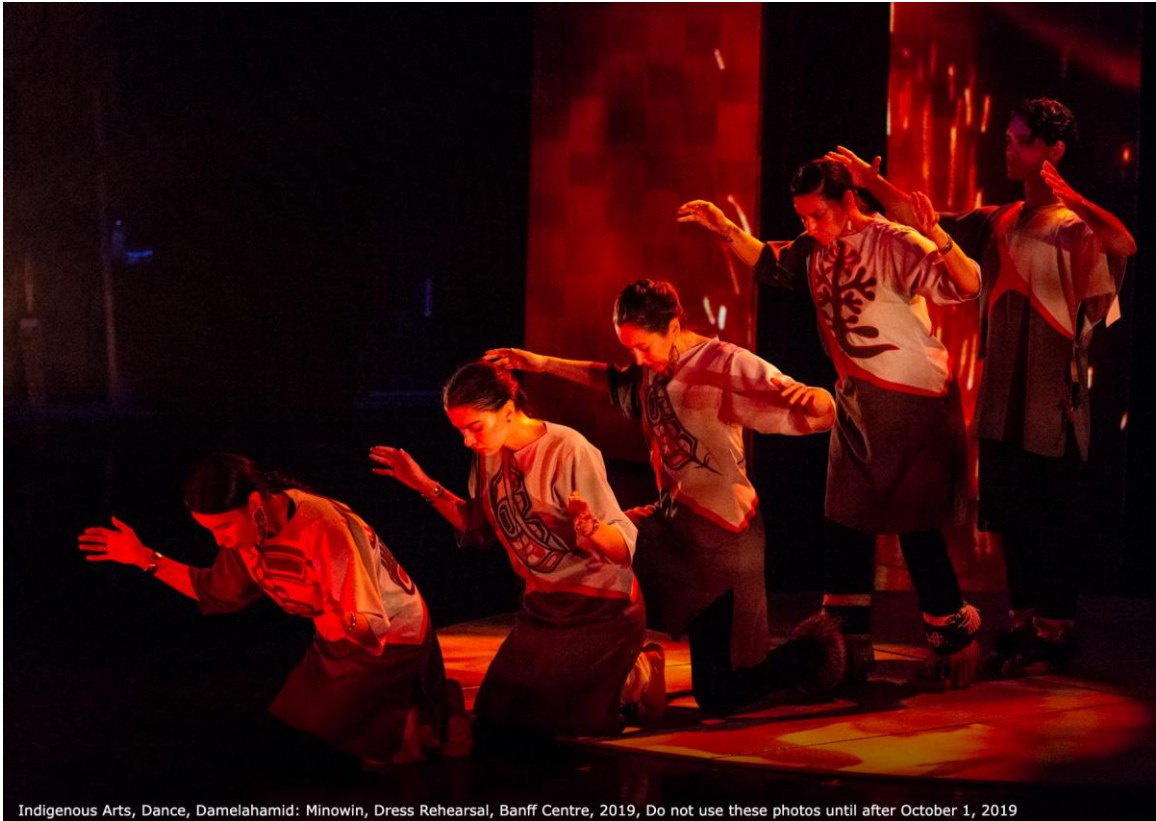


ENGL/INDG 2709
Indigenous Drama: Winter 2025
Professor Brenda Vellino
Wed/Friday: 8:30-10:00



Indigenous Arts, Dance, Damelahamid: Minowin, Dress Rehearsal, Banff Centre, 2019, Do not use these photos until after October 1, 2019

(Photo Credit to The Charlatan)

Indigenous Drama from Northern Turtle Island

This course will explore the stories, priorities, and cultural contexts of contemporary Indigenous theatre practitioners, from the early 1980s Indigenous theatre renaissance led by Thompson Highway's *The Rez Sisters* to plays that take up social, political, and community issues around residential schools redress, MMIWG, cultural resurgence, land restitution, resource extractivism, climate breakdown, and holistic wellness. We will consider how the emergence of Indigenous Theatre from Native Earth Performing Arts Centre in the 1980s to the establishment of an Indigenous Theatre stream at the National Arts Centre in 2019 contributes to resurgence and sovereignty movements across Northern Turtle Island. Throughout the term, we will investigate how Indigenous ways of being and knowing—that centre kinship relations with community, ancestors, and lands—are manifested in the practices of play creation and performance. This approach will require careful attention to the knowledge, cultural, ceremonial, and political contexts for plays. Course work will involve play readings, in-class writing, class discussions, a live theatre review, and a learning journey reflection.

Experiential Learning: We will have the wonderful opportunity to attend two productions at the National Arts Centre:

- Qaamma with Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory (Inuk) – Wed. January 15, 8 p.m.
- Cree storyteller and journalist Rosanna Deerchild’s *The Secret to Good Tea* - Thursday March 20th, 8 p.m. **Tickets are \$15 each.**

Course Assignments:

Attendance & Participation:	10%
Mapping, Locating yourself in family, land, territory Narrative:	10%
Best 4 out of 5 In-Class Writing Prompts	40%
Review of <i>The Secret to Good Tea</i>	20%
1 Final Learning Journey Reflection Paper	20%

Plays For Purchase: Two Plays (\$27): Two Theatre Tickets (\$30)

- Kevin Loring (N’lakap’mux). *Where the Blood Mixes* (Talonbooks, 2009). \$16.95
- Yvette Nolan (mixed heritage Algonquin). *The UnPlugging*. (Playwrights Canada, 2013): \$10.17

Plays from e-book & video sources:

- Thompson Highway (Cree). *The Rez Sisters* (published in Helen Gilbert, ed. *Postcolonial Plays*, 2001. On ARES).
- Marie Clements (Dene Métis). *UnNatural and Accidental Women*. (Available as E-book, Carleton library).
- Drew Hayden Taylor (Michi Saagiig Anishnaabe). *Cottagers and Indians* (Talonbooks, 2006). Available as E-book, Carleton library)
- Yolanda Bonnell (Anishinaabe/South Asian). *Bug/Manidoons* (J. Gordon Shillingworth, 2020). (Available as an E-Book, Carleton Library)
- Kevin Wong with the Gray siblings of Aamjiwnaang First Nation. *The Chemical Valley Project* (documentary environmental theatre, film version).

***with gratitude to the Knowledge Keepers and Land and Water Protectors--Past, Present, and Future--on these traditional, unceded and un-surrendered territories of the Algonquin Anishnaabe Peoples where we gather to learn**