

The Secret to Good Tea

MEDIA RELEASE

By Rosanna Deerchild
Directed by Renae Morriseau

From the Pimootayowin Creators Circle to the Mainstage

March 23 – April 15 | Preview March 22

John Hirsch Mainstage

WINNIPEG, March 2, 2023 – The kettle is on, the bannock is warm and the conversations in ***The Secret to Good Tea*** are difficult but necessary. Rosanna Deerchild’s first play opens up a dialogue about residential schools, intergenerational trauma, and the path to healing, forgiveness and hope.

At the kitchen table, Maggie and her daughter Gwynn discuss Gwynn’s shaky marriage, Maggie’s lingering nightmares and a neighbour’s annoyingly streak at bingo. But they talk without saying much and old family hurts simmer. When Gwynn encourages her mother to return to the site of her residential school, frustration boils over. As a journalist, Gwynn wants her mom to share her story so the world will know what happened. But how can Maggie expose her trauma to a world that turned its back on her, when she can’t even talk to her own daughter?

Developed for the 2021 Pimootayowin Creators Circle under the guidance of Ian Ross, Deerchild’s piece has been a lifetime in the making. Following five years of listening to her mother’s painful memories, Deerchild turned that pain into a book of poetry called “calling down the sky”. This inspiration could not be bound by a single artistic medium and was later channelled into ***The Secret to Good Tea***.

“***The Secret to Good Tea*** honours that journey and her strength as a survivor. But it’s also a larger conversation about intergenerational trauma and healing while asking the question ‘who is responsible for reconciliation?’” said Deerchild.

The Secret to Good Tea stars **Kathleen MacLean** as Gwynn Starr, **Tracey Nepinak** as Maggie Mooswa, **Jeremy Proulx** as Mr. BigChief, **James Dallas Smith** as Michael, **Emily Solstice Tait** as Crow and **Kelsey Kanatan Wavey** as Nicki.

The creative team features Director **Renae Morriseau**, Set Designer **Lauchlin Johnston**, Costume Designer **Yolonda Skelton**, Lighting Designer **Hugh Conacher**, Sound Designer **Jason Burnstick**, Video Designer **Carla Hernandez**, Assistant Costume Designer **Amy McPherson**, Stage Manager **Karyn Kumhyr**, Assistant Stage Manager **Angela Marshall** and Apprentice Stage Manager **Bearchild Harper**.

Tickets for ***The Secret to Good Tea*** start at \$28 plus GST. For showtimes and ticket information, call the Royal MTC Box Office at 204 942 6537, toll-free at 1 877 446 4500 or visit royalmtc.ca.

B-roll will be sent to select media on March 22 and is also available upon request. A selection of photos will be available for download on our website on March 21. To access these photos, visit the MEDIA CENTRE at royalmtc.ca/mediacentre.

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For more information, please contact:

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