *One Man, Two Guvnors, Cyrano de Bergerac* (Shaw Festival); *Seeds* (Crow's and Porte Parole); and *Macbeth* (Bard on the Beach, Vancouver).



SHERRIE JOHNSON Crow's Theatre Executive Director

Sherrie Johnson began her tenure at Crow's Theatre (Toronto) in February 2019, becoming Crow's first Executive Director. Sherrie brings a wide range of experience as an arts leader to her role at Crow's Theatre. Sherrie was a member of the leadership team at Canadian Stage (Toronto) from 2013-2019. Prior to joining Canadian Stage, Johnson's artistic career includes serving as founding Artistic Director of Outside The Box in Boston,

MA; Senior Curator at the highly esteemed PuSh International Performing Arts Festival in Vancouver, B.C.; and Co-Founder/Artistic Director of the Six Stages Festival in Toronto, Prague, Berlin and Glasgow. An active producer and agent, she's worked with Germany's internationally renowned triumvirate Rimini Protokoll, Antwerp based artists Bart Baele and Yves Degryse of Berlin, filmmaker and installation artist Srinivas Krishna, and visual artist Stan Douglas. Sherrie successfully led the indie company da da kamera with Daniel MacIvor from 1993-2007. Sherrie was the inaugural recipient of the John Hobday Award for outstanding achievement in arts management from the Canada Council and the recipient of the 2019 Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award.

CROW'S THEATRE Producer

Crow's Theatre, located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, ignites passionate and enduring engagement between audiences and artists by creating, producing, and promoting unforgettable theatre that examines and illuminates the pivotal narratives of our times. Founded in 1983, Crow's Theatre has premiered over 50 new, daring, Canadian works, including the multiple-award-winning production of Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains* and the *True Nature of Love*; John Mighton's *A Short History of Night*, James O'Reilly's *Time After Time: The Chet Baker Project*, a new adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* by Liisa Repo-Martell, and many more.

For over 40 years, Crow's Theatre has been a leading force in the Canadian theatre landscape, recognized for provocative and award-winning new theatre works that premiere in Toronto and are often followed by national and international tours. In January 2017, following the completion of a \$12 million capital campaign, Crow's Theatre opened the doors to its first permanent home, Streetcar Crowsnest, at the corner of Carlaw Avenue and Dundas Street East. Our home is comprised of four venues for dynamic cultural and community programming: the Guloien Theatre; Studio Theatre; the Nada Ristich Studio Gallery; and a full-service Lobby Bar. This season Crow's Theatre is taking flight, citywide and beyond, to partner on tours and productions including *A Strange Loop*, *The Master Plan*, *Fifteen Dogs*, and the smash hit, *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*.

THE CULTCH STAFF

Heather Redfern <i>Executive Director</i>	Lisa Mennell <i>Communications & Outreach Manager</i>
Nicole McLuckie <i>Associate Executive Director</i>	Neal Miskin <i>Head Audio</i>
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Yuri Arajs <i>Gallery Curator</i>	Kaden O'Reilly <i>Technical Director</i>
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Did we miss you or not recognize you as you wish? Please let us know by contacting Ivy Padmos, Partnerships Manager, at ivy@thecultch.com

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If you love the *East Van Panto* as much as we do—we'd love to partner with you!

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Please contact Ivy Padmos, our Partnerships Manager, at ivy@thecultch.com by **Oct 15** for more details, and join our wonderful community!



Photo // Jason Sakaki and Panto Kids by Emily Cooper

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ABOUT THE CULTCH

As Vancouver's most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hub, The Cultch has created meaningful, impactful connections across communities for over 50 years.

As a presenting theatre, we curate unique, intimate, and diverse performances from Vancouver, Canada, and across the globe—offering dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, circus, and visual arts.

We host vibrant gatherings and lively conversations around the issues, topics, and ideas that are presented in our shows.

We remove barriers to access by providing ASL Interpretation performances and free tickets to those for whom cost is prohibitive.

We are connectors, facilitators, culture changers, and we are committed to providing the highest level of service and care we can offer.

We activate this work in our three theatres—the Historic, the Vancity Culture Lab, and the York—a gallery, and various multi-use spaces in the heart of East Vancouver, as well as our Cultch Online digital presentations that reach international audiences.

We welcome everyone who loves live performance into our spaces and invite them to make The Cultch their home.

CONNECT WITH US:

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RAVEN MOTHER, OCT 9–12, 2024

Raven Mother is the Dancers of Damelahamid's newly choreographed dance work in honour of late Elder Margaret Harris (1931–2020). Known for their multimedia dance performance, *Raven Mother* is the Dancers of Damelahamid's most ambitious production and will be the culmination of generations of artistic and cultural work.

Photo // Raven Mother by Andrew Grenier



**RAVEN MOTHER: Q&A WITH MARGARET GRENIER,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER****Can you tell us a little bit about the multimedia aspects of the show?**

So the regalia, the music, the choreography, the set, the visual art and graphic design is all very interwoven. And the regalia in *Raven Mother* is very much informed by the narrative. The Raven crest, manifested in multiple forms, embodies transformation, the strengthening of culture, the unveiling of a new spirit, and breathing life into a promise made to the children of generations to come.

There are also some really special pieces within *Raven Mother*. One of the pieces which was created by my son's wife, Rebecca Baker Granier, is a feather cloak. And this is something that hasn't been part of our dances since the lifting of the Potlatch Ban.

Who do you think should come to see Raven Mother and what can they expect?

I think *Raven Mother* is a piece that everyone can come to see. It's something that reflects the history here on the West Coast, but also it's a piece that really speaks to the hope that we have as a family as we move forward, the strength that women have had in carrying this lineage and carrying this practice forward.

The Cultch

Dancers of Damelahamid
(Vancouver)



RAVEN MOTHER



HISTORIC
THEATRE

WORLD
PREMIERE

OCT 09–
OCT 12, 2024

TICKETS FROM \$29 [THECULTCH.COM](https://thecultch.com)

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PHOTO // RAVEN MOTHER BY ANDREW GRENIER;

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The Cultch

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Dancers of Damelahamid
(Vancouver)

RAVEN MOTHER

OCT 09–12, 2024



Tentacle Tribe (Montréal)
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