

7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**New Sun**

Conference on Aboriginal Arts

Reaching Back + Reaching Out



**Saturday, March 1, 2008,**  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Room 5050, 5th Floor,  
Minto Centre, Carleton University





THE 7TH ANNUAL NEW SUN CONFERENCE  
ON ABORIGINAL ARTS:  
REACHING BACK + REACHING OUT

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The signature image for the 7th Annual New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts dramatically symbolizes this year's theme, Reaching Back + Reaching Out. The photograph of dancer Santee Smith is a rich visual metaphor for a communal act of reaching back into the past to affirm the strength of traditions, to honour the knowledge of elders, to rescue stories from the shadows, and to revitalize art forms for a new generation. The photographic image is no less a metaphor for reaching out beyond the Aboriginal community to a myriad of other communities in a spirit of generosity and celebration.

At this year's conference Six Nations dancer/choreographer Santee Smith will perform an excerpt from her work, *Kaha:wi*, and discuss the challenges and rewards of a life in dance. In tandem with her presentation, well known actor/choreographer Michael Greyeyes will screen the film, *Tryptich*, an exploration of residential school fallout which he wrote, choreographed and performed in. Film is also the favoured medium of Kahnawake native Tracey Deer whose documentary treatments of urban Aboriginal youth have

earned her a devoted following. Her recent award-winning film, *Mohawk Girls*, resonates with the experiences of youth far beyond the Aboriginal community. No less compelling are the smart and sassy lyric poems of performance artist Taqralik Partridge, whose wry observations of urban Inuit life surge with a restless rhythm and energy. The rhythms and energy of contemporary Aboriginal life are given added context and historical depth by heritage language conservationist Clealls (John Medicine Horse Kelly), and ethnomusicologist and pianist Elaine Keillor, who will trace the development of the encyclopaedic websites, [www.nativedance.ca](http://www.nativedance.ca) and [www.nativedrum.com](http://www.nativedrum.com). Joining them in their presentation is singer Beverly Souliere, a contributor to the latter website.

It promises to be a most rewarding day.

*All my relations,*

*Allan J. Ryan*

**PROGRAM 2008**

**8:30 - 9:15**

Registration

Coffee/juice/muffins

**9:15 - 9:30**

Welcome, **ALLAN J. RYAN**

New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture

Opening prayer, Elder **JIM ALBERT**

Welcoming remarks, **JOHN OSBORNE**,

Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, Carleton University

**9:30 - 10:20**

**TRACEY DEER**, documentary filmmaker

**10:25 - 11:15**

**ELAINE KEILLOR**, ethnomusicologist and pianist,

**CLEALLS (JOHN MEDICINE HORSE KELLY)**, heritage language conservationist,

and special guest singer **BEVERLY SOULIERE**

**11:15 - 11:30**

Nutrition Break

**11:30 - 12:20**

**TAQRALIK PARTRIDGE**, lyric-poet performance artist

PROGRAM 2008

**12:30 - 1:30**

Buffet luncheon of Native cuisine, Fenn Lounge,  
Residence Commons:

- Bannock bread with whipped maple butter
- Grilled root vegetable salad
- White and wild rice salad with clams
- Roasted sweet and Yukon potatoes
- Acorn and butternut squash
- Venison and buffalo ragout
- Pan seared Arctic char with creamy lobster bisque
- Pumpkin and blueberry pie with vanilla pod whipped cream

**1:30 - 1:50**

SANTEE SMITH in performance:

an excerpt from the dance production, *Kaha:wi*, Fenn Lounge

**2:10 - 3:05**

MICHAEL GREYEVES, actor/choreographer

**3:10 - 4:05**

SANTEE SMITH, dancer/choreographer

**4:10 - 4:30**

Concluding remarks

Closing prayer



**TRACEY DEER**

Tracey Deer is a filmmaker from Kahnawake, and obtained her degree in Film Studies from Dartmouth College, graduating with two awards of excellence. She began her professional career with CanWest Broadcasting in Montreal and later joined Rezolution Pictures of Montreal. She was co-director of *One More River*, a film that documented the emotional and political turmoil within the Cree Nation when they signed a new deal to allow more hydroelectric damming on their land. The film won the Best Documentary Award at the Rendez-vous des Cinema Quebecois in 2005 and was nominated for the Donald Brittain Best Social/Political Documentary at the Gemini. The film was broadcast on APTN in March 2005. Her second film was *Mohawk Girls*, which she wrote, directed and filmed, about the lives of three Mohawk teenagers growing up on the Kahnawake reserve. It was co-produced with Rezolution Pictures and the National Film Board and won the Alanis Obomsawin Best Documentary Award at the ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in 2005. Her latest projects are a feature documentary called *Club Native*, examining the concept of modern Native identity, and a feature documentary about a Mohawk immersion elementary school, with Mushkeg Media, as well as two short fiction films currently in development with her production company, Mohawk Princess Pictures.



