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A WORLD PREMIERE FROM ONE OF CANADA'S FOREMOST
CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANIES

TRACE

Conceived + Directed by Sandra Laronde

Choreography by Jera Wolfe

Music by Eliot Britton

A Red Sky Performance Production Presented by Canadian Stage

October 30-November 11, 2018 at the Berkeley Street Theatre

"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

"Backbone delivers chills that nearly go down your spin." – Globe & Mail

Toronto, ON – Canadian Stage is pleased to welcome the return of Berkeley Street Company-in-Residence, Red Sky Performance, with the world premiere of *Trace*, on stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre October 30 -November 11, 2018.

After the success of their cutting-edge dance creation, *Backbone*, a highlight from our 2017-2018 season, Red Sky returns with *Trace*, a sumptuous new dance production that explores indigenous connections to ancestral origins and all things traceable. *Trace* maps Anishinaabe sky and star stories, offering an exciting glimpse into our origin as well as our future evolution.

For tens of thousands of years, the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island have mapped the night sky, studied the stars, and established an expansive view of the world and body of knowledge that has often been ignored and erased. *Trace*, which features six dancers and three live musicians, explores what has come before us and what is yet to come.

"We are so excited to be back as a Berkeley Street Company-in-Residence for our second season. We are so grateful for our partnership with Canadian Stage, and for their leadership in supporting our vision and artistry with such enthusiasm, professionalism, and pragmatism," says Artistic Director Sandra Laronde. "This partnership is one to be emulated and it is a partnership to be celebrated especially as this time in Canada."

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“We are super honoured to welcome Red Sky Performance back for their second year at Canadian Stage,” says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. “Red Sky is at the forefront of contemporary Indigenous culture making in this country, and as our Berkeley Street Company-In-Residence, we are thrilled to be their Toronto home. Our belief and investment in last season’s premiere of *Backbone* assisted Red Sky in reaching an even larger international audience as they embark on a 5-week tour with to European plus opening CINARS, one of the most important international dance events in the world.”

An internationally renowned 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.

Trace is on stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre from October 30-November 11. Performances run Tuesdays, Wednesdays (the Nov. 7 performance is at 1 PM), Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8 PM, Fridays at 7 PM, and Sundays at 2 PM. Tickets range from \$49-\$79 and are available for purchase online, by phone at 416-368-3110, or in person at the Berkeley Street Box Office. For details visit canadianstage.com

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MEDIA NIGHT: NOVEMBER 1

**To receive further information or for interview requests, please contact
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ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. The company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at Civic Theatres Toronto; The Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre. In July 2018, award-winning theatre director Brendan Healy was appointed Artistic Director.

ABOUT SANDRA LARONDE

Sandra Laronde is the founder and Executive & Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance. Originally from the Teme-Augama-Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water) in Temagami, northern Ontario, Sandra is an accomplished arts innovator and cultural leader who has conceived, developed, produced, and disseminated award-winning productions that are Indigenous, multi and inter-disciplinary, and

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intergenerational. In addition to her work at Red Sky, Sandra was the Director of Indigenous Arts at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity from 2008 – 2017. During her nine-year tenure as director, she created exceptional cutting-edge programming informed by Indigenous cultures and worldviews, and excelled at bringing world-class faculty to the Centre. A member of the Civic Theatres Toronto Board of Directors, Sandra was also appointed to the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, the St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts, and the Toronto Centre for the Arts Boards of Directors. Sandra is a Board Member of the Temagami Community Foundation that cooperatively and actively nurtures and cares for Temagami – the water, the land and its inhabitants – for today and the future. Previously she served on the National Executive Committee for the Governor-General's Canadian Leadership Conference, and was an Advisor to OCAD University, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Western Arts Alliance, and Canada Dance Festival. **Sandra received the 2018 Meritorious Service Decoration** on behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made remarkable contributions in many fields of endeavour, who inspire others, and who share a common goal of making a positive difference to Canada.

ABOUT RED SKY PERFORMANCE

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide. The multi-award winning company was founded in 2000 by Executive and Artistic Director Sandra Laronde. Now in its 18th year of dance, theatre, music, and media, Red Sky Performance has been touring since 2003, and have delivered over 2,253 performances across Canada including international performances in 17 countries on four continents, including two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), and opened for Canada at World Expo in Shanghai. They are the recipient of eight *Dora Mavor Moore* awards and nominations, two *Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards*, three *International Youth Drama Awards* from Shenzhen, China, a *Vital Ideas Award*, the *Smithsonian Expressive Award*, among other recognitions.