

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 3, 2024

## The Autry's Native Voices Announces the Premiere of *Antíkoni* by Beth Piatote

Opening November 8, 2024, Beth Piatote's *Antíkoni*, a modern adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, will premiere at the historic Southwest Museum Campus.



Graphic by Nipinet Landsem (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa descendant and citizen of Manitoba Metis Federation)

(September 3, 2024 - Los Angeles, CA)—Native Voices is excited to announce their 30th Anniversary production will be the World Premiere of [Beth Piatote's \*Antíkoni\*](#). For this monumental milestone, *Antíkoni* will be staged at the historic Southwest Museum Campus.

In this timely retelling of a Greek classic, a Nez Perce family is caught between the pressures of the outside world—where a Nationalist Party threatens to silence their history. Set in the near future, *Antíkoni* must defend eternal truths, Kreon rides the waves of changing politics, and a Chorus of Aunties delivers raucous and wise traditional stories to guide them.

Native Voices' Artistic Director, DeLanna Studi says, “This imaginative adaptation of the classic Greek tale makes us question what role museums have in caring for the dead. The play asks in new ways what the living owe the dead and what the dead demand of the living. And at what

cost? This venue [the Southwest Museum Campus] which once held a collection of Native ancestral remains and cultural materials, is a powerful symbol of our past. By choosing this historical site for the world premiere, Native Voices aims to actively reclaim the land and highlight the enduring power of Indigenous stories.”

Join us in celebration as we reclaim both a physical structure, one that encased our art and ancestors while dismissing our humanity, *and* a literary structure deemed the epitome of western theatre which blatantly disregards one of the world's oldest forms of storytelling.

For more information, please visit [theAutry.org/NativeVoices](https://theAutry.org/NativeVoices).

### **Antikoni Performance Schedule 2024:**

#### **November 8-24, 2024**

Opening: November 8, 8 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays: 8 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays: 2 p.m.

Student Matinees: November 15 and 22, 11 a.m.

### **Venue Address:**

Southwest Campus

234 Museum Dr.

Los Angeles, CA 90065



# ANTÍKONI

## THE CREATIVE TEAM



Beth Piatote  
PLAYWRIGHT



Madeline Sayet  
DIRECTOR



Courtney Mohler  
DRAMATURG



Jennifer Bobiwash  
ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR

## THE CAST



Frank Henry Katsse  
KREON



Erin Xáalnook Tripp  
ANTÍKONI



Isabella Madrigal  
ISMENE



Kholan Studi  
HAEMON



Nikcoma Lee Mahkewa  
TAIRASIAS



Arigon Starr  
AUNTIE 1



GiGi Buddie  
AUNTIE 2



Dawn Lura  
AUNTIE 3



Maddox Pennington  
GUARD

### **Playwright | Beth Piatote (Nez Perce)**

Beth Piatote is a Nez Perce writer and scholar and an associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, where she specializes in Native American literature, Indigenous language revitalization, and creative writing. She has published two award-winning books: *Domestic Subjects: Gender, Citizenship, and Law in Native American Literature* (Yale 2013), and *The Beadworkers: Stories* (Counterpoint, 2019). Her play, *Trickster's Unite!*, was selected for Native Voices' 2022 Short Play Festival and her latest play, *How Would I Say*, was commissioned by AlterTheater's AlterLab. *Antíkoni* has been supported by workshops and readings with Native Voices, the Indigenous Writers Collective at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Classical Theatre, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, Gonzaga University, and Bard College; it has been featured in critical work in Germany and Switzerland and translated into Japanese.

