



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2019

Chan Centre Presents Critically Acclaimed One-Man Show, *Huff*

Award-winning playwright and actor Cliff Cardinal brings his “must-see” show back to Vancouver for two performances only in the Chan Centre’s intimate Telus Studio Theatre

Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia presents *Huff*, the boldly conceived, darkly comic tale of three Indigenous brothers caught in a pattern of grief and solvent abuse following the death of their mother. In this highly anticipated theatrical return to Vancouver, playwright and performer Cliff Cardinal embodies over a dozen different characters in an unrelenting portrayal described as “stunning” by the Edinburgh Festival, and a “hard-hitting tour-de-force” by *The Guardian*. Two performances, at noon and 7:30pm, will be held in the Chan Centre’s Telus Studio Theatre as part of the interdisciplinary Beyond Words series on Wednesday, October 30.

As the story of *Huff* develops, the brothers’ gas-induced dream world oscillates in and out of reality as they are preyed on by the mythical Trickster in hallways at the old residential school, the abandoned motel they have come to love more than home, and within their own fragile psyches. Though the visceral play is fictional, “It reaches inside and grabs you so hard that you forget it’s make-believe,” (*CBC*), and its riveting story vividly confronts the devastating, urgent topics of youth suicide, sexual abuse, and the ongoing perseverance of Indigenous communities in the face of incredible adversity. In an interview with *Intermission Magazine*, Cardinal states: “You know what, we are implicated. We are part of the history that has left people out. If you’re offended, that’s good, because I’m offended. This stuff in this play—the stuff in all my work—it turns my stomach. That’s why it’s compelling to me.”

“The Chan Centre’s Beyond Words series is an opportunity to address challenging social issues of our time through the performing arts,” says Wendy Atkinson, Chan Centre Programming Manager and curator of the series. “*Huff* is, most importantly, a story of the experience of Indigenous people in Canada—a story that, while devastating, is so relevant and necessary to tell and understand. When Cliff showed an excerpt of this piece at a recent conference for international arts presenters, the room fell absolutely silent, and it was then I knew *Huff*—and the ongoing conversations it allows audiences to have—needed to return to Vancouver.”

Huff is directed by Karin Radoja and debuted in 2012 as part of the SummerWorks Festival, where it won the Buddies in Bad Times Award for Risk and Innovation. It went on to receive numerous accolades when it was re-mounted by Native Earth Performing Arts in 2015, including two Dora Mavor Moore Awards and the RBC Taragon Emerging Playwright Award. *Huff* has completed two national tours and over 200 live performances, including presentations at the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, Magnetic North Theatre Festival, and the High Performance Rodeo, and closed the studio season at Canada’s National Arts Centre in May 2014. *Torontoist* said “To call this play heartbreaking would be an understatement,” and the *Globe and Mail* said the “unflinching solo show...will take your breath away.”

Born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Cliff Cardinal is the son of iconic Canadian actress Tantoo Cardinal. He graduated from the playwriting program at the National Theatre School of Canada. His

/more...

other plays include *Stitch*, *The Andersons*, *Sidewalk Chalk* (for young audiences), *Romanceship*, and *Maria Gets a New Life*. In addition to his work in theatre, Cardinal is also a musician, performing and recording both with The Skylarks, as well as creating his own solo repertoire. In August 2019, the artist debuted *Cliff Cardinal's CBC Special*—also in partnership with director Karin Radoja—a combination of words and music featuring folk songs, miraculous stories of familial resilience, legends of Turtle Island survival, and new contributions to the ongoing mythology of the Canadian experience. He is also working on a new solo project, *(Everyone I Love Has) A Terrible Fate (Befall Them)*.

About the Beyond Words Series

The Chan Centre's Beyond Words series was launched in 2012 to explore the power of storytelling through performance as an agent of change and means of igniting conversation. Previous events have included sold-out engagements with avant-garde multimedia artist Laurie Anderson, as well as Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq and Greenlandic mask dancer Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory. In addition to *Huff*, in the fall of 2019 the Beyond Words series features writer Ivan Coyote and singer songwriter Sarah MacDougall's multimedia odyssey *Trader Time*, followed by Seattle-based dance artist and choreographer Jade Solomon Curtis's poignant and pointed *Black Like Me*.

About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts at UBC (chancentre.com)

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

LISTING INFORMATION

Chan Centre Presents *Huff*

Date:	Wednesday October 30, 2019 at 12pm & 7:30pm
Ticket Price:	\$35
Address:	Chan Centre for the Performing Arts University of British Columbia 6265 Crescent Road Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Box Office:	604-822-2697 / chancentre.com Open Tue–Sat, 12pm–5pm
Website:	chancentre.com
Link to Artist Photos:	https://chancentre.com/press-downloads/

-30-

For further media information:

CLAIRE MOHUN | 604-822-1241
claire.mohun@ubc.ca
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts