

Native American Theater and Arts Resources for Educators

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Theater resources specific to Minnesota

New Native Theatre <http://newnativetheatre.org/>

Based in the Twin Cities, New Native Theatre is a new way of looking at, thinking about, and staging Native American stories. Created in 2009 by playwright, Rhiana Yazzie, NNT produces, commissions, and devