



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2023

**The Autry Museum of the American West Presents Native
Voices and the Premiere of *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* by
Frank Henry Kaash Katasse (Tlingit)**

On View: September 29 – October 15, 2023

Preview: September 27-28, 2023 | 8 p.m.

Opening Night: September 29, 2023 | 8 p.m.



(September 8, 2023 - Los Angeles, CA)— The Autry Museum of the American West presents the only Equity theatre company dedicated exclusively to developing and producing new work by Native artists, [Native Voices](#) and its premiere of *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse.

When a near-death experience derails her flight through Southeast Alaska, Rose awakens to find herself in the care of the kind stranger who pulled her to safety. As they journey by boat through the darkness and fog, Rose untangles the mysteries of her past, questions the world around her and comes to an inescapable crossroads. *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* is an ethereal Alaska Native story driven by music, dance and the culture of the Tlingit people.

Artistic Director DeLanna Studi knows the immense value of Native Voices thanks to the theater company, Southern Californians are offered an intimate audience experience with the exciting voices and rich stories of Native artists, stories which are often complex and layered. "Native stories are often not linear," Studi says, "containing multiple planes, multiple beginnings and endings, multiple ancestral, environmental or cosmological characters, all existing, interweaving and overlapping simultaneously."

Where the Summit Meets the Stars places the audience as passengers aboard a spiritual vessel on a journey in which one Alaskan woman must decide the fates of herself and her family. An open and honest exploration of love and autonomy, *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* asks us to

consider: would we make one choice that could determine everything, or would we risk it all for the opportunity to make a thousand more choices?

For reservations and more information, please visit TheAutry.org/NativeVoices.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT | Friday, September 29, 2023 | Reception: 7 p.m. | Performance: 8 p.m.
Join Native Voices for a pre-performance reception with complimentary beer, wine, soda and appetizers.

STUDENT MATINEES | Friday, October 6, 2023 and Friday, October 13, 2023 | 11 a.m.
High school teachers and college professors, contact eblandford@theautry.org to learn how you and your students can attend these performances during the school day for \$2 per ticket.

LEAD CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM



PLAYWRIGHT | [Frank Henry Kaash Katasse](#) [he/him] is Tlingít from the Tsaagweidí clan. He is an Emmy Nominated writer as well as an actor, author, director, producer, improviser, educator and playwright. He received his bachelor's degree in theatre arts from the University of Hawaii: Mānoa. Katasse lives and works in Douglas, Alaska and has worked on numerous productions at Perseverance Theatre. He made his professional playwriting debut with Native Voices in 2016 with *They Don't Talk Back*, which premiered at the Autry, La Jolla Playhouse and Perseverance.



DIRECTOR | [DeLanna Studi](#) [she/her] is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and has more than 25 years of experience as a performer, storyteller, educator, facilitator, advocate and activist. Her theatre credits include the first national Broadway tour of the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County*, off-Broadway's *Gloria: A Life* (Daryl Roth Theatre), *Informed Consent* (the Duke on 42nd Street) and regional theatres (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage, Cornerstone and Indiana Repertory Theatre). Studi originated roles in more than 18 world premieres including 14 Native productions. A pivotal moment in her career was writing and performing *And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears*, based on retracing her family's

footsteps along the Trail of Tears with her father. *And So We Walked* has been produced throughout the country and was the first American play chosen for the Journées Théâtrales de Carthage in Tunisia, Africa. Last year, it made its Off-Broadway debut at Minetta Lane where it was recorded for Audible. In film and television, Studi stars in the Peabody award-winning *Edge of America*; Hallmark's *Dreamkeeper*, *Goliath*, *Shameless* and *General Hospital*. She is a 2022 USA Fellow, a recipient of the Butcher Scholar Award, a MAP Fund Grant, a Cherokee Preservation Grant and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Fund. Since 2007, she has served as chair of the SAG-AFTRA National Native Americans Committee.



DIRECTOR | [Matthew Burgos](#) [he/him] has been an educator, director and playwright for over 20 years, having directed numerous award-winning regional theater productions in Los Angeles and Atlanta. Former artistic director of Vanguard Rep and chair of the Department of Theater at Mt. San Antonio College, Burgos has prioritized mentoring and collaborating with artists from marginalized communities and has worked diligently to shape affiliated organizations into more inclusive and allied artistic communities. Burgos is truly honored to be working again with Native Voices and the Autry, having created workshops and worked on an exhibit in the past. He would like to thank DeLanna Studi, Frank Henry Kaash Katasse and Elisa Blandford for the opportunity to work with the artists and community of Native Voices and genuinely appreciates their continued trust and support.



ROSE | [Josephine Keefes](#) [she/her] is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce tribe and theatre artist residing in the Pacific Northwest. She has worked professionally as an actor for both stage and film, director and professor of theatre arts for over a decade. Some of her credits include *A Christmas Carol* (ACT Seattle), *Sovereignty* (Harlequin Productions), *Bug* (Civic Theatre), and *The Psychic Life of Savages* (LATC). She received her MFA from UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television and her BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University. She thanks her two kids and her partner for their unwavering love and support!



JOHN | [Duane Minard](#) [he/him] is a California Native American originating from the Paiute Reservation in Bishop, California. He is an enrolled member of the Yurok Nation. Some of his theater credits include *Lying with Badgers*, *They Don't Talk Back*, *Off the Rails*, *Ramona* (19 seasons) and *The Bad Seed*. Minard is also a playwright, Native dance choreographer and Native drummer and dancer. He is currently in post-production of a new full-length Native film, *A Christmas in Ochopee*.



ANTHONY | [Kholan Studi](#) [he/him] is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Ever since he was a child, he has loved entertaining folks and making them laugh and feel. In 2012, Studi moved to Los Angeles to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where he completed his studies in 2015. Since then, he has worked in many productions with Native Voices, including *They Don't Talk Back* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse and *Bingo Hall* by Dillon Chitto. Studi was also honored to play Elias Boudinot in a production of *Sovereignty* by Mary Kathryn Nagle at Marin Theatre Company in 2019. During the pandemic, he took part in Perseverance Theatre's production of *Spirit of the Valley* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse and lent his voice to Native Voices' *The Adventures of Super Indian* by Arigon Starr. In 2022, Studi was an understudy for *Between 2 Knees* by the 1491's where he lived every actor's nightmare by taking the stage for part of the

run. Studi would like to send his love and support to all those affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: CALENDAR LISTING

WHO: [Native Voices](#), America's leading Native American theatre company

WHAT: *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse

WHEN: September 29 – October 15, 2023

PREVIEWS

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 | 8 p.m.

Thursday, September 28, 2023 | 8 p.m.

OPENING

Friday, September 29, 2023 | 8 p.m.

PERFORMANCE DURING THE AUTRY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, September 30, 2023 | 12 p.m.

Join the Autry for its 35th Anniversary Block Party with a Ferris wheel, delicious food trucks, live music and a Native Voices performance of *Where the Summit Meets the Stars*. For more information, please visit theAutry.org.

PERFORMANCES

Sunday, October 1, 2023 | 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 8 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 2023 | 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 7, 2023 | 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 2023 | 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 12, 2023 | 8 p.m.

Friday, October 13, 2023 | 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 14, 2023 | 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 2 p.m.

STUDENT MATINEES

Friday, October 6, 2023 | 11 a.m.

Friday, October 13, 2023 | 11 a.m.

ADMISSION:

PREVIEWS

\$15 General Admission

\$10 Students/Seniors (60+)/Military

Free for Autry Members

PERFORMANCES

\$25 General Admission

\$15 Students/Seniors (60+)/Military

\$10 Autry Members

STUDENT MATINEES

\$2 per Student/Teacher

WHERE:

Wells Fargo Theater

Autry Museum of the American West

4700 Western Heritage Way

Los Angeles, CA 90027-1462

MUSEUM ADMISSION:

Where the Summit Meets the Stars tickets include museum admission to the Autry during the month of October. Present your playbill for complimentary admission. Offer valid October 1-31, 2023, for general museum admission only (no special events) during regular museum hours.

DINING:

The Autry's Trail Grill offers a limited menu before and after matinee performances and from 6-8 p.m. prior to evening performances. Beer, wine and light dinner fare will be available for purchase.

