



alterNatives

By Drew Hayden Taylor

OCTOBER 7-11

7:30 PM

DAVID SPINKS THEATRE



UNIVERSITY OF
FINE ARTS

Piiksinaasin

Cast

Role	Actor
Angel Wallace	Nikko Hunt
Colleen Birk	Alexis Duduman
Dale Cartland	Jacob Hill
Michelle Spencer	Madeline Hvingelby
Bobby Rabbit	Jesse Thibert
Yvonne Stone	Naima Young Pine
Swing	Morgan Hill

Creative

Role	Name
Director	Marshall Vielle
Set, Props & Lighting Designer	David Smith
Costume Designer	Jolane Houle
Sound Designer	Avry Cook
Assistant to Set, Props Designer	Kacie Hilliard
Assistant to Lighting Designer	Sara Taggart
Assistant to Costume Designer	Cassidy Braun
Intimacy/Fight Director	Brent Clark

The Playwright consents to a change of gender of the character of Angel for the University of Lethbridge production of **alterNatives**.

The play runs approximately two hours with one intermission.

About the Playwright

alterNatives, by acclaimed Indigenous playwright Drew Hayden Taylor, explores the complexities of identity, relationships, and cultural intersections within a group of friends navigating modern life. Set against the backdrop of a lively dinner party, the play deftly balances humour and poignant social commentary, offering a fresh perspective on what it means to be Indigenous in today's world. Drew Hayden Taylor's masterful storytelling invites audiences to laugh, reflect, and ultimately to rethink their own views on identity and belonging.

alterNatives opened in Kincardine, Ontario, at the Bluewater Summer Playhouse on July 21, 1999, with the following cast

ANGEL WALLACE	George Leach
COLLEEN BIRK	Sharon Bernbaum
DALE CARTLAND	Stuart Clow
MICHELLE SPENCER	Peggy Coffey
BOBBY RABBIT	Tim Hill
YVONNE STONE	Columpa Bobb

Directed by David Ferry

Dramaturg: David Ferry

Assistant Director: Zaib Shaikh

Set & Lighting Design by Glenn Davidson

Stage management by Beth Brown

About our 24-25 Alumni Season

Welcome to the 2024/2025 Drama Season! This year we are putting the spotlight, not only on our current students, but also on some of our many Drama alumni. We have welcomed back former students in a variety of roles over the years (including as staff and faculty!), but this Season we are celebrating alumni as our special focus. The decision to include the play *In Tongues*, written by alumni James Odin Wade, as our second mainstage production, sparked the idea to program alumni involvement across all four productions. Our University Chancellor, Terry Whitehead (BA'94), has been a champion of the Fine Arts through support for a number of awards, such as the Spirit Prize for Indigenous art and the Play Right Prize for playwriting. Terry's support and encouragement as our Season Patron has assisted us in bringing back a number of our graduates, as directors, writers, designers, performers, devisers, and creators. Our former students bring their professional skills and experience to inspire our current students, and together they have worked hard to bring you an outstanding season of entertainment. If you are one of our former students, thank you for being part of the audience! Your support is an important piece in the success of our Drama program, and we are proud to have you join us.

Director's Note

Welcome to a world where well-meaning intentions collide with the complexities of identity. This play dives into the entangled relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous characters, centering on Angel and her partner Colleen. At first glance, Colleen appears to be a supportive ally, but as she encourages Angel to focus on writing stories about growing up on the Rez, she risks turning authenticity into cultural exploitation. This is what **alterNatives** is trying to warn us about. An exploration of how one's desire to help can cause unintentional harm.

I discovered this play during my undergrad at a time when I was coming into my own as a theatre artist in this very room. A time where many of its topics explored in the play weren't being talked about. Eight years later, it still speaks to me. The way Angel is tethered to home, despite their desire to escape the social expectation of cultural preservation.

As Drew Hayden Taylor suggests in the setting of this play, there is no time like the present, which is why the intimate staging of this show was chosen to help strip away the veneer of misguided attempts at political correctness. With humour and heart, I want to showcase complex characters with their own messy truths and hidden agendas. No one is perfect -- that much we know is true, and over the course of the dinner party we see each character's implicit biases rise to the surface, revealing thoughts, beliefs, and opinions that aren't always easy to digest.

Audiences will notice the non-traditional casting of Angel as a woman; something that was integral for me as a Two-Spirit artist. I wanted to capture a queer story that doesn't focus on 'coming out,' but rather the beautiful dysfunction of their relationship due to their colliding ideologies. With a talented ensemble of Indigenous and non-Indigenous actors, this production promises to be witty, poignant, and most importantly -- a reflection of our times.

BIOS For Returning Alumni Artists



Marshall Vielle (BFA '17) is from the Kainai Nation and a graduate from the University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor of Fine Arts focused on Drama Performance.

As an actor, director, writer, and drag performer, they use theatre to build a foundation of understanding and act as a pillar of support for marginalized voices, bringing creativity and passion to every project. When not on stage, Marshall advocates for equity, diversity, and inclusion, working extensively as a facilitator of gender and sexual diversity education. Marshall enjoys horror films, '60s girl groups, and the joys of nurturing their collection of plants. They are also a dedicated advocate for Two-Spirit, Queer, and Trans youth, striving to create inclusive spaces and programs. As a community program and curriculum developer, Marshall's work reflects their commitment to fostering understanding and empowering those around them. Their multifaceted approach blends artistry with social impact, making a difference in their community.

Jolane Houle (She/Her) (BFA'12) is a Calgary based artist and member of the Blood tribe. A graduate of the University of Lethbridge ('12), she holds a BFA in Technical Theatre and a diploma in Fashion Design from Lethbridge College ('07).



