



Border Crossings

in association with Bronitsky & Associates (USA) presents

ORIGINS

Festival of First Nations

across London from 4 – 17 May 2009

Origins is the UK's inaugural Festival of First Nations creative arts, bringing together groundbreaking artists from the indigenous cultures of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. At venues across London, the festival explores First Nations experience in the twenty-first century through theatre, film screenings, spoken word, comedy and participation.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

a spectacular **Maori welcome ceremony** at the Scoop at More London to launch the festival (4 May)

the UK debut of four internationally acclaimed plays at **Riverside Studios** and **Soho Theatre**

an exploration of **Theatre and Healing** from Quebec's **Ondinnok**, re-contacting mythological and spiritual roots

an engaging and eclectic programme of **film screenings**, with guest filmmakers including Alanis Obomsawin, David Milroy and Vilsoni Hereniko in attendance, and films from Australia's Allan Collins and Inuit filmmaker Elisapie Isaac

debate and discussions, workshops, storytelling and education programmes



Full programme and information at www.originsfestival.com

Strange Resting Places (4-9 May - Soho Theatre)

Taki Rua Productions - New Zealand(www.takirua.co.nz)

Set against the backdrop of World War II, Strange Resting Places tells the stories of the Maori Battalion in Italy.

"... a spellbinding little gem of a show that will have you laughing a lot and crying just a little."- New Zealand Herald

£15 (£12) - Monday £10. 0207 478 0100. www.sohotheatre.com

Almighty Voice and His Wife (5-10 May - Riverside Studios)

Native Earth Theatre - Canada (www.nativeearth.ca)

18 years after its triumphant premiere, a new production of Daniel David Moses' seminal play about the legendary 19th century Saskatchewan Cree.

£15 (£12). 020 8237 1111. www.riversidestudios.co.uk

Salvage (12-17 May - Riverside Studios)

Native Voices at the Autry - USA (www.autrynationalcenter.org/nativevoices)

Cherokee writer Diane Glancy offers a picture of Native American culture battling to exist in the contemporary world.

"Native Voices at the Autry has a winner... inspired performances" - Variety

£15 (£12). 020 8237 1111. www.riversidestudios.co.uk

Windmill Baby (12-17 May - Riverside Studios)

Yirra Yaakin - Australia (www.yirrayaakin.com.au)

A multi-award winning, one-woman, redemption piece; told by Maymay, an old Aboriginal woman who returns to the deserted Kimberley cattle station that was her home 50 years ago.

"A rare gem - a mature, well-formed script with hidden depths." - The Australian

£15 (£12). 020 8237 1111. www.riversidestudios.co.uk

Tkaronto (Opening Night Gala: 4 May - Ciné Lumière)

Two contemporary Native Canadians discover an unexpected connection when their paths cross in Tkaronto (the original Mohawk word for "Toronto"). An attraction between them develops as both are drawn together by a mutual search for meaning in their urban existence.

"A moving love story between two roaming artists" - Toronto Globe and Mail

£9 (£7). 020 7073 1350. www.institut-francais.org.uk

Allan Collins Night (7 May - Ciné Lumière)

Two hauntingly beautiful, exquisitely photographed films from the leading Aboriginal Australian director and cinematographe encapsulating the rich spiritual culture of Australia's First Nation.

Spirit Stones and Sunset to Sunrise

£9 (£7). 020 7073 1350. www.institut-francais.org.uk

Kanehsatake - 270 Years of Resistance (14 May - British Museum)

Alanis Obomsawin's account of the 1990 armed standoff between the people of Kanehsatake, the Quebec police and the Canadian army. Winner of 18 major awards.

£3 (£2) 020 7323 8851. www.britishmuseum.org

The Origins Lecture: Alanis Obomsawin (15 May - Riverside Studios)

A chance to hear the leading First Nations filmmaker, the subject of a recent retrospective at MOMA in New York, discusses her life, her culture and her craft.

£5 020 8237 1111 www.riversidestudios.co.uk

Origins focuses on First Nations people's relationship to the contemporary, Westernised world. The festival considers critical issues facing the world today from a First Nations perspective, addressing key themes from truth and reconciliation to the environment and climate change.

Supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

In collaboration with the Canadian High Commission

