

TO Live Presents
Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's
SKÉN:NEN

(TORONTO, ON, January 18, 2024) Experience the theatrical premiere of **Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's *SKÉN:NEN***, an immersive dance performance with a powerful narrative that is rooted in cultural knowledge and transcends time and place. Through mesmerizing choreography, storytelling, and innovative design, *SKÉN:NEN* explores Indigenous resilience within the self, community, and natural world.

TO Live presents **Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's *SKÉN:NEN*** from creator, director, designer, and performer **Santee Smith** from May 10 to 11, 2024 at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts' Bluma Appel Theatre.

Tickets are now on sale and available online at www.tolive.com, by phone at 416-366-7723 and 1-800-708-6752, and in person at the Meridian Hall box office.

The Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk) word *skén:nen* (Sgah:nah) translates to mean peace and balance. On the edge of collapse in an uncertain and imbalanced reality, *SKÉN:NEN* is set in an imagined post-environmental catastrophe. We witness the journey of a young Kahnyen'kehàka girl Niyoh and other climate survivors who need to revitalize humanity's interconnectedness with an environment in recovery. For Niyoh this means remembering her rites of passage, ancestral teachings, and treaties, and learning from the earth.

Created by Santee Smith's Kaha:wi Dance Theatre and the Dora Award-winning team behind *Homelands*, *SKÉN:NEN* stands at the forefront of technical innovation in theatre. The use of multimedia projection blends cinematic footage of the Adirondacks and Six Nations with cutting-edge 3D animations. This rich visual storytelling creates an immersive experience that impacts audiences profoundly.

"The concept skén:nen translates from Kanyen'kéha to mean balance and peace. Easy to think and talk about, but much harder to action and embody, especially when living in an unbalanced environment," shares Santee Smith, artistic director of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. *"Climate change is affecting us all, and SKÉN:NEN evokes an imaginary future where humanity is in the fallout from years of extracting from Mother Earth."*

SKÉN:NEN aims to engage, educate, and inspire dialogue on pressing environmental and cultural issues that resonate with all audiences ages 11 and up. TO Live is thrilled to partner with Young People's Theatre to offer Play Companion Workshops. School bookings include two of YPT's enriching and impactful workshops that actively engage students in exploring specific themes and ideas of the show. Both pre- and post-show workshops are led by an artist educator and held in the classroom.

If you are a teacher interested in a school booking, tickets can be booked by calling the box office at 416-366-7723. For more information on the Play Companion Workshops and school shows, email dani.de.angelis@tolive.com.

Santee Smith is an internationally recognized leader in the performing arts, a multidisciplinary artist and producer from the Kahnien'kehàka (Mohawk) Nation, Turtle Clan from Ohswé:ken (Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario), and one of Canada's leading dance artists.

In 2005, she founded Kaha:wi Dance Theatre with a vision to explore the intersection of Indigenous and new performance, international Indigenous collaborations, and training. Through her research and creative practice, she is a strong voice for Indigenous dramaturgy, process, and advocacy.

TO Live presents
Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's *SKÉN:NEN*

Friday, May 10, 2024, 8 pm

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 8 pm

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Bluma Appel Theatre

27 Front Street East

Tickets: \$30-\$75 (plus applicable fees)

Tickets are available online at www.tolive.com, by phone at 416-366-7723 and 1-800-708-6754, and in person at the Meridian Hall box office, Monday to Friday, 1 pm to 6 pm.

TO Live box office phone and email support operates 1 pm to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

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About TO Live

TO Live is one of Canada's largest multi-arts organizations, operating three iconic venues: Meridian Hall, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, and Meridian Arts Centre. In addition, TO Live presents a full range of performing arts, theatrical, and concert events at these venues in both downtown and uptown Toronto. With these two hubs of creativity and content creation, TO Live has a unique place and perspective to activate creative spaces by inspiring local and international artists, connecting audiences, stimulating new ideas, and elevating artistic potential, becoming a catalyst for creative expression that is reflective of Toronto's diversity.

About Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

Founded in 2005 by artistic director Santee Smith, Kaha:wi means "to carry" in the Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk) language and is a traditional name for Smith's family. The company's home community is Ohswé:ken (Six Nations of the Grand River) and home city is Tkarón:to' (Toronto).

KDT's programming cultivates and engages with artists and community through artist talks, community workshops, dance training, and land-based programming, such as the "Inviting the Land to Shape Us" series.

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