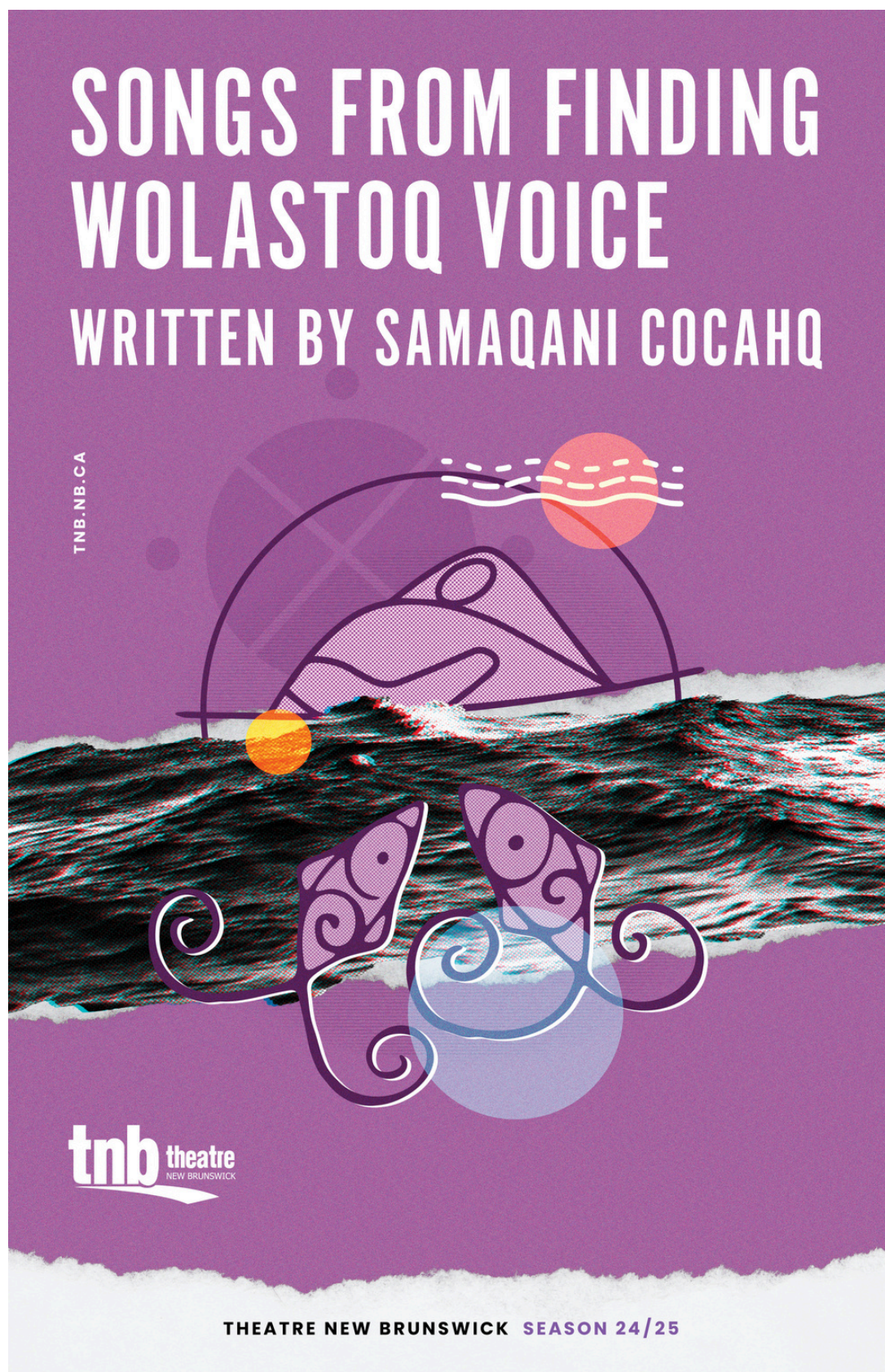


**THEATRE NEW
BRUNSWICK**
SEASON 24/25





Samaqani Cocahq performs songs from her debut play Finding Wolastoq Voice with her friends Pokəholakənəl Witsehkehsolticik (Sisters of the Drum) and Dawson Sacobie. The original play premiered at TNB in 2018, and toured to Ottawa, to be part of the inaugural season of the National Arts Centre's Indigenous Centre.

**Woliwon &
Special Thanks to:**

**Pokəholakənəl Witsehkehsolticik
(Sisters of the Drum)**

Dawson Sacobie

Ramona Nicholas

Judie Acquin

Dylan Ward

Opolahsomuwehs

Maggie Paul

Michael Doherty

St Mary's Veterans Memorial Health Centre

Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories

St. Thomas University

University of New Brunswick



Message from Artistic & Executive Director Natasha MacLellan



When I first started at TNB, at the end of 2018, one of the first artists I was introduced to was Samaqani Cocahq (Natalie Sappier.) TNB was in the middle of making arrangements for the tour of Finding Wolastoq Voice, which was going to Winnipeg and Ottawa, where it would be part of the National Arts Centre's Indigenous Theatre's inaugural season. I was struck by her laugh and her ability to pepper conversations with profound bits of wisdom. She is a multi-talented artist-- pop into our Theatre School/kitchen area and look at the beautiful mural she made for us. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years, including the work of making our institution a place where all feel welcome and comfortable. I am so excited for these performances with Dawson Sacobie and Pokəholakənəl Witsehkehsolticik (Sisters of The Drum.) Hearing their beautiful voices echo in our halls these last few weeks has been a treat like none I've known. And lucky us, she's back this winter, writing a play for our Young Company, Tuhkiyawolotipon (We Are Awake) which will tour to junior and high schools.

Message from Chair, Board of Governors Deborah Burns

The mandate of Theatre New Brunswick includes celebrating New Brunswick's best theatre content and artists. Nowhere are Natasha and her team doing that more than with this production of "Songs From Finding Wolastoq Voice". We are pleased to continue our partnership with Samaqani Cocahq, who has written this beautiful follow up to her successful work "Finding Wolastoq Voice" which premiered at TNB in 2018. I remember the beauty of that production as it was originally presented at the Open Space Theatre. Then I remember the thrill I had seeing it at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa! Please join me in congratulating all the artists involved in creating this lovely new work for us to experience.





Samaqani Cocahq - Creator

Samaqani Cocahq-Natalie Sappier is a Wolastoqey Indigenous multidisciplinary storyteller from Neqotkuk First Nation, New Brunswick. She draws upon her ancestral teachings to guide her to create stories. Her contemporary movement of painted storytelling is rooted by Traditional Wabanaki motifs, landscape, language and growing up on the rez.

Chanting is her portal to memory which helps her travel into an imagination of worlds and wonder. It helps her find the colours in a landscape and the emotions that dance with the body, within line work, words written or spoken. Samaqani feels that art and wellness is weaved into one braid of sweetgrass, and she is driven to create stories of healing, love, purpose and protection of spirit and Earth Mother.

Today, she continues to create stories with painting, theatre and film through her shape shifting character MAW (Amawhle) which are stories that are realized and developed with the guidance and collaboration of many Wabanaki Knowledge carriers and with the land. She carries passion for helping others find their voice through artistic expression and is an advocate for arts, culture, and two- spirit sacredness.

**Woliwon,
My community of Neqotkuk,
my mother, my partner Justin
and our boys Walter & River.
Koselomulpa!**



Pəkoholakənəl Witsehkehsolticik (Sisters of the Drum)

Pəkoholakənəl Witsehkehsolticik (Sisters of the Drum) are Wolastoqey women who have committed their hearts, voices, and spirit to share beautiful songs of their people. A devoted group since 2016; they carry the songs of the Wolastoqiyik people with a passion to share their journey with others. With their humbling souls and their warm hearts, they thank the creator for the inspiring opportunities such as sharing the stage with Wolastoqey musicologist Jeremy Dutcher, Atlantic Ballet of Canada, Ashley Callingbull, Don Burnstik, Diyet the Love Soldiers, and Katherine Moller. As Sisters of the Drum grow and support each other, one bears witness to the empowerment of women celebrated and radiated through Indigenous performance.



Dawson Sacobie

Dawson Sacobie is an all indigenous and Wolastoqey electronic musician from Saint Mary's First Nation, Using the stage name of M3D14, Sacobie delves into modern topics of interest while fusing traditional Wolastoqey music with a new electronic twist, Doing work such as "Pisuwin: A Wolastoq Story" for Atlantique Ballet, AFN, And having teamed up with Samaqani Cocahq on many projects before, Sacobie is a quiet powerhouse in Atlantic Canada!



Andrea Evans - Production Manager

Andrea Evans proudly holds a BFA with Honours from York University where she studied Theatre Production and Design. With nearly 20 years’ experience, she has worked as a set designer, scenic painter, and props builder for numerous theatres throughout Ontario and the Atlantic provinces. Andrea has worked for theatre companies such as the National Ballet of Canada, Saint John Theatre Company, the Chester Playhouse, Tarragon Theatre, and many others. For two seasons, Andrea worked as an assistant designer at the Stratford Festival. She has also been a guest artist / instructor at numerous high schools teaching stagecraft and design. Andrea has been nominated two times for Toronto’s Dora Awards and the proud recipient of a Dora Award for Outstanding Set Design.



Sherry Kinnear - Production Assistant

Sherry Kinnear is a Costume Designer-Maker who has worked with Theatre New Brunswick as their Head of Wardrobe to create and coordinate costumes for TNB's main stage, theatre school, and Young Company shows since 2007. As Costume Designer, she’s designed several of their stage and touring productions—such as Wood Buffalo, Christmas at Pemberley, Heroine, A Christmas Carol, The Snow Queen, A Sunday Affair, Hilda's Yard, Rocky Horror Show.



Pluto Shaw - Lighting Operator

Pluto Shaw (They/Them) is a fourth-year student at UNB working towards their Ancient World Studies honours and Drama double major. They have been super passionate about theatre since the Technical Theatre course they took in their first year of university. Their past Technical Drama experience includes: Technical Director for TUNB's Detective Partner Hero Villian (2024) Notable Acts Predormital (2024) and UNB Classics Society’s Pseudolus; Stage Manager for TUNB’s Dead Man’s Cell-phone (2024), Bard in the Barracks’ Twelfth Night (2024), and Notable Acts’ Predormital (2024); and other varying roles over the last year or so spanning from ASM to Assistant Technical Director. They hope you enjoy the show!

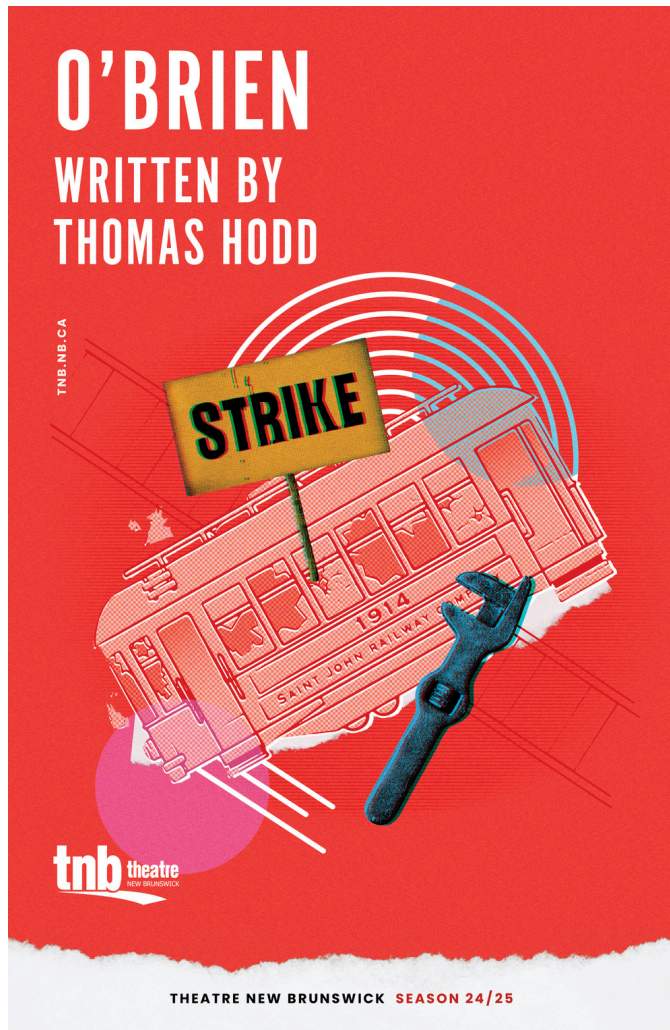


Zinnia Maher-Watson - Production Assistant

Zinnia Maher-Watson has been involved in theatre from a young age. From the lead in a school play in middle school, to TNB theatre school, tech crew at Fredericton High School, and now a Production Assistant at TNB, Zinnia has always loved every aspect of theatre.



COMING SOON TO TNB



The O'Brien family are a third-generation Irish family, living and working in Saint John, New Brunswick. It is 1914, and Hap O'Brien, a conductor for the St. John Street Railway Company, is raising two sons with wife Kate. The family is forced to confront the real-world turmoil of social and labour unrest in Saint John, on the eve of the First World War.

MAR 5-8 | TNB Open Space Theatre | Fredericton NB

MAR 9 | Imperial Theatre | Saint John NB

MAR 11 | Riverview Arts Centre | Riverview NB

MAR 12 | Carrefour Beausoleil | Miramichi NB

MAR 13 | LER Theater | Dalhousie NB

MAR 14 | Carleton North High School | Florenceville-Bristol NB

MAR 15 | W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex | Saint Andrews NB

MAR 16 | TNB Open Space Theatre | Fredericton NB

MORE FROM TNB THIS SEASON

WINTER BRUNCH & SILENT AUCTION

FEB 16 | Fredericton NB

HADESTOWN

APR 19 | Fredericton Playhouse | Fredericton NB

CLUE

MAY 23-24 | STU Black Box Theatre | Fredericton NB





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