She has worked in several capacities of the costume department from Stitcher to Head of Wardrobe, which include: New West Theatre (Lethbridge), Stage West Theatre (Calgary), and Alberta Theatre Projects (Calgary). Jolane is also a member of IATSE 212 for film and television. Notable design credits include: MS. HOLMES & MS. WATSON: #2B (Vertigo theatre) FATHER TARTUFFE: AN INDIGENOUS MISADVENTURE (Art's Club, Vancouver); KAAHSINNONIKS, TIME STILL STANDS, MINISTRY OF GRACE, YIISTSIYA (Making Treaty 7); COUNTRIES SHAPED LIKE STARS (Lunchbox); IN A WORLD CREATED BY A DRUNKEN GOD, AN ALMOST PERFECT THING (New West Theatre Lethbridge). Film: THE MEETING PLACE (Indigenous Peoples Experience Fort Edmonton) and THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE (independent short).

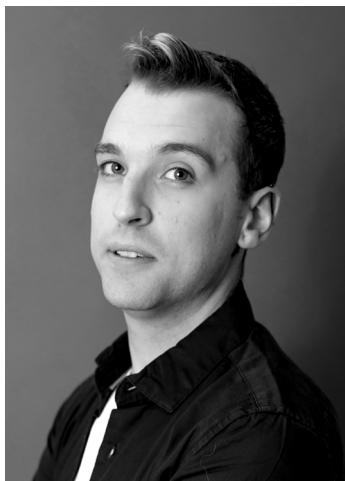


Brent Clark (BFA'20) is a University of Lethbridge alumnus, holding a BFA in Dramatic Arts since 2020.

Currently the General Manager of Theatre Outré, Brent has been working as a fight and intimacy choreographer for the past three years in the Lethbridge community. Passionate about safety in performance, Brent has acquired a PAL firearms license to further promote the safe handling of mock firearms on stage.

In addition to their work in theatre, Brent serves as an Instructional Assistant with Lethbridge Polytechnic, where they assist in training police cadets from various precincts, including Lethbridge, Taber, Medicine Hat, and Manitoba Blood Tribe.

Jesse Thibert Bear Child
(kiááyo pookáá) (BFA'23)
is a metis artist from
Winnipeg, Manitoba. He
is quite happy to be an
alumni of University of
Lethbridge with a BFA in
Drama.



He has worked in the theatre world for over ten years with experience in acting (Lie of the Mind, Hamlet, TomorrowLove, Elf), directing (Taming of the Shrew, Sugar Mama, Next To Normal*), playwriting (Sugar Mama), and artistic production (I Hear Abel Singing in the Fields, Grandmama Mama Presents the Legend of 9/11, Pants, There are Ghosts in the Theatre, Romeo and Juliet Dinner Theatre). He now owns local theatre company Experience Theatre.

Crew

Production Manager	Betty-Lou Hushlak
Stage Manager	Jackson Paquette
Rehearsal Stage Manager	Brice Popielarz

Lighting Board Operator	Sidryn Hodgins
Sound Operator	Gen Matsuzaka
Dresser & Costume Technician, (second part of term)	Cadynce Flett
Running Crew	Zach Elser
Costume Technician (first part of term)	Ashlyn Mack
Scene Shop/Stage Technician	Emily Sharp
Paint Lead	Jan Sharma
Setup crew	Gen Matsuzaka
Electricians	Oakley Baikie Cole Howg Brooke Jenkins Gen Matsuzaka

Production Staff

Kelly Roberts	Sound Technician
D.A. Smurlick	Stage Coordinator
Mike Takats	Light Technician
Arlene Curran	Scenic Carpenter
Lynn Hopkins	Costume Technician
Patricia Jonzon	Costume Technician
Terek Jonzon	Props Technician

Department of Drama Faculty

Justin A. Blum, PhD (Chair of the Drama Department)

Lee Burckes, MFA

Nicola Elson, MFA

Gabrielle Houle, PhD (Adjunct Faculty)

Betty Hushlak

Doug MacArthur, MFA

Greg MacArthur, (MFA'16)

Shelley Scott, PhD, (BA'86)

Dave Smith, MFA

Aaron Taylor, PhD

Mia van Leeuwen, MFA

Julia Wasilewski, (BA '05/BFA '07)

Professors Emeriti

Ron Chambers

Lisa Doolittle

Richard Epp

Brian Parkinson

Leslie Robison-Greene

Sara Stanley

University Theatre Staff

Kelly Roberts, (BFA'91)

D.A. Smurlick

Mike Takats

Arlene Curran, Journeyman Carpenter

Patricia Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Terek Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Lynn Hopkins, (BFA'93)

FFA Dean's Office

Operations Manager:

Amanda Berg, (BA/BMgt'04)

Manager of FA Facilities:

Niall Donaghy, MFA

Admin Assistant:

Sarah Hilliard, (BA'10)

Admin Support:

Krystal Ming-Honiwell, MSc

Box Office Coordinator:

Baz Skinner, (BA'16)

Box Office & Front of House

Autumn Adrian

Indira Brouwer

Caiden Cline

Finley Dupont

Zachery Elser

Cole Howg

Chase Hunter

Phoenix Keeler

Maddie McKee

Mirielle Nieuwenhuis

Ryan Procter

Emma Van Bussel

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Special Thanks

Thank you to the Alumni Committee for their support in championing this script, and a special thank you to Dr. Shelley Scott for inviting me to be a guest in her Canadian Theatre class in Fall 2021, sparking the conversation that led me back here to direct this show.

Jon Oxley
Josephine Mills
Andrea Kremenik