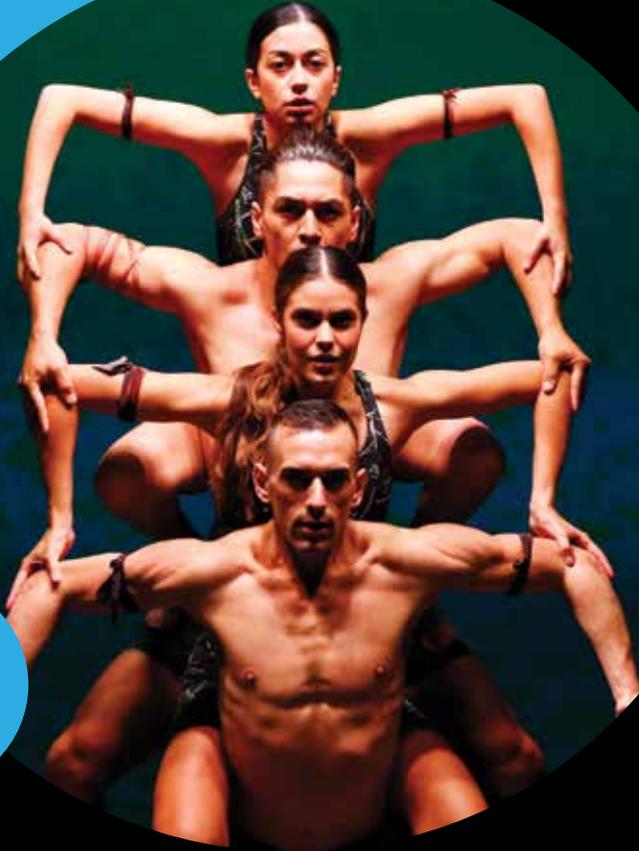


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**redSky**  
PERFORMANCE  
Sandra Laronde, Executive & Artistic Director

# MIIGIS: UNDERWATER PANTHER

**WARNING:** Scenes or images in this story may be distressing to some audience members. This performance contains images of, and references to, residential schools. We acknowledge all Nations across Turtle Island (Canada and the USA) and the impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, and the recent exposures of Truth.

## CREATOR'S NOTE

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**Miigis:** Underwater Panther draws its inspiration from a prophecy in which the Anishinaabe must move westward or perish. It is about the great migration of the Anishinaabe from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, moving from salt to freshwater. Miigis explores the journey, the mystery beings, the rise of matriarchy and the ancestral pull towards the next seven generations.

In this landmark production, we bring a significant cultural story to the surface, centering our narrative, and opening the imaginations of audiences. We will share Anishinaabe archetypes and mystery beings which are part of Indigenous canon in Turtle Island (North America), but whose stories have rarely - if ever - been heard on stage.

The 60-minute work will be performed to original live music and will showcase the unique aesthetic developed over the company's 22 years, which combines contemporary Indigenous dance, theatrical innovation, and a fusion of athleticism, music, and film.



Miigis: Underwater Panther represents the second creation in Red Sky Performance's Miigis cycle, which focuses on the power of nature and Indigenous prophecy.

We give a huge thank you to the extraordinary team at Sid Williams Theatre for having us at your venue.

Thank you to Kathy Morrison and Emma Walker. Thank you to the wonderful artists and collaborators involved in the creative process and for their generosity of spirit. Chi-miigwetch to the culture keepers, the late Alex McKay and to Brian Peltier. Thank you to the audience for being part of this shared journey.

- Sandra Laronde





## ABOUT RED SKY PERFORMANCE

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide. The company drives its passion forward and leads in the creation, elevation, and evolution of contemporary Indigenous performance and makes a significant contribution to the vibrancy of Canada and the world.

Now in its 22nd year of performance (dance, theatre, music, and media), Red Sky has delivered close to 3,000 performances in 21 countries on four continents, including two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), World Expo in Shanghai, and the Venice Biennale.

Red Sky's work highlights the originality and power of contemporary performance, enabling new creations to expand the breadth and scope of Indigenous-made work in Canada.

The vision of Red Sky Performance derives from its creator Sandra Laronde (Misko Kizhigoo Migizii Kwe), which means "Red Sky Eagle Woman" in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway) language from the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water). Her vision is dedicated to expanding and elevating the ecology of contemporary performance informed by Indigenous worldview and culture.