### **Director | Madeline Sayet (Mohegan)**

Madeline Sayet is an award-winning Mohegan stage director and playwright who believes that the stories we choose to pass down shape our collective possible futures. As a theater maker her work has been seen at the Public Theater, Shakespeare's Globe, Long Wharf Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Glimmerglass Festival, Folger Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and many more. She is the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program (YIPAP) and a clinical associate professor at Arizona State University. The national tour of her play, *Where We Belong*, was produced by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in association with the Folger Shakespeare Library and has been published both by Methuen Drama and Dramatists Play Service. For her work she has been honored as a Forbes 30 Under 30 in Hollywood & Entertainment, TED Fellow, MIT Media Lab Director's Fellow, NCAIED Native American 40 Under 40, and was a recipient of the White House Champion of Change Award from President Barack Obama. [madelinesayet.com](http://madelinesayet.com)

### **Antíkoni | Erin Xáalnook Tripp (Lingít)**

Erin Xáalnook Tripp is a Lingít actor, voiceover artist, and audiobook narrator. She is passionate about working on projects that uplift Indigenous stories. Erin's theatre credits include *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* by Frank Katasse, *Devilfish* by Vera Starbard, and *Whale Song* by Cathy Tagnak Rexford. She has appeared on ABC's *Alaska Daily* and Fox's *The Great North*. Highlights in audiobooks include *Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie, *Kukum* by Michel Jean, and *Indian Burial Ground* by Nick Medina. @erins\_library

### **Ismene | Isabella Madrigal (Cahuilla/Turtle Mountain Ojibwe)**

Isabella Madrigal is Cahuilla/Turtle Mountain Ojibwe. She is a recent graduate of Harvard College where she won the 2024 Hoopes Prize for her thesis, a screenplay focused on MMIP. Isabella is the Co-Director of the Luke Madrigal Indigenous Storytelling Nonprofit where, alongside her sister, she creates films and theater that uplift Indigenous voices. Isabella is best

known for her touring play *Menil and Her Heart*, winner of the Yale Young Native Storyteller's Contest, and her work in Marvel's *Echo* and *Rutherford Falls*.

### **Kreon | Frank Henry Katasse (Tlingit)**

Frank Henry Katasse, whose Lingít name is Kaash, is an Alaska Native Tlingit from the Tsaagweidí clan. Frank is an actor, director, producer, improviser, educator, author, and playwright. He received his Bachelor's in Theatre Arts from the University of Hawai'i: Mānoa where he won the Lucie Bentley Award for Acting. Frank served as the Board President of Juneau Douglas Little Theatre (2013-2019) and has been involved with Perseverance Theatre in the world premieres of Alaska Native themed plays, including: *Battles of Fire and Water*, *Cedar House*, *Reincarnation of Stories*, *Our Voices Will Be Heard*, *William, Inc.*, and *Whale Song*. In 2016, Frank's full-length play, *They Don't Tak Back* had a rolling world premiere at Native Voices, La Jolla Playhouse, and Perserverance. He was the Playwright in Residence at La Jolla Playhouse in 2018 where he wrote two full-length plays, *Spirit of the Valley* and *Where the Summit Meets the Stars*, both of which he directed and premiered at Perseverance in 2020 and 2022. The following year, Native Voices produced the LA-premiere of *Where the Summit Meets the Stars*. Frank is also Emmy-nominated for his writings and story contributions to *Molly of Denali* in both 2022 and 2023.

### **Haemon | Kholan Studi (Cherokee)**

Kholan Studi is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. Credits include: Eddy in *They Don't Talk Back* and Anthony in *Where The Summit Meets The Stars* by Frank Kaash Katasse, Edward in *Bingo Hall* by Dillon Chitto (Native Voices); Elias Boudinot in *Sovereignty* by Mary Kathryn Nagle (Marine Theater Company); taking the stage as an understudy in *Between Two Knees* by The 1491's as Pale Face/William (Yale Repertory Theatre), Isaiah/Eddie (Seattle Rep), and Ensemble (Perelman Performing Arts Center). Catch him as Milo in Blake Picken's short film *Ricky Killed a Guy*.

### **Guard | Maddox Pennington (Cherokee)**

Maddox Pennington is a nonbinary writer and comedian originally from the Cherokee Nation. They received an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Columbia University and currently teach writing at the University of Southern California. Their work has been presented with Moving Arts Theater Company, Theatre Viscera Podcast (Pittsburgh), Hollywood Fringe Festivals, La Jolla Playhouse, and Native Voices. He is the creative director of the Trans Conversation Project.

