



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DanceHouse Reaches for the Stars with Exhilarating Vancouver Premiere of Red Sky Performance's *Trace*

Contemporary Indigenous company makes its live DanceHouse debut as part of the North American tour of its award-winning work, based on the creation stories of the Anishinaabe people

Vancouver, BC – DanceHouse, in partnership with SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, presents the Vancouver premiere of Red Sky Performance's highly kinetic contemporary dance work ***Trace***, on stage **November 24 to 27, 2021 at 8pm** and **November 27, 2021 at 2pm** at **SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts**, in strict observance of public health regulations. Under the direction of Executive and Artistic Director **Sandra Laronde**, *Trace* is inspired by the ancestral celestial legends of the Anishinaabe people, which hold within them an Indigenous worldview of the interconnectedness of all creation. Closing out a six-week, 15-city tour across Canada and the U.S., *Trace* features a live percussive score infused with Indigenous motifs from composer **Eliot Britton** and athletically-charged choreography by Red Sky Performance Associate Artist **Jera Wolfe**.

"We are overjoyed with the opportunity to bring Red Sky Performance back to the Vancouver stage for the first time in over a decade with this presentation of *Trace*," says Jim Smith, Artistic and Executive Director of DanceHouse. "While audiences were treated to a sneak peek of the work in the digital broadcast of the Red Sky Performance retrospective *More Than Dance, We Are A Movement*, presented by Digidance in April 2021, there is simply no replacement for the live, in-person experience of this breathtaking and soulful journey through the cosmos."

Trace made its world premiere in Toronto at Canadian Stage in November 2018, followed by its international premiere at the iconic Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the US in 2019. The work is Red Sky Performance's ode to the origin stories of the Anishinaabe people and the mythological figure of *Geezhigo-Quae* (Sky Woman), who fell to earth, bringing with her the beginnings of life. Lauded by *The Globe and Mail* for its "physically demanding sequences that rely on the dancers' swiftness and vigour," *Trace* is the recipient of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards in 2019, for Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Sound Design & Composition.

Featuring a backdrop of graphic projections designed by Marcella Grimaux, tracing humanity's existence from single atom to expansive cosmos, the work offers a glimpse into an Indigenous perspective of the origin of humanity as well as its future evolution. An inventive, acrobatic work choreographed by Wolfe, a renowned Toronto-based choreographer and dancer of Métis heritage, for an ensemble of six dancers, *Trace* underscores Red Sky Performance's athleticism and versatility. The work swiftly moves from fast-paced, synchronized choreography and athletic throws to slow, graceful lines and meditative movement.

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Trace features an original, percussive score composed by Britton, a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation and an inventive composer who integrates electronic, audiovisual, and instrumental elements into his body of work and, performed live by three musicians, interspersed with the recorded throat-singing vocals of Orla Barlow-Tukaki and Nelson Tagoona and the dancers' own rhythmic breathing.

Red Sky Performance is one of Canada's leading contemporary Indigenous performance companies, led by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde of the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water). With a mission to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that transform society, Red Sky Performance is in its 21st year of creating and producing original, interdisciplinary works of dance, theatre, music, and media.

Touring since 2003, Red Sky has delivered more than 2,750 performances across 17 countries on four continents, including two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), World Expo in Shanghai, Venice Biennale, and Jacob's Pillow. Laronde, also known as Misko Kizhigoo Migizii Kwe meaning "Red Sky Eagle Woman," has played a pivotal role in the resurgence of Indigenous culture across Canada. Her works, which explore story and cultural identity, are focused on expanding the Indigenous canon and awakening a wider ecological relationship to nature.

For tickets and further information, visit: dancehouse.ca

About DanceHouse (dancehouse.ca)

DanceHouse connects Vancouver audiences and the local arts community to the international world of dance by presenting exceptional companies that are recognized for their excellence, innovation, and international reputation. Since 2008, DanceHouse has presented vibrant and inspiring companies from Canada and around the world. In addition to the performances on stage, DanceHouse offers a suite of engagement opportunities and a chance for the general public and local artistic community to engage with the presented artists and their work.

LISTING INFORMATION

DanceHouse presents Red Sky Performance's *Trace*

Dates:	November 24 to 27, 2021 at 8pm and November 27, 2021 at 2pm
Price:	From \$35
Address:	SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, 149 W Hastings, Vancouver
Box Office:	dancehouse.ca or call 604.801.6225
Website:	dancehouse.ca

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