**[www.redskyperformance.com](http://www.redskyperformance.com)**

## **CREDITS**

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### **CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION**

Sandra Laronde

in collaboration with the Performers

### **COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNERS**

Rick Sacks

with Julian Cote, Pura Fe, Marie Gaudet, Marc Merilainen,  
Pierre Mongeon

### **REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & COLLABORATOR**

Joey Arrigo

### **SET DESIGNER**

Julia Tribe

### **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Lesley Hampton

### **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Matt Eckensweiler

### **MOTION GRAPHICS, ANIMATION & VIDEO DESIGNER**

Febby Tan

### **PERFORMERS**

Eddie Elliott, Kristin DeAmorim, Mio Sakamoto,  
Jason Martin, Daniela Carmona, Moira Humana-Blaise

### **MUSICIANS**

Ora Barlow-Tukaki, Ian De Souza, Rick Sacks

### **PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

Carla Ritchie

### **LIGHTING DIRECTOR**

Emerson Kafarowski

## Sandra Laronde

### **CONCEPT, DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER**

A highly accomplished arts leader and creator, Sandra Laronde is a multidisciplinary artist working as a director, producer, choreographer, author, and as founding Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance. She is from the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water) in Temagami and based in Toronto.

She drives her passion forward to elevate Indigenous arts of Canada and worldwide while playing a pivotal role in the ongoing Indigenous cultural resurgence. For three decades and counting, Sandra has accomplished numerous projects, primarily in dance and theatre. Her work is fundamentally based on 'story' and ongoing experimentation is paramount. The body of work that she has created and co-created has led to transformational experiences in Canada while strengthening an international presence. Sandra was also the director of Indigenous Arts at the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity for 9 consecutive years.

## Rick Sacks

### **COMPOSER & MUSIC DESIGNER**

After receiving a Master degree in Music from SUNY Stony Brook, Rick Sacks performed at Carnegie Recital Hall, NY Shakespeare Theatre and Alice Tully Hall. He regularly performs in Toronto and tours worldwide (Vancouver and Beijing Olympics, Shanghai Expo, Mongolia, Europe). His Water Music (Victoria Symphony) utilized remote controlled flying fish and a deep-sea diver costume. With Red Sky Performance, Rick received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Tono and AF, and nominated for Backbone (all of these productions with Red Sky). From 2011 to 2016 he was Artistic Director of Arraymusic. Rick freelances as a conductor, percussionist, sound designer and composer and broadcasts weekly as Soundpilot.

## Joey Arrigo

### **REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & COLLABORATOR**

Joey Arrigo is a dancer, acrobat, and actor from Toronto. He has toured with Cirque du Soleil's VOLTA and KOOZA, was on faculty with JUMP Dance Convention, and was a member of Shaping Sound Dance Company's inaugural tour. Joey has worked with Acrobatic Arts creating tutorials found on Youtube, Instagram and for The Acrobatics Arts Training Program. In addition to many film and television credits, Joey was one a Top 20 dancer on CTV's "So You Think You Can Dance Canada" and performed for Ukraine's "Everybody Dance". He holds multiple national titles for Dance Masters of America and was 2010 Senior National VIP for JUMP Dance Convention. He has choreographed and taught dance across Canada, United States, Europe, and Australia.

## Julia Tribe

### SET DESIGNER

Julia Tribe is a freelance set & costume designer based in Toronto. She has over 25 years of experience designing for Theatre, Opera and Dance for award-winning productions. She has received recognition in major companies across Canada. Julia received seven Dora nominations, shared two Dora Awards for Outstanding Production, and was nominated for the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre and the Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design. She is a founding member of Contrary Theatre Company and an on going educator of Theatre design and communication, and taught part-time at York University's Theatre Department.

## Lesley Hampton

### COSTUME DESIGNER

Lesley Hampton is a fashion designer who spent her early years in Canada's Arctic and Maritimes as well as Australia, England, Indonesia, and New Caledonia. Currently based in Toronto, Lesley has shown her fashion collections at Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto, Vancouver, London Fashion week, Santa Fe Indian Market, and represented First Nations women at the "Every Woman Campaign". Lesley defines herself through the amalgamation of her indigeneity (Anishinaabe and Mohawk). Her work is founded on the principles of inclusivity, identity, awareness, and heritage. Lesley made her debut as a Costume Designer with Red Sky Performance and is excited to design costumes for Miigis: Underwater Panther.

## Matt Eckensweiler

### LIGHTING DESIGNER

Matt Eckensweiler has been exploring the emotional response elicited by our interactions with physical form, atmosphere and light as a Lighting Designer and Lighting Director for 13 years. This journey has led to music, film, dance and public space as mediums to observe how the body and mind interact with our environments. Every collaboration and story is an opportunity to enrich the understanding of human experience.