IN GRATITUDE

Your support is vital to the success of [Native Voices](#), allowing us to create, develop and produce Native theatre for a national audience. We would like to acknowledge our generous supporters:

ACTORS EQUITY FOUNDATION • LAURA AND DEAN BERESFORD • RAFAEL BRUNO AND CRISTIAN HAMILTON • TONANTZÍN CARMELO • DAVID CARTWRIGHT • PETER CHALK AND DANIEL NEAL • DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CITY OF LOS ANGELES • DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION • EDISON INTERNATIONAL • ELENA FINNEY ENDLICH • JOYCE AND DAVID EVANS • FIRST PEOPLES FUND NATIVE ARTS ECOLOGY BUILDING GRANT • CAROLE GOLDBERG AND DUANE CHAMPAGNE • GREENBERG FOUNDATION • KIMBERLY GUERRERO • SHAWN IMITATES DOG • HELENE JACOBS • JUDY JACOBS • SHELBY JIGGETS-TIVONY • DIANE LEVINE • HEIDI LEVINE-GONZALEZ • LOS ANGELES COUNTRY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE • THE MAX AND VICTORIA DREYFUS FOUNDATION, INC. • MELLON FOUNDATION • NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS • NISSAN FOUNDATION • PETER GLENNVILLE FOUNDATION • BRENDA AND GARY RUTTENBERG • SEELEY W. MUDD FOUNDATION • THE SHERI AND LES BILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION • SHUBERT FOUNDATION • SOCALGAS • SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT • THEATRE COMMUNICATION GROUP • US BANK • LYNN AND STEPHEN VALBUENA • VENTUROUS THEATER FUND OF THE TIDES FOUNDATION • WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING

UPCOMING NATIVE VOICES EVENTS

14th Annual Native Voices Short Play Festival | March 23-24, 2024

Who You Calling 'Stoic'? Not Your Cigar Store Indian

There are many stereotypes that Native Americans—living and dead—have had to contend with. One of the most pervasive in film, history *and* wooden statues is the stoic, wise leader. He never smiles. He rarely speaks. He is always a *he*. So Native Voices asked playwrights to dive into this image of the “Stoic Indian” and flip the stereotype on its head. Selected plays will be performed onstage at the Autry and will be entered to win the Thomas Studie Gadugi Audience Prize of \$500 and the Von Marie Atchley Excellence in Playwriting Award of \$1,000.

Young Native Playwrights Festival | June 8-9, 2024

Storytelling is a way to preserve culture and language, which is why Native Voices is thrilled to bring back its Young Native Playwrights program, but this time with a post-pandemic twist! With the help of Zoom, Native youth from across Turtle Island will participate in an eight-week playwriting course that will nourish, elevate and amplify their voices. Plays written will be performed live onstage at the Autry, as well as livestreamed, so that these Young Playwrights, their families and their communities can see that their voice is valid and their stories matter.

30th Festival of New Plays | August 2024

Celebrate 30 years of new Native plays with us! A cornerstone of the American theatre, Native Voices continues to cultivate opportunities for Native playwrights. As part of a 10-day residency, playwrights are partnered with an artistic team and company of actors to explore their scripts and continue the cultural conversation of what it is to be Native in 2024.

About Native Voices

Native Voices places Native narratives at the center of the American story in order to facilitate a more inclusive dialogue on what it means to be American. Founded in 1994 by Randy Reinholz (Choctaw) and Jean Bruce Scott, Native Voices is dedicated to the development and production of new works for the stage written by American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations playwrights. The organization remains committed to emerging and established Native playwrights and theatre artists, to telling Native stories by and about Native people, and to providing the public access to these plays and playwrights—all with the goals of fostering greater understanding and respect of showcasing artistic voices that might otherwise not be heard.

About the Autry Museum of the American West

The Autry is a museum dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. The museum presents a wide range of exhibitions and public programs—including lectures, film, theatre, festivals, family events and music—and performs scholarship, research and educational outreach. The Autry’s collection of more than 600,000



pieces of art and cultural objects includes one of the largest and most significant of Native American materials in the United States. For more information, please visit [TheAutry.org](https://www.theautry.org).

The Autry Museum of American West acknowledges the [Gabrielino/Tongva](#) peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). We recognize that the Autry Museum and its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Gabrielino/Tongva peoples and we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), ‘Ahihirom (Elders) and ‘Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

Autry Museum of the American West | Griffith Park

4700 Western Heritage Way

Los Angeles, CA 90027-1462

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [TikTok](#)

Museum and Store Hours

Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

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