

**FREE Performance !!!
Everyone Welcome!!!**

Punctuate! Theatre & Dreamspeakers Festival Society present

BEARS

by Matthew MacKenzie

A multi-disciplinary dark comedy about the Trans Mountain Pipeline,
Bears asks what the hell it is we think we're doing here in Wild Rose Country.

SUMMER TOUR 2019

In partnership with:



***Comically Dark. Unapologetically
political. A play about pipelines.***

ONE NIGHT ONLY!!!

Punctuate! Theatre,
Dreamspeakers Festival Society
and Western Canada Theatre
present:

Bears

Where: Pavilon Theatre

1025 Lorne St, Kamloops

When: Monday, August 19th, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Cost: Free Community Performance

*Parental advisory: contains some mild language

*The prime suspect in a workplace
accident, Floyd has to get out of town
fast. Pursued by the RCMP, he heads
through the Rockies for Burnaby, B.C,
along the route of the Kinder Morgan
Trans Mountain Pipeline. By the time he
reaches the Pacific, Floyd has experienced
changes - his gait widening, his muscles
bulging, his sense of smell heightening...*

******Join us after the performance for a
Talk-Back with the Cast & Producers***

For More Information Contact: Laura Michel
(250)819-0747

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ABOUT THE PLAY

The prime suspect in a workplace accident, Floyd has to get out of town fast. Pursued by the RCMP, he heads through the Rockies for Burnaby, B.C. along the route of the Trans Mountain Pipeline. By the time he reaches the Pacific, Floyd has experienced changes - his gait widening, his muscles bulging, his sense of smell heightening...

Bears is not just a play: it is an emotional, empathetic performance experience told through dramatic storytelling, an integrated 8-person dance chorus, an enchanting projection design, and an evocative electronic soundscape.



COMMUNITY

Few environmental issues facing Canadians are attracting as much attention as pipelines and their proposed expansions. Led largely by an Indigenous cast and creative team, *Bears* strives to increase dialogue about the devastating effects economic greed is taking on the lands of our country's First Nations peoples.



INFORMATION LINKS

Bears 2018 Clip: <http://bit.ly/Bearsexcerpt2018>

Globe and Mail 2018 Review: <http://bit.ly/GandM2018>

NOW Magazine 2019 Review: <http://bit.ly/nowreview2019>

www.punctuatetheatre.com

info@punctuatetheatre.com

“ I'd never seen a piece that speaks to issues facing Canada's Indigenous peoples as effectively and beautifully as Bears does.

— Jerry Saddleback, Cree Elder and Dean of Cultural Studies at Maskwacis College



Dreamspeakers and Punctuate! Theatre present

BEARS

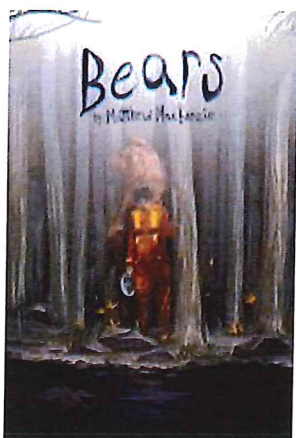
by Matthew MacKenzie

"I'd never seen a play that speaks to issues facing Canada's Indigenous peoples as effectively and beautifully as Bears does."

-Jerry Saddleback, Cree Elder and Dean of Cultural Studies at Maskwacis College

"...a highly entertaining evening at the theatre thanks to MacKenzie's clever direction and Monica Dottor's ingenious choreography."

- Kelly Nestruck, Globe and Mail



Comically Dark. Unapologetically political. A play about pipelines.

The prime suspect in a workplace accident, Floyd has to get out of town fast. Pursued by the RCMP, he heads through the Rockies for Burnaby, B.C, along the route of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline. By the time he reaches the Pacific, Floyd has experienced changes - his gait widening, his muscles bulging, his sense of smell heightening...

Edmonton, AB- A multi-disciplinary dark comedy about the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline, Dreamspeakers and Punctuate! Theatre from Edmonton present BEARS

Written and directed by Matthew MacKenzie (SIA, The Particulars, The Other) and starring award-winning (and former tar sands worker) Métis theatre artist Sheldon Elter (Métis Mutt), *BEARS* asks "What the hell is going on in Wild Rose Country?"

Performed first in Edmonton in February 2015, *Bears* was a sell-out success, garnering considerable Arts and non-Arts media attention. The official premiere was in January 2018 at the Theatre Centre in Toronto, the production receiving numerous awards including the Dora awards for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Production in the independent theatre division, co-winning the Toronto Theatre Critics Outstanding New Canadian Play Award and the Playwright Guild of Canada's Carol Bolt National Playwriting Award. The production has since toured to Calgary, Canmore, Maskwacis, Saddle Lake, Vancouver, and Victoria.

Unapologetically political, *BEARS* gives voice to the voiceless animals, and vulnerable landscapes, desecrated by the insatiable human desire for industrial expansion, while striving to increase dialogue about the devastating effects on Canada's First Nations peoples. Originally developed in Edmonton, the sold-out workshop run also garnered five Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award nominations, and two wins for Outstanding Score and Outstanding Choreography. Liz Nicholls of the Edmonton Journal reported, "*BEARS* is an Ode to Nature... It's rare enough to find original theatre that is so definably of this place. Theatre that harnesses the divergent resources of multi-disciplinary artists so creatively to mount an argument is rarer still. You can't really afford to miss *BEARS*."

An Indigenous-led new Canadian play told through dramatic storytelling and choreography, an eight-person chorus, enchanting projections, and an evocative electronic soundscape, *BEARS* is an emotional, empathetic performance experience.

For interview inquiries and high-resolution photos, please contact:

Lianna Makuch: outreach@punctuatetheatre.com ; 780-993-0595

dreamspeakers.org ; punctuatetheatre.com



Cast/Crew

Starring Sheldon Elter (creator and performer *Métis Mutt*) • **Featuring** Skye Demas, Lara Ebata, Christine Sokaymoh Frederick, Zoe Glassman, Rebecca Sadowski, Kendra Shorter, Shammy Belmore • **Written and Directed** by Matthew MacKenzie • **Associate Direction** by Patrick Lundeen • **Choreography** by Monica Dottor • **Original Score** by Noor Dean Musani • **Environmental Design** by T. Erin Gruber • **Costume Design** by Brianna Kolybaba and Monica Dottor • **Productions Management** by Trent J. Crosby

About the Playwright:

In 1841, Matt's Chapan (Cree for Great Grandmother) Kisiskaciwan (Cree for Saskatchewan) passed through the Edmonton region. For three days, as her party stocked up on supplies, she sat by the North Saskatchewan—her namesake, and cried. An Englishman recorded in his account of the journey that Kisiskaciwan had “the same veneration for the North Saskatchewan as those of the Hindu faith do for the Ganges.” It is this historical account that led Matt's Grandfather, Alberta author Vern Wishart, to embark on a journey of discovery about their family's Cree, Ojibwe and Métis heritage that had been hidden by his father due to the endemic racism of the time, a journey of discovery Matt's mother, film maker Beth Wishart MacKenzie, and he, are continuing.

Matt is deeply grateful to the guidance, support and teaching Christine Sokaymoh Frederick and Cree Elders Jerry Saddleback and Jo-Ann Saddleback have generously offered him as he has endeavored to learn about and engage with his Indigenous heritage.

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