### **Tairasias | Nikcoma Lee Mahkewa (Hopi-Tewa, Mohave, Chemehuevi)**

Nikcoma Lee Mahkewa is Hopi-Tewa, Mohave, Chemehuevi, originally from the Colorado River Indian Tribal reservation in Parker, Arizona. He is an LA-based actor, having most recently performed with Native Voices, along with independent theatre companies Thespionest and Playground Renaissance. Previously, Nikcoma played multiple roles in the Discovery+

series *Book of Queer* and toured in the understudy company of the satirical play *Between Two Knees*, from the creators behind FX's *Reservation Dogs*.

### **Auntie 1 | Arigon Starr (Kickapoo)**

Arigon Starr is a musician, actor, playwright, and renowned comic book writer/artist from the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. Her work with Native Voices includes her comedy musical, *The Red Road*, and the radio comedy, *Super Indian*. Arigon is also the illustrator for the award-winning Kokila/Penguin/Random House children's book *Contenders: Two Native Americans, One World Series* and was featured in the PBS series *Native America*. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity and is based in Los Angeles.

### **Auntie 2 | GiGi Buddie (Tongva and Mescalero Apache)**

GiGi Buddie, Tongva and Mescalero Apache, is honored to be making her debut with Native Voices and returning to her traditional homeland! As an activist, her professional and personal pursuits converge at the intersection of art and climate justice. GiGi creates and contributes to art that uplifts marginalized voices and shares stories of creation, resilience, and beauty from frontline communities. She has attended the United Nations Climate Summit as an NGO delegate, and she currently works as an affiliate artist for the Arts and Climate Initiative. GiGi received a Bachelor's from Pomona College in Theatre Performance and Environmental Analysis.

### **Auntie 3 | Dawn Lura (Diné)**

Dawn Lura is Diné and a member of SAG-AFTRA, who works on both stage and screen. She has performed with the Santa Fe Opera as a principle in the world premiere of *Sweet Potato Kicks the Sun*, at the Lensic (Santa Fe) in Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Manahatta*, and at the Vortex (Albuquerque) in Tomson Highways's *Rez Sisters*. She is a past finalist in the NMFF Actors Showcase and won the COLFF Best Actress award in 2022 for her performance in *Heaven on Earth*. [IMDb.me/DawnLura](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045844/)

---

**Native Voices 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 · Elena Finley Endlich · First Peoples Fund Native Arts Ecology Building Grant · Patty Glaser and Sam Mudie · Carole Goldberg and Duane Champagne · Greenberg Foundation · Shawn Imitates Dog · Helene Jacobs · Judy Jacobs · Shelby Jiggetts-Tivony · Diane Levine · Heidi Levine-Gonzalez · Peter Glenville Foundation · Brenda and Gary Ruttenberg · Seeley W. Mudd Foundation · The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation · Theater League of Kansas City · Cynthia Burstein Waldman and Vincent Waldman

**Native Voices Support Committee:**

Tonantzín Carmelo · Elena Finley Endlich · Carole Goldberg and Duane Champagne · Kimberly Guerrero · Shelby Jiggetts-Tivony · Diane Levine · Heidi Levine-Gonzalez · Daryl Roth · Gloria Steinem

**About Native Voices**

For the past 30 years, Native Voices has remained the sole Actors' Equity theatre in the country committed to developing and producing new works for the stage by Native American, First Nations, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian playwrights. Devoted to training Indigenous artists and championing their work nationally through production and professional development opportunities, Native Voices provides a supportive setting for new play development. When founders Randy Reinholz (Choctaw) and Jean Bruce Scott entrusted their legacy to DeLanna Studi (Cherokee) and Elisa Blandford in 2020, the company's goals remained the same -- to foster greater understanding and respect for all and to showcase artistic voices that might otherwise not be heard. Native Voices remains steadfast in their mission of developing 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, but now with the hope of Indigenizing theatre, both for artists and audiences, and to create pathways of learning for the next generations of storytellers and audience members.

### **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 the 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](https://www.theautry.org) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/theautry) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theautry) | [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@theautry)

### **Museum and Store Hours**

Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

### **Press Contact:**

Sarah Crispi  
[scrispi@theautry.org](mailto:scrispi@theautry.org)