### ELAINE KEILLOR

Elaine Keillor is an internationally known concert pianist, and a Distinguished Research Professor Emerita at Carleton. With all of the theoretical requirements completed at the age of ten, she remains the youngest ever recipient of the Associate diploma in piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She has made numerous highly acclaimed recordings as well as being a prolific writer, and has received a variety of prestigious awards. Hired by Carleton as a specialist in Canadian music, she developed and taught the first university course in Canada to explore First Peoples' musical expression. Throughout her career

Dr. Keillor has amassed a vast collection of this musical expression, which forms the bulk of the material now available through two websites. Dr. Keillor headed the teams that produced *Native Drums* (2005) ([www.nativedrums.ca](http://www.nativedrums.ca)), a comprehensive, educational, and information web site on musical expressions of the First Peoples within Canada, and its sequel, *Native Dance* (2007) ([www.nativedance.ca](http://www.nativedance.ca)). These are joint projects of Canadian Heritage's Canadian Content Online Program and Carleton University.

### CLEALLS (JOHN MEDICINE HORSE KELLY)

Clealls (John Medicine Horse Kelly) is from Skidegate, on Haida Gwaii, otherwise known as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Dr. Kelly is an Assistant Professor in Carleton's School of Journalism and Communications and serves with Elaine Keillor as co-director of CIRCLE, the Centre for Indigenous Research, Culture, Language and Education. Clealls was one of fifteen researchers designated by Canadian Heritage as authorities on language and cultural revitalization to advise the government on strategies to perpetuate aboriginal languages in Canada. Dr. Kelly has developed

unique electronic recording and editing systems for creating language resources, and has trained aboriginal community members in the use of these systems to record their own elders. Clealls was co-investigator, editor and a writer for the *Native Drums* and *Native Dance* websites developed and facilitated by Elaine Keillor.

[www.nativedrums.ca](http://www.nativedrums.ca)  
[www.nativedance.ca](http://www.nativedance.ca)



### TAQRALIK PARTRIDGE

Taqralik Partridge is a spoken word performer, throat singer and writer from Kujjuaq, Nunavik, (Northern Quebec). Now living in Montreal, she has developed a unique style that is grounded in traditional Inuit storytelling and blended with gritty urban speak to tell contemporary stories that evoke the challenges of being Inuit in modern Canadian society. *The Nunatsiaq News* has written, “When she performs, you can never tell what you’ll hear next: an amusing satire perhaps, a delicate lyric, or a raucous barrage of high-speed lines, delivered straight from the gut.” Taqralik recorded her *Eskimo Chick* piece for the compilation CD distributed with *Spirit Magazine’s* 2006 spring music issue and is working on a debut CD. She is communications director of the Avataq Cultural Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the language and culture of Inuit in Nunavik.



**MICHAEL GREYEYES**

Michael Greyeyes is a dancer, actor, and choreographer, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre at York University where he teaches movement for actors. He began his professional career as a classical ballet dancer with The National Ballet of Canada and the company of Eliot Feld in New York. As an actor he has worked on stage and extensively in film and television for the last fourteen years. This past year he was invited to create new dance works for the Dusk Dances festival in Toronto and for Nozhem: First Peoples Performance Space and Trent University's Indigenous Studies Program. The theatre work developed for Trent was a duet, co-choreographed by Santee Smith, which will tour across Canada in 2008 and is an invited dance work for the 2008 Canada Dance Festival held bi-annually in Ottawa. Professor Greyeyes wrote, choreographed and appears in the film, *Triptych*, directed by Byron McKim with an original score by Miquelon Rodriguez. The film is part of an original series developed for Bravo! and subsequently broadcast on APTN.

[www.michael-greyeyes.com](http://www.michael-greyeyes.com)

[www.soaringheartpictures.com](http://www.soaringheartpictures.com)



**SANTEE SMITH**

Santee Smith is a dancer, choreographer and artistic director from Six Nations, Ontario. She attended the National Ballet School and holds a Masters in Dance from York University. Santee was an integral part of the Aboriginal Dance Project, *Chinook Winds*, at the Banff Centre for the Arts. In 1996 she began creating and performing her choreography including works: *Kaha:wi, Here On Earth, Midwinter Dreaming, A Constellation of Bones, The Threshing Floor, Woman in White* and *A Story Before Time*. She presents her work nationally and internationally and is the recipient of several awards for excellence in dance. She is the founder of Living Ritual: World Indigenous Dance Festival. Currently, Santee is in the process of creation and production for *Transmigration* with Odawa composer Barbara Croall, and *L'Histoire de Soldat* in partnership with Theatre Aquarius and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. She is touring nationally with *The Threshing Floor* for the CanDance Network's Indigenous Dancelands, and *Fragmented Heart* which in June will be performed for the Canada Dance Festival at the National Arts Centre.

[www.santeesmithdance.com](http://www.santeesmithdance.com)

## THE NEW SUN CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL ARTS: BACKGROUNDER

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Since its beginning in 2002, the New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts has brought together in a public forum individuals from various First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities, as well as the non-Native community. Presenters have included those with expertise in photography, painting, sculpture, film making, musical performance, curating, arts education, literature and the culinary arts. Themes such as “healing through the arts,” “transforming traditions,” “engaging authenticity,” “interweaving communities” and “survivance” have been explored in a collegial and communal atmosphere that encourages dialogue on important cultural and artistic issues. The conference honours, and seeks to raise public awareness of individuals whose work affirms contemporary Aboriginal experience and contributes to increased cross-cultural understanding. All conference presentations have been archived on video and DVD and can be borrowed from the Carleton University Library.

Allan J. Ryan was appointed as the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture in July, 2001. The first of its kind in Canada, the Chair is situated in the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton. It was made possible through the support of the New Sun Fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

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