

NOZHEM

FIRST PEOPLES PERFORMANCE SPACE

The First Peoples Performance Space (with seating for 100) is an exciting venue in which the audience can participate in an intimate relationship with the artists and performers. Unlike traditional Western theatre, the space will be used for ceremony, as a vessel to pour forth and nurture Aboriginal oral tradition, language and knowledge. The space will be the summer home of the Centre for Indigenous Theatre in Toronto.

Storytellers – artists, singers, dancers – all have the power to move the souls of the people towards remembrance and recognition of who they are as a people.”

**Vision Statement,
Aboriginal Arts Program
1994**



NO WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD

will you find what Trent University has done to create a Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal performance.

- Trent has introduced three innovative undergraduate course offerings – Introduction to Indigenous theatre, Indigenous dance theory, and Indigenous dance performance.
- Nozhem has become the summer home for the **Centre for Indigenous Theatre** – based in Toronto this organization offers post-secondary performing arts training to people of Aboriginal ancestry. The Centre's programs promote and foster an understanding of Indigenous theatre while providing the highest calibre arts training to Aboriginal students from across Canada.
- Attracted cultural leader - Tama Turanga Huata of New Zealand as a visiting Ashley Fellow in 2004. Mr. Huata shared his research and knowledge of Maori traditional art forms, cultural practices and history.
- Attracted Rosalie Jones from New York as a visiting professor to help establish the first credit Indigenous Dance course in Canada.
- Trent became home for this country's very first Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Arts and Literature, when Professor Marrie joined the Trent faculty in 2004.

TRENT Faculty Canada Research Chair Marrie Mumford

Professor Mumford's research involves investigating performance traditions from Indigenous nations and renewing appreciation of Aboriginal performing arts.

The research ensures that skills from experienced Aboriginal performers are being transferred to future generations, thus enhancing the cultural and social life of Canada.

Professor Mumford was formerly the Director of Aboriginal Programs at the Banff Centre for the Arts.





Committed leader in promoting the study of Aboriginal peoples

- In 1969, Trent became the first University in North America to establish an undergraduate program in Native Studies.
- In 1978, Trent established the first Native Studies four year Bachelor of Arts honours program in Canada.
- In 1986, in collaboration with the Trent Frost Centre for Native Studies and Canadian Studies, the first Masters of Arts program in Native Studies was introduced.
- In 1988, in conjunction with the Trent Business Administration program, the innovative Native Management and Economic Development program was initiated.
- In 1997, the first Native Studies Ph.D. program in Canada commenced. Trent still has the only Native Studies Ph.D. program in Canada (there are only two in North America)
- In 2001, in collaboration with Trent's internationally acclaimed Environmental and Resource Studies program, the Indigenous Environmental Studies program was started.
- In 2004, the First Peoples House of Learning opened, located in the newly constructed Enweying Building along with Peter Gzowski College.
- In 2005, Nozhem, First Peoples Performance Space officially opened.

Help us to complete the building of Nozhem

We have had many generous donations to get the Nozhem Performance Space built and operational, but we still have to finish some essential "behind the scenes" construction such as building dressing rooms and showers for the performers.

We need to raise \$150,000

Our limited operational budget is required to fund essential educational programs. Your **DONATION** will help us complete the capital campaign for a facility that is drawing acclaim from aboriginal communities, performing artists and is making a reputation already in international theatrical circles.



NOZHEM is the Ojibway word which denotes the female bear. We've chosen this animal to represent our space because she embodies the characteristics of transformation, balance and knowledge, which are essential components of the Indigenous way of knowing.

In theatre there is transformation which takes place as actors take on specific roles, but there is another transformation which occurs within the individual actor as they find their own healing through their personal creative expression. There is also healing for the audience as they empathize greater awareness of the human condition and the situations of others in society.

- Edna Manitowabi



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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