

*TiFT*  
Talk Is Free Theatre  
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PRESENTS

BRENDAN CHANDLER  
IN

# TALES OF AN URBAN INDIAN

WRITTEN BY  
DARRELL DENNIS

DIRECTED BY  
HERBIE BARNES

PERFORMED ON A MOVING CITY BUS

OCTOBER 15 TO 24, 2020

BOARDING COMMENCES AT 7:45PM, PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 8PM

PASSENGER PICKUP LOCATION:

GRANDE  
PRAIRIE  
LIVE  
THEATRE

10130 98 AVE,  
GRANDE PRAIRIE

# TALES OF AN URBAN INDIAN

**WRITTEN BY**  
DARRELL DENNIS

**DIRECTED BY**  
HERBIE BARNES

**STARRING**  
BRENDAN CHANDLER

**STAGE MANAGER**  
ALANA FREISTADT

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
JEFF BRAUNSTEIN

**TIFT ARTISTIC PRODUCER**  
ARKADY SPIVAK

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE HOMELAND OF THE MANY DIVERSE FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS PEOPLE WHOSE ANCESTORS HAVE WALKED THIS LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WORK, LIVE AND LEARN ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF TREATY 8.

# TIFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOE ANDERSON - FOUNDING CHAIR

KATHRYN TALBOT - CHAIR

TERRY COUGHLIN

GLENN COULSON

CASEY FARLEY

BETH FOSTER

PETER KOETSIER - TREASURER

BETONY MAIN

JODY PATFIELD

JENNIFER PODEMSKI

SHAUN SAUVE

ANNA SMALL

PAULINE STEVENSON

## TIFT STAFF

ARKADY SPIVAK, ARTISTIC PRODUCER

JEFF BRAUNSTEIN, PRODUCTION MANAGER

CARA MCRAE, ADMINISTRATOR

RICHARD VARTY, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

ZIIGWEN MIXEMONG, YOUTHDOME CO-ORDINATOR

Talk Is Free Theatre engages under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Talk Is Free Theatre is an active member of PACT.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Arkady first approached me about doing *Tales of an Urban Indian* on a bus my first instinct was “impossible, it can’t be done”. But instead of turning the idea down I called Darrell and told him of the idea. Instead of the fear of the unknown I had, Darrell who would be on the bus playing Simon said to me “Sure, whatever, I trust you “.

It was at that moment that I knew the bus ride was going to be a success.

*Tales...* has had a long history and is a very important show for me. I was the first to read the script to the public. I was the first director and I directed it Off-Broadway at the Public Theater and at the Autry Theater in Los Angeles. And now with Brendan in the role of Simon we get to explore *Tales...* from a new and completely different perspective. I am hoping this story is told time and time again because it’s a story that NEEDS to be told. Enjoy the ride, I know I have.



**Herbie Barnes**

Director



## A MESSAGE FROM BRENDAN CHANDLER



Bringing *Tales of an Urban Indian* to Grande Prairie is one of my biggest dreams come true. Working for Talk Is Free Theatre with Producer and Founder Arkady Spivak is something I can not explain because it feels like I should be pinching myself every day – it is unbelievable. The entire company is exploding with artistic love and energy to give audience members true inspiration and love on a global scale. I could not ask for anything else.

I remember being 15 years old and wanting to become an actor knowing there would be struggles along my journey. Becoming an actor has had many twists, turns, and hardships but here I am, coming back home to present a beautiful story written by Darrell Dennis. This is something I wish my mother could have seen, but I know she is somewhere watching. Director Herbie Barnes has been like an older brother, and a mentor giving me some of the best acting advice and guidance I could ask for.

The reason I wanted to bring this show to my hometown was to show anyone that dreams are important. Living is important. Never give up on yourself because the hardest thing in this world is to live in it.

Stay strong, love and always be ready.

## GREETINGS FROM THE ARTISTIC PRODUCER



In 2009, it was a necessity to stage our production of *Tales of an Urban Indian* on a bus and 12 years later it has been revived, toured internationally, and celebrated its 500th performance in Brisbane, Australia. Its triumph and continued success has made it clear that this is a story that needs to be told.

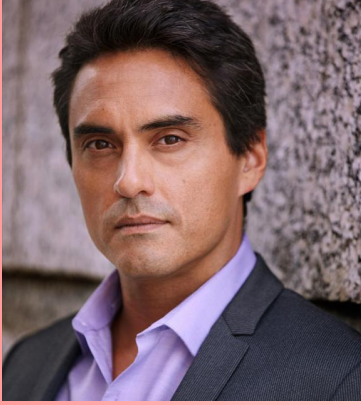
Art and connection have never needed a building to house them and I am thrilled that Brendan, our fifth Simon, is physically bringing this experience to his hometown.

I am honoured to welcome each of you to this unique experience and I hope your time on the bus will open up new perspectives and start fresh conversations.

**Arkady Spivak**

Artistic Producer

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



### DARRELL DENNIS

Darrell Dennis is an Indigenous Canadian comedian, actor, screenwriter and radio personality from the Secwepemc Nation in the interior of British Columbia.

Darrell is an award winning playwright whose works have been published by Canada Playwrights Press. His short stories have been published in periodicals across Canada and the U.S. His one man show, *Tales of an Urban Indian* was nominated for two Dora Awards (Best Original Play and Best Performance by an actor).

## CAST BIOGRAPHY



### BRENDAN CHANDLER (SIMON AND OTHERS)

Brendan Chandler is an indigenous artist - Cree/English from the hometown of Grande Prairie, Alberta. Brendan made his journey to become an actor by traveling to Toronto, Ontario where he completed a three year acting program at Humber College. Brendan has been apart of Weesageechak Festival at Native Earth for the last three years collaborating with incredible indigenous artists across Canada. He was cast in Daniel David Moses' play *Almighty Voice and his Wife* right out of theatre school in 2017.

Brendan's true love is acting, but something has been directing him in a new direction which is writing and directing. Brendan is developing an 8 episode series called *The Sins*. *The Sins* is a horror film/series that revolves around James who lives in Algonquin Heights, where peculiar events unfold which are constructed by The Seven Deadly Sins and The Wendigo. The first episode/pilot should be completed around March of 2021.



### **ALANA FREISTADT (STAGE MANAGER)**

Alana Freistadt is a Stage Manager based out of Saskatoon, SK Canada. She has worked across Canada from British Columbia to Ontario to Newfoundland and Labrador. Some of her favourite shows include Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and *Shrek the Musical* (Globe Theatre Regina SK) and *Every Brilliant Thing* (Talk Is Free Theatre Barrie ON). She is very excited and grateful to help bring this show to Grande Prairie!



### **HERBIE BARNES (DIRECTOR)**

Herbie has been directing theatre for close to 30 years now, working on a variety of projects from the traditional staging of plays such as *Where the Blood Mixes*, to the unorthodox environmental *Oliver!*, and Talk Is Free Theatre's almost city-wide staging of *The Music Man*. He has performed as an actor for longer and a writer and dramaturge for as long helping in the development of some great works



### **JEFF BRAUNSTEIN (PRODUCTION MANAGER)**

Jeff has been working as a theatre professional for over 45 years in Canada and in the U.S. as a performer and director. He was VP and then President of Canadian Actors Equity for 12 years. Jeff is also the founder and Artistic Producer of Asterix Productions, a corporate communication company producing live Musical Theatre and videos for major corporations across the world.



## ABOUT TALK IS FREE THEATRE

Based in Barrie, ON, Talk Is Free Theatre (TIFT) focusses on a range of work, including new writing, radical retellings of the classics, while emphasizing off-centre musicals and immersive work.

The company brings their productions to audiences across Canada and abroad. With a recent immersive odyssey, *The Curious Voyage*, TIFT invited patrons to travel from Barrie, Canada to London, UK, as part of a three-day narrative. The company also tours across Canada and internationally. In 2020, TIFT produced the **Canada Capsule**, featuring three immersive productions, in Adelaide, Australia in 2020.



## ABOUT GRANDE PRAIRIE LIVE THEATRE

Grande Prairie Live Theatre is a volunteer community theatre established in 1963. GPLT is excited to be selling the tickets for this significant play. *Tales of an Urban Indian* is a logical follow up to GPLT's 2019 production of Keith Barker's *The Hours that Remain* dealing with Canada's murdered and missing women and children tragedy.

GRANDE  
PRAIRIE  
LIVE  
THEATRE





# SEATS OF SIGNIFICANCE

You're invited to join our unique and limited opportunity to "purchase" a seat for *Tales of an Urban Indian* presented on city buses around the world over the next three years.

Our goal with the production is to reach remote and isolated destinations that have no existing access to professional theatre. *Tales of an Urban Indian* will help build those communities through important conversations where they are needed the most.

Your commitment to extending the reach and impact of Indigenous stories will be recognized on your seat featuring a custom plaque, program acknowledgement, a stamped passport telling its own tale of the production's journey, and more!

What's involved? Your \$3000 donation (in one lump sum or by installments), "buys" you one of the remaining seats.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SEATS OF SIGNIFICANCE CAMPAIGN DONORS

### **Peter Koetsier & Wendy Wingfelder**

- in support of clean water for First Nations communities

### **Anna Small**

- in support of Indigenous Storytelling

### **Lardner Nixon LLP**

- in support of First Nations Education

### **Janey & Barry Green**

- in memoriam of Rance Moses, Pic River

### **Eric Taves & Nancy Quinn**

- In support of Indigenous knowledge reclamation

### **Anonymous**

- in support of equality for First Nations Children

### **Stephen Sperling**

- in honour of Craig Lauzon

### **Anonymous**

- in honour of Herbie Barnes

### **Anonymous**

- in honour of Darrell Dennis



Brendan Chandler in *Tales of an Urban Indian*.  
Adelaide, Australia. February 2020.

For more information, please contact:  
Arkady Spivak Artistic Producer  
(705) 792-1949 ext 122 or [arkady@tift.ca](mailto:arkady@tift.ca)  
or visit <http://www.tift.ca/seats-of-significance/>

# PRODUCTION HISTORY

2009 – Barrie, Ontario

2011 – Barrie, Ontario

2014 – Hannibal, MI (USA)

2016 – Iqaluit, Nunavut

2018 – Collingwood, Ontario

2018 – Barrie, Ontario

2018- Mississauga, Ontario (Living Arts Centre)

2018 – Halifax, NS (Prismatic Arts Festival)

2018 – North Vancouver, BC (Presentation House Theatre)

2019 – Ottawa, ON (undercurrents Festival)

2019 – Saint John, NB (Theatre Saint John)

2019 – Melbourne, Australia (Yirramboi Festival)

2019 – Brisbane, Australia (Anywhere Festival)

2019 – Kingston, ON (Kick and Push Festival)

2019 – Kitchener, ON (Impact! Festival)

2020 – Whitehorse, YU (Pivot Festival)

2020 – Adelaide, Australia (Adelaide Fringe)



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