

# canadianstage

## AF

**Director & Concept by Sandra Laronde**

**Choreography by Thomas Fonua, in Collaboration with Performers**

**Music by Eliot Britton & Rick Sacks**

**A Red Sky Performance Production Presented by Canadian Stage February 18-March 1 -- Berkeley Street Theatre**

“The strength of the company’s contemporary dancers might be its finest asset.”

– The Globe and Mail

“Red Sky Performance is a delight to the eye.” – Toronto Star

“You can’t do better than Red Sky Performance, exemplary and magical.” – Now Magazine

“Powerful, hypnotizing, flawless.” – The Dance Current



Celebrated for its powerful transformational art experiences that expand and elevate the ecology of Indigenous arts and culture, internationally renowned, Dora Award-winning, Red Sky Performance returns to Canadian Stage with the world premiere of **AF**, on stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre, February 18-March 1, 2020.

FOR CANADIAN STAGE: BRENDAN HEALY, Artistic Director MONICA ESTEVES, Executive Director  
ALEXANDRA BAILLIE Board Chair

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Taking inspiration from George Orwell's dark dystopian *Animal Farm*, **AF** imagines a new future with inspiration and illumination from Anishinaabe mythologies, archetypes and futurisms.

Through an intricate play of light and shadow, **AF** combines explosive contemporary dance with innovative physical storytelling that speaks to the forces that have shaped the lives of the people on Turtle Island. Inspired by the seven fire prophecies of the Anishinaabe, which foretell of a pivotal moment where humanity will face the ultimate choice, each "fire" (or epoch) is depicted through seven movements.

"As our Berkeley Street Company-in-Residence for the past three years, Red Sky Performance has enthralled Canadian Stage audiences with its cutting-edge dance creations," says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. "The company's success in Canada and abroad, is proof that we are hungry for work from an Indigenous perspective."

"We're thrilled to return to Canadian Stage, a place we call home because we are inspired, elevated, and supported there," says Red Sky Performance's Sandra Laronde.

A leader in contemporary Indigenous performance, Red Sky has garnered a stellar reputation for collaborating on landmark projects with some of the most prestigious artists and companies from across Canada and around the world. Under the direction of cultural innovator, Executive and Artistic Director Sandra Laronde, Red Sky continues to deliver exceptionally unique intercultural, inter-disciplinary, and intergenerational work that expands and elevates the ecology of Indigenous arts and culture, contributing to building vibrant Indigenous communities across Canada and abroad.

**AF** is on stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 PM, Fridays at 7 PM and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 PM. Tickets can be purchased at [canadianstage.com](http://canadianstage.com) or by calling the box office at 416-368-3110 or in person at the Berkeley Street box office located at 26 Berkeley Street.

## **ABOUT 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), they are currently in their 20th year of dance, theatre, and music.

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. Dedicated to working with emerging and established artists as they hone their artistic practice, particularly through an Indigenous lens, the company offers unique opportunities for their artists to thrive creatively and professionally.

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Touring since 2003, Red Sky has delivered over 2,758 performances across Canada including 198 international performances in 17 countries on four continents, including such landmark events as at two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), 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. Red Sky is the recipient of 12 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. [www.redskyperformance.com](http://www.redskyperformance.com)

## **ABOUT SANDRA LARDONE**

Sandra Laronde is from the Teme-Augama-Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water) and a highly accomplished arts innovator and leader in Canada. Sandra founded Red Sky Performance in 2000, and has conceived, developed, produced, and toured award-winning productions that are Indigenous, multi and inter-disciplinary, and intergenerational. She creates exceptional new work and powerful transformational arts experiences that expand and elevate the ecology of Indigenous arts and culture.

In 2017, Sandra was also a Curator for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra celebrating Canada's diverse musical landscape. She was also the Director of Indigenous Arts at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity from 2007 – 2016. During her nine-year tenure as Director, she created exceptional cuttingedge programming informed by Indigenous cultures and worldviews and excelled at bringing world-class faculty to the Centre. Substantial growth for Indigenous Arts at the Banff Centre was achieved under her leadership including an innovative new approach to programming involving hundreds of Indigenous artists from across Canada and the globe. Sandra has been widely recognized with numerous awards and distinctions and plays a pivotal role in the Indigenous cultural resurgence of Canada.

## **ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE**

Canadian Stage's mission is to be the leading contemporary performing arts organization in the country. A collision of disciplines and cultures, Canadian Stage reflects the dynamism and complexity of Canada and is a vital artistic force locally, nationally, and internationally. In its over thirty-year history, Canadian Stage has employed thousands of artists and developed and produced hundreds of new productions. Many of the plays developed by Canadian Stage have been awarded and nominated for Canada's most prestigious literary and performing arts honours, including Governor General's, Chalmers and Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Throughout the theatre season, nearly 100,000 patrons attend performances and workshops in our three Toronto venues. Throughout our history, Canadian Stage has provided outstanding education and outreach programs cultivating a diverse audience demographic.

**To receive further information, please contact CATHY PAINE at 416-367-8243  
ext. 250 or [cpaine@canadianstage.com](mailto:cpaine@canadianstage.com)**

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