

FUTURE HISTORY

The Team

JENNIFER PODEMSKI

Director & Executive Producer

Jennifer Podemski is an award winning Film and Television Producer and Actor born and raised in Toronto, Canada.

Of mixed First Nations and Israeli descent, Jennifer began her acting career as a teen. Her career blossomed when she was cast as Pique in CBC's *The Diviners* followed by a starring role in Bruce McDonald's *Dance Me Outside*.

As her career in front of the camera exploded, Jennifer began to notice the inequity behind the lens. Although all of the roles she was awarded as actor were First Nations characters, she rarely, if ever, saw any First Nations writers, producers or directors.

By 25, and a solid career under her belt, Jennifer opened her first production company, Big Soul Productions with fellow, burgeoning, producer Laura Milliken. BSP became the first Aboriginal owned and operated, full service production company in Canada, producing hundreds of hours of television including three seasons of the award winning Dramatic Series *Moccasin Flats* for Showcase and APTN.

In 2005, Jennifer branched out on her own and founded Redcloud Studios Inc.

Although Jennifer has maintained a successful career as an actor, with roles in *Degrassi*, *Republic of Doyle*, Sarah Polley's *Take This Waltz* and *Jimmy P* alongside Benicio Del Toro; She is most proud of her starring role in her own film Empire of Dirt for which she was nominated for two Canadian Screen Awards for Best Actress in a Supporting Role as well as Best Feature Film for her work as producer.

Empire of Dirt premiered at TIFF 2014 and continued to a theatrical release in Canada and is still travelling the world on the film festival circuit.

Jennifer is also the creator and producer of APTN's famed paranormal series The Other Side, currently shooting it's second season; in her 9th year as Co Executive Producer and Creative Director of the Indspire Awards (Global, APTN) for which she was nominated for Best Lifestyle Television Show at the 2014 CSA's.

Most recently, Jennifer can be seen as Dr. Crowshoe on the award winning drama series Blackstone; HBO's *Sensitive Skin* with Kim Cattrall and in FireSong, written and directed by Adam Garnett Jones.

A storyteller behind and in front of the camera, Jennifer still makes time for training aboriginal youth in film and tv, mentoring and holding self esteem workshops across the US and Canada.

KRIS NAHRGANG

Host & Executive Producer

Kris is a multi-disciplinary artist working in wood, stone and traditional oil mediums. He is also an advocate for the rights of First Nations communities in Ontario and has liaised between Native and non-native groups with respect to archaeology since 2000.

Kris Nahrgang is a Status, Mississauga Ojibway Treaty Indian - status held at Curve Lake. His home is located close to the site of the Peterborough Petroglyphs which date back over a thousand years and are recognized as the largest single concentration of rock carvings in Canada.

Kris' art is a continuation of this spirit and tradition of rock and totem carving. His style has a balance of innovative, modern and traditional elements which have led to a growing recognition of his work across Canada and the world. His work has been noted in art periodicals including Insight, Art Impression and Collectibles, as well as MacLean's Magazine.

An experienced diver, Mr. Nahrgang began an undergraduate degree in anthropology at Trent University, and has worked in a close relationship with underwater archaeologists at Parks Canada, mainly along the Trent Severn. Mr. Nahrgang has attempted to establish a cultural heritage/archaeological research and curatorial facility that will serve the needs of a large group of the smaller southern Ontario native communities. He served as a member of the advisory committee struck by the Ministry of Culture to contribute to the development of new Stage 1-4 archaeological assessment technical guidelines. As an Associate to the firm, he has worked closely with Archaeological Services Inc. on several projects, including the Aboriginal Consultation initiative for the North Pickering Development Plan. He is consulting widely with First Nations on matters relating to the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Recently Kris was commissioned by the Canadian National Exhibition to produce a 36' UNITY POLE (Totem). The Pole was unveiled at the CNE in August of 2017, receiving national and international acclaim from the public and the media. Kris's work can be found in numerous private and corporate collection including Anne Murray, Bill Cosby, Justin Trudeau, Keech Rainwater (of Lonestar), Nik Antropov (Atlanta Thrashers), Brian Skinner (Phoenix Suns). In 2018 APTN (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network) will air Season One of "Future History", a documentary series that challenges the colonial narrative and celebrates the reclamation of Indigenous knowledge and identity, which Kris co-created and hosts with dancer, choreographer, actor and activist Sarain Fox.