## Febby Tan

### MOTION GRAPHICS, ANIMATION AND VIDEO DESIGNER

Febby Tan is a visual artist, motion designer, animator and musician based in Toronto. Born in Indonesia, she moved to Canada to further her career. Her visual and musical language is eclectic, having been influenced from a young age by the diversity of the islands and international scene. She has been involved in diverse projects including music work with LA-based singer MILCK to honor the AAPI community, composition work with UK-based musician Reeta Loi, and audiovisual work for a collaboration between Red Sky Performance, electroacoustic composer Eliot Britton and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. With her raw creativity, DIY-approach to her artistry, and technical aptitude, she continues to create genre-defying work that blurs the line between arts and technology.

# DANCERS

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## Daniela Carmona

### DANCER

Daniela Carmona is a dancer and performer born in México and now living in Montreal. She graduated from the National School of Contemporary and Classic Dance (INBA) and earned a Degree of Contemporary Dance in México City in 2016. She was part of the Mexican company Barro Rojo Arte Escénico from 2014-2018 where she performed in international festivals across México, Colombia, the United States, and Africa. She participated in the dance film *Afterimage* in New Delhi. She participated in “Carmen” with the Ópera de Montréal in the Quartiers Danses Festival, with A’nó:wara Dance Theatre and *Trip the Light Fantastic*, and Festival “Servi au Volant” in Québec. She currently works Red Sky Performance in Toronto and A’nó:wara Dance Theatre in Montreal.

## Kristin DeAmorim

### DANCER

Kristin DeAmorim is originally from Sault Ste. Marie and is currently based in Toronto, Ontario. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Toronto Metropolitan University’s Performance Dance Program. As a dancer with Red Sky Performance, Kristin has been featured in the following projects including: a short work called *Flow* choreographed by Jera Wolfe for Red Sky at the Fall for Dance North’s Signature Program in 2020, Director X’s dance film, *New Monuments*, opening ceremonies for the Team Canada x Lululemon launch, and featured in an episode of David Suzuki’s *The Nature of Things*. She looks forward to continuing to develop her professional career as a dancer and choreographer.

## Eddie Elliott

### DANCER

Eddie Elliott is of Maori descent from Tainui, New Zealand. He trained in contemporary dance at UNITEC and graduated in 2013. Eddie was nominated for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative and won the “I Am Auckland Awards” Youth Active Award. Recently, Eddie has choreographed works such as *Hear Me Out* (2011) featured on Maori television’s *Kanikani Mai*. His work, *I’ll Stand Outside* (2012) toured the South Island and Rarotonga, and *Kei konei au* (2013) was performed at UNITEC for their graduation performance. Eddie has performed in four of Red Sky’s productions, and has worked with other leading dance companies in New Zealand including Black Grace, Atamira, Okareka Dance Company, Douglas Wright Dance, and the New Zealand Dance Company.

## Moira Humana-Blaise

### DANCER

Moira Humana-Blaise earned her BFA in Performance Dance from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2020. Since then, she has been building her performance career, working independently and collaboratively with renowned Toronto artists and companies. She has produced, choreographed, and performed with companies, dancers, and magicians including Toronto Grand Illusions Show 2021-2022. Recently, Moira has devoted herself to the art of Fire Dancing and has become well known for her work with LED and fire technology. Moira has toured Canada at festivals and events, showcasing her love for dance through salsa, ballet, jazz, and contemporary. With Red Sky Performance, she has performed in gala events and televised dance projects. She is very excited to be performing with Red Sky this season.

## Jason Martin

### DANCER

Jason Martin graduated from l'École de Danse Contemporaine de Montréal in 2012. He has worked for dance companies Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Compagnie Dave St Pierre, Daniel Léveillé Danse, Holy Body Tattoo, Sylvain Émard Danse, and Compagnie Virginie Brunelle, among others. In 2016, Jason founded ENTITEY/jason martin to create dance works that explore the resilience and interdependence of the human condition. He has presented his work in Canada, Israel, Mexico, Germany, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Spain. In 2018, he was named artist-in-residence at Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers. His solo étude nO.1 won Best Dancer at SoloDuo NRW + Friends International Dance Festival in Germany and the jury prize at the Certamen Coreográfico 10 Sentidos in Spain.

## Mio Sakamoto

### DANCER

Mio Sakamoto is a Toronto-based performer and choreographer originally from Japan. She graduated from the School of Toronto Dance Theatre in 2017. She has performed *Crépuscule* by Marie-Josée Chartier, *October Sky* by Paul-André Fortier, *Mani Deux* by Northfoot Movement at Fall for Dance North, and *TouchX* and *I am the Child of...* by Kaeja d' Dance as part of TORQUE International Contemporary Dance Series. Mio's choreographic works have been presented in Canada and Japan. In 2020, she received the RBC Newcomer Arts Award by Neighbourhood Arts Network - Toronto Arts Foundation. In 2021, she was selected for the inaugural Artist in Residence with Kaeja d' Dance. She is thrilled to perform with Red Sky Performance in their newest production, *Miigis: Underwater Panther*.

