

KAHA:WI
DANCE THEATRE
SANTEE SMITH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

HOMELANDS

photography by David Hou



About Homelands

Homelands is a multimedia dance performance honouring our kinship connection to the natural world, its patterns, energies, and life forces. A cinematic dreamscape is experience with imagery of landscape, water, textures with three women dancers embodying the elemental.

Offering and aligning with earthy imagery and sound design. Homelands places Yethi'nihstenha / many womxn within Kahnnyen'kehàka ancestral homelands of upper state New York and Ohswé:ken / Six Nations of the Grand River. Through joyous call & response, transcendent time/space and powerful alignments to Ka'satsténhsera'kó:wa Sa'oyé:ra / movement in the direction of the immense creation / nature, Homelands affirms human beings are made of land and water and sky.

Homelands premiered as a part of Harbourfront Centre's Torque Dance Series April 2023, Toronto and was remounted the same year at the Celebration of Nations Festival, FirstON Performing Arts Centre, St. Catharines, ON.

Winner of a 2023 Dora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Design in Dance with nominations in the Dance Division: Outstanding Original Sound Composition, Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble, Outstanding Production.

Touring: 2024 and Beyond

Homelands will be touring in Fall 2024 in Ontario and East Coast. We are currently looking for additional touring for Fall 2024: Sept 13-28 and after Oct 6.

The show is available for additional touring in 2025. The company is looking for additional tour dates and in Canada and internationally.

Winner of a 2023 Dora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Design in Dance with nominations in the Dance Division: Outstanding Original Sound Composition, Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble, Outstanding Production

"We at Harbourfront Centre were so thrilled to support the development and premiere of Homelands by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. Santee Smith and her collaborators have created a piece that beautifully celebrates women and their central place in Indigenous culture. The set design is elegant with its immersive projections taking the audience through the lands and seasons. The choreography is performed with intention - it is truly a show everyone can connect with."

Nathalie Bonjour, Director, Performing Arts, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON

"The show left us gobsmacked. The interplay of multimedia, dance and music was masterfully woven together by Smith and her creative team. The storytelling was beautiful, connected and deeply resonant, filled with messages of restoring balance, intergenerational connections to land, and environmental conservation. Having presented nearly every single one of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's works since inception, I can confidently say this was yet another leap forward in both artistry and impact for Santee and her team."

Sara Palmieri, Director of Programming & Marketing, FirstON Performing Arts Centre, St. Catherines, ON

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Archivals

FirstON Performing Arts Centre Sept 2023 Remount

<https://vimeo.com/881542355>

Password: Homelands2023

Note: a 20K lumen projector with updated media imagery

Harbourfront Centre Theatre Premiere May 2023

<https://vimeo.com/818894356>

Password: HomelandsArchival

Note: 32K lumen/laser projector, the imagery is super clean and crisp.

photography by David Hou



Media Links

Link to Review:

<https://istvandugalin.com/2023/04/17/homelands-kaha-wi-dance-theatre/>

Promo Clips

<https://vimeo.com/648320286>

<https://www.instagram.com/santeesmith/>

<https://www.instagram.com/kahawidance/>

Harbourfront Centre link:

[https://harbourfrontcentre.com/event/homelands/?](https://harbourfrontcentre.com/event/homelands/?fbclid=IwAR3WssC33SBIOIsxnmkQTYuKOtnvIxDaUxm5ZkonTKQI-WP-KmDNf2DXyKM)

[fbclid=IwAR3WssC33SBIOIsxnmkQTYuKOtnvIxDaUxm5ZkonTKQI-WP-KmDNf2DXyKM](https://harbourfrontcentre.com/event/homelands/?fbclid=IwAR3WssC33SBIOIsxnmkQTYuKOtnvIxDaUxm5ZkonTKQI-WP-KmDNf2DXyKM)

Link to articles:

<https://www.ludwig-van.com/toronto/2023/04/13/interview-indigenous-choreographer-santee-smith-goes-back-roots-homelands/>

<https://medium.com/harbourfront-centre/harbourfront-centre-joins-celebrated-indigenous-artist-santee-smith-at-her-studio-for-a-cb5ecc0cf426>

https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/stage/2023/04/11/santee-smiths-new-work-homelands-and-her-kahawi-dance-theatre-the-life-sustaining-force-of-the-indigenous-choreographer.html?utm_source=share-bar&utm_medium=user&utm_campaign=user-share

https://muskratmagazine.com/harbourfront-centre-presents-the-world-premiere-of-kahawi-dance-theatres-powerful-and-poetic-new-work-homelands/?fbclid=IwAR0YurqNBE0znJesIYZ-BEpXbU4W3XW9y_g9rNhkOXQA3nNZTBijED_Rynw

Homelands Production Credits

Producer: Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

Presenter: Harbourfront Centre – Torque Series

Creator/Director/Designer/Performer: Santee Smith

Performers: Feryn King, Katie Couchie

Composer/Singer/Songwriter: Pura Fé

Composer/Mix/Master: Adrian Dion Harjo

Recorded Singers: Biine Kwe Elijah, Jennifer Kreisberg, Santee Smith

Shane Powless: Projection Design/Editor

Louise Potiki Bryant: Projection Design – selected scenes

Animation: AVA Animation and Visual Arts Inc. / Emma Lopez, Pedro Narvaez

Cinematography: Shane Powless, Katsitsionni Fox, Jaiden Mitchell, Ian Maracle, Ami Kokui Tamakloe, Santee Smith

Live Performance Costume Designers: Elaine Redding, Santee Smith

Pottery: Steve T. Smith, Santee Smith

Technical Director/Lighting Designer: Sebastian Marziali

Technical Consultant: James Kendal

Production Stage Manager: Senjuti Sarker

Video Performers: Julianne Blackbird, Feryn King, Santee Smith

Video Costume Designers: Bruno Henry, Elaine Redding, Adriana Fulop

Video Tech Support: Thru The Red Door, McMaster University – L.R. Wilson Black Box

Funding Support: Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council

photography by David Hou





Contact Information:

Booking Contact:

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[@kahawidance](https://www.instagram.com/kahawidance)



www.kahawidance.org/



[@Kaha:wi Dance Theatre](https://www.facebook.com/Kaha:wi Dance Theatre)



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***Technical Rider available upon request**



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