SARAIN FOX

Host

Of Anishinabe lineage, Sarain is a passionate spokesperson for her aboriginal community north of Toronto and wears the beauty of her heritage with pride. Sarain explains that, "through film and acting my goal is to tell the stories that allow us to relearn our self's as aboriginal people." Through her pursuit of recognition as a name in the film industry, Sarain hopes to open new doors and opportunities for Aboriginal youths. Already well on her way, Sarain has worked on several major projects: she was cast as Sacheen Little Feather in "The Andy Warhol Interview

Project" which debuted at the Vienna Film Festival in June 2007 and was involved in the ARG re-release of the CBS TV drama "Jericho". Of course, she always has lots of new ideas on the drawing board and is currently refining several concepts for projects in the near future. Already in progress are various independent endeavors including the debut of her first play entitled "Ashes" which appeared at the Weesageechak Festival in Toronto and most recently; Sarain completed The New York Film Academy's, acting for film program.

Just as comfortable behind the scenes as in front of the lens, Sarain is also a distinguished fashion model. She can be seen on the front cover of PIE, Redskin and Spirit magazines, and has also appeared in ImagoZine, Butterfly Unltd. from NYC and Grind magazine. Sarain has modeled in several Imago shows and also for designer Brandon R. Dwyer of Project Runway.

Sarain is strong and nimble not only as an intellect; she has also been studying, practicing and performing as a professional dancer for the past ten years. She has attended the Canadian Children's Dance Theatre, the Quinte Ballet School and the Alvin Ailey Bachelor of Fine Arts Program in New York City. She has performed at The Canada Dance Festival 2008, The Barrie Jazz And Blues Festival VIII, the 2002, 2007 and 2012 Aboriginal Achievement Awards, and two summers with the Ajkun Ballet Theatre Company in New York City. She is a member of Kahawaii Dance theatre and has attended three indigenous dance residencies at The Banff Centre, which allowed her to work with Neil Iremia of Black Grace and Javier Dezule of Dezule dance. Sarain is currently the newest member of Untitled Collective; a NYC based Australian aboriginal modern dance collective. On and off the dance floor, this stellar entity of artistic expulsion is truly always on her toes.

GEOFF EWART

Producer

Geoff is a producer with experience across multiple platforms including TV series, MOWs and feature films. Recent projects include the CSA-winning feature documentary *Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr* for White Pine Pictures and *Ransom*, for CBS/Global Television. He is currently producing the documentary series *Future History*.

With Jennifer Podemski, Geoff produced the feature film *Empire of Dirt*, which had its World Premiere at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. The film was nominated for 5 Canadian Screen Awards, including Best Motion Picture, and won the award for Best Original Screenplay.

Geoff has several television and film projects in development. He dreams of being able to fly.

SAMANTHA KATZ

Associate Producer

Samantha Katz has been working in the television industry for over 10 years as a researcher, segment producer, production coordinator, script supervisor and talent coordinator. Samantha's role on *Future History* marks her debut as an Associate Producer. In 2016, Samantha was a recipient of the CMPA's Screen-Based Media Production Mentorship, with Jennifer Podemski as her mentor. Over the years, Samantha has had the opportunity to work on *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*, *Food Factory USA*, *Come Dine With Me* and the *Indspire Awards*.

Samantha hopes to continue to work on meaningful projects like *Future History* moving forward in her career, so fingers crossed for a second season of *Future History*!!!

TAMARA PODEMSKI

Writer

TAMARA PODEMSKI is an Anishnaabe multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in Toronto. For 25 years, her work has spanned across all mediums with credits such as **Dance Me Outside**, **The Rez**, **Ready or Not**, **North of 60**, **Cracked**, **The Lesser Blessed**, and the Broadway company of **RENT**. In 2007, Tamara won the Special Jury Prize for Acting at the Sundance Film Festival, as well as an IFC Spirit Award nomination for her role in Sterlin Harjo's **Four Sheets to the Wind**. She also received a Jessie Award nomination for Best Actress in Marie Clements' multi-media stage play **The Edward Curtis Project**. Tamara has released 2 albums in the Anishnaabe language, **Spirit Nation and Spirit Voices**. Her self-titled album, **Tamara**, released in 2006 under her music label, **Mukwa Music**, won her 2 Aboriginal Music Awards for Best Female Artist and Best Songwriter. Her music video **Meegwetch** also won Best Video at **imaginATIVE Film Festival** and the **American Indian Film Festival**. In addition to writing the script for her music video, Tamara also wrote the opening monologue for the CBC documentary **Mocassins & Concrete**. After getting a development deal for a comedy series she created with her sister, Tamara continued to dream big and is currently writing her first screenplay.

VANESSA APRILE

Production Manager

Vanessa Aprile is a freelance Production Manager in Toronto. She has been working in the Canadian Film & Television Industry for just over a decade. Growing up in Toronto, she had the good fortune of interning and Production Assisting while in High School. She graduated from Ryerson University in Toronto, with a bachelors of arts degree in Radio & Television and English. After graduation she began working full time at a local Production company as an Office Production & Set Coordinator working on original reality & lifestyle content for City TV, A&E, BBC, History Channel US & Canada, HGTV, W & Slice to name a few. Recently she worked as Production Manager with Toronto based Associated Producers & James Cameron on the documentary Atlantis Rising for National Geographic. As well, she has worked on the Indspire Awards for the last 4 years.