# MUSICIANS

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## Ora Barlow-Tukaki

### VOCALIST AND MUSICIAN

Ora Barlow-Tukaki has toured professionally for 15 years and is a highly skilled musician, singer, workshop facilitator, and storyteller. She co-founded and toured the world with three successful collaborative music projects - Manuhiri, Planet Woman, and Pacific Curls. She has co-created with many international artists and projects. Maori Television produced a documentary about her political activism against oil exploitation in her tribal lands in the series called I know a sheila like that. Ora was a vocalist and musician in two world premieres of Red Sky Performance's works including The Great Lakes (2018) and Trace (2018). Ora lives in Te Kaha and is of Te Whanau-a-Apanui and English Descent.

## Ian De Souza

### MUSICIAN

Born in Kampala, Uganda into a musical family, Ian De Souza has had music as a constant companion his entire life. He has been a professional musician for 35+ years and has traveled the world as a touring musician, having performed venues and festivals on almost every continent in as many idioms. He has composed, arranged and produced music with, amongst others, Toronto-based instrumental band Sisters Euclid (with whom he won an Juno and National Jazz Award) and electronica duo, LAL. Ian has composed music for film and produced music for theatre which earned him a Dora Mavor Moore nomination. Ian has also composed music for dance, contributing several works for his wife, dancer Joanna De Souza's Chhandam Dance Company.

## Rick Sacks

### MUSICIAN

After receiving a Master degree in Music from SUNY Stony Brook, Rick Sacks performed at Carnegie Recital Hall, NY Shakespeare Theatre and Alice Tully Hall. He regularly performs in Toronto and tours worldwide (Vancouver and Beijing Olympics, Shanghai Expo, Mongolia, Europe). His Water Music (Victoria Symphony) utilized remote controlled flying fish and a deep-sea diver costume. With Red Sky Performance, Rick received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Tono and AF, and nominated for Backbone (all of these productions with Red Sky). From 2011 to 2016 he was Artistic Director of Arraymusic. Rick freelances as a conductor, percussionist, sound designer and composer and broadcasts weekly as Soundpilot.

# TECHNICAL

## Carla Ritchie

### PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Carla Ritchie is an accomplished Production/Stage Manager, Technical Director, Set, Light, and Video Designer. Carla has lived and worked in Toronto, Calgary, Regina, Manitoulin Island and now lives in Vancouver. She has toured across Canada, the USA, and China twice with Red Sky Performance. Apart from Red Sky Performance, she has worked with the Electric Company, Theatre Calgary, The Globe Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, One Yellow Rabbit, Debajehmujig-Storytellers, The National Arts Centre, Sage Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, Canadian Stage, and Artscape

## Emerson Kafarowski

### LIGHTING DIRECTOR

Emerson Kafarowski is a multidisciplinary artist and emerging Lighting Designer based in Toronto. A graduate of the Toronto Metropolitan University Performance Production + Design program, they've worked on performances and workshops in a variety of genres including dance, theatre, opera, and music. Emerson gravitates towards projects that explore the richness and complexity of diverse human experiences in which important stories and voices are uplifted. She has worked with many artists and companies, including Bouchardanse, Citadel + Compagnie, School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Fall For Dance North, Soulpepper Theatre Company, and Venusfest. Other projects include EMRSN x EOS, an open-source project designed to bring financially accessible and portable lighting control devices to emerging artists, companies, and site-specific performances.



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UNDERWATER  
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As a Sid Williams Theatre Society member, you directly support our mandate to stimulate and enhance artistic, cultural, and recreational activities for our community.

ENCORE! members save 20% on Blue Circle Series events!



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Sid Williams Theatre Society operates a bursary program to support local students in their pursuit of education in the performing arts or entertainment industries.

Our bursary award is guided by the SWTS mandate, core values, and our strategic objective to educate. We are investing in the future of our community theatre and the theatre industry in British Columbia and Canada. Donations to the theatre and our bursary program can be made through our website,

[www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/donate](http://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/donate)



**SAT FEB 18, 2023**  
7:30 PM

**Andrea Jin**

**Admission \$32**  
*\*Contains adult language and mature content.*

**THU MAR 9, 2023**  
7:30 PM

**Sebastian Gaskin**

**Admission \$32**

**SAT MAR 11, 2023**  
7:30 PM

**Windborne**

**Adult (ages 25+) \$36**  
**Youth (ages 24 & under) \$25**

**WED APR 26 7:30 PM**  
**THU APR 27 7:30 PM**

**Black & Rural**

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*\*This event features occasional strong language*

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**red Sky**  
PERFORMANCE  
Sandra Laronde, Executive & Artistic Director

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