

## HOWLROUND CHALLENGE CONVENINGS

### Strengthening Our Circle: Creating National Space for Native American Performance

#### DESCRIPTION

A Native American performing arts gathering to share and learn from each other, as well as strategize on ways to bring more awareness to the broader population of Native performing artists in the United States including Hawai'i and Alaska.

#### WHEN

October 2018

#### PROPOSED BY

Murielle Borst-Tarrant, Indigenous Direction (Ty Defoe and Larissa FastHorse), Rosy Simas, Rhiana Yazzie

#### BIOS



##### MURIELLE BORST-TARRANT

Murielle Borst-Tarrant is an author, playwright, director, producer, cultural artist, educator, and human rights activist. Author of the fantasy series *The Star Medicine*, she also works on the deconstructing of methods of the arts in Native communities in urban areas across the country, Canada, and in the New York City education system. She also consults many urban and non-urban universities on the development on Native theatre programming. Murielle was nominated for a Rockefeller grant in 2001, won a Native Heart Award, and was the only Native American woman to have her work selected by the Sydney, Australia Olympic Games to play her one-woman show, *More than Feathers and Beads* at the Sydney Opera House.



##### TY DEFOE

[Ty Defoe](#) (Giizhig), is from the (Oneida/Ojibwe | Haudenosaunee/Anishinaabe) Nations, a Grammy Award winner for *Come to Me Great Mystery*. An interdisciplinary artist and writer. A two-spirit, environmental artist-activist, cultural pioneer, co-founder of Indigenous Direction and on the facilitation team of artEquity. Highlights: Ty received an Indigenous Heritage Festival Global Award, Robert Rauschenberg Artist in Residence, and this year's 2017 Jonathan Larson Award winner through the American Theater Wing (with his collaborator Tidtaya Sinutoke). Most recent work: *Ajijaack!* which can be seen at the International Performing Arts for Youth (iPAY) next year. He/Him/His/We/Us. Photo by John Edmond.



##### LARISSA FASTHORSE

Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) is an award winning playwright and co-founder of [Indigenous Direction](#). Larissa's produced plays include *What Would Crazy Horse Do?*, *Urban Rez*, *Landless*, *Average Family*, *Teaching Disco Squaredancing to Our Elders: a Class Presentation*, *Vanishing Point* and *Cherokee Family Reunion*. *The Thanksgiving Play* is scheduled for two productions in the next year. Her immersive play, *Urban Rez*, is being developed as a national tour with a premier at ASU Gammage and funding by NEFA. [www.hoganhorsestudio.com](http://www.hoganhorsestudio.com)



##### ROSY SIMAS

Rosy Simas is an enrolled Seneca from the Heron clan. She is a Minneapolis based choreographer. For more than twenty years she has created work dealing with a wide range of political, social, and cultural subject matter from a Native feminist perspective. Simas is 2016 McKnight Choreography fellow, 2016 First Peoples Fund ArtistTy Defoe in Business Leadership fellow, a 2015 Guggenheim fellow, and a 2013 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation fellow. Her work is supported nationally by NEFA National Dance Project (2014, 2016, 2017), National Performance Network (2015), and MAP Fund (2017).



##### RHIANA YAZZIE

Rhiana Yazzie is a Navajo playwright, film and theatremaker based in Minnesota. She's the 2017 Sally Award winner for Vision and the artistic director of [New Native Theatre](#), a new way of staging Native American plays. She was a 2016/2017 Playwrights' Center McKnight Fellow, a two-time Jerome Fellow, and a Core Member. She is writing a play for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Public Theater in "American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle." Her newest project is writing, directing, and acting in her new film, *A Winter Love*. A graduate of the University of Southern California, she's produced events featuring Madeleine Albright, Spaulding Grey, and Stephen Hawking.