EMMA JACONELLO

Researcher

LUCAS K. LABRECQUE

Director of Photography

Lucas K. Labrecque is a freelance storyteller, with over 25 years experience in film/television. With a myriad of credits from camera/directing/post/etc. for NatGeo, APTN, Fox Traveller, PBS, Corus/etc: Lucas enjoys being involved in all aspects of production, both technical/creative. Fun Facts: hobbies are drone flying/model rocketry, industrial design/3D printing, writing a potboiler romance novel.

CHANDRA BULUCON

Sound Guy

Working with the motto that "good sound is invisible", Chandra Bulucon has built-up an extensive background in audio as a sound engineer, sound designer, composer, and mixer for the past 19 years. A born and raised artist and entrepreneur, Chandra started playing music at the age of 14 and opened her own post-audio studio at 23, which currently lives at one of Toronto's biggest arts buildings. She began her arts-focused education starting in junior high school and ran until her post-secondary graduation at the Ontario College of Art & Design in 1999.

Chandra's experience as a sound engineer ranges from the independent to commercial sector, producing sound for TV shows, feature-length and short-format films which include experimental, documentary, drama, and rom-coms genres. Radio-dramas, dance productions, and artists' installations are also on her roster.

Chandra has worked on over 1000 productions. Many of those have broadcast and/or won over hundreds of awards worldwide including the feature-length film, *Wetback: The Undocumented Documentary* (National Geographic Channel, The Documentary Channel, holding ten worldwide awards including "Best Documentary" from CineQuest), *Ka:hawi: The Cycle of Life* (TIFF), and *Catch the Dream with Adam Beach* (APTN).

From 1998-2003, Chandra was the host and producer of audio art-based radio show, Quick Stop Art Spot, on CKLN. She also sat on several arts committees and boards and worked at various arts magazines such as Prefix Photo, FUSE, and MIX Magazine.

As an installation, sound, and performance artist, Chandra has exhibited in over 70 galleries, and garnered "Best Solo or Group Exhibition in an Artist-Run Space" from the Untitled Art Awards in 2005. Chandra has also created original sound work for dozens of artists and arts organizations, notably for the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Hellhound Productions, Christina Zeidler, Jonathon Culp, Midi Onodera, and Deanna Bowen

Currently, Chandra is doing post audio for promos and commercials for award-winning television shows for a major TV network.

IAN SIT

Editor

Ian Sit is an Editor based in Toronto that specializes in Documentary. He works in Feature Films and Television. He loves coffee and is known for accepting candy in lieu of payment.

JAY BRANT

Editor

Jay Brant has been involved in media storytelling for many years. He is originally from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and currently resides in the Niagara region. He started out in audio post production for TV and video but quickly turned his attention towards picture editing, and has been involved in many indigenous productions, including APTN's *By the Rapids*, *AskiBoyz* and *Guilt Free Zone* with Derek Miller.

His knowledge, problem-solving skills and creativity give him a great advantage as a story-teller in the post- production phase.

LINDSAY SARAZIN

B Camera Operator

Lindsay is a multimedia artist based out of North Bay, Ontario. As an Algonquin and Ojibwe individual, Lindsay strives to tell stories through the visual mediums of Photography and Cinema, with a focus on Indigenous story telling when possible. Being a sole proprietor since 2011 has led Lindsay through many adventures, from working with Aanmitaagzi, an Indigenous community theatre company, to being on crew for feature film projects such as "The Witch" and "Hard Rock Medical". Future History has provided Lindsay the opportunity to create Indigenous content, and ultimately fulfill his objective as an artist.

RAVEN KANATAKTA

Composer

Raven Kanatakta is a musician, songwriter, producer, engineer, music entrepreneur and a rez kid at heart. Having grown up on a small isolated reserve in northern Quebec he moved to the city because of his musical aspirations. He gained a music degree from Berklee in Boston and later partnered in a recording studio cutting his producing chops.

Raven's main musical sights are primarily focused with his wife and musician ShoShona Kish with whom they created the music group 'Digging Roots'. "Since I've been working with ShoShona, the music around me has become more focused as her creative spirit is so open and generous. It's an amazing collaboration that constantly pushes us forward with a momentum that promotes our growth as artists."

Since Digging Roots' inception they have won numerous awards, toured in Europe, the US, Mexico, Australia, and from east-to-north-to-western Canada multiple times. They also have three albums under their belt including a JUNO. Currently Raven is finishing a new Digging Roots album with ShoShona titled 'The Hunter and The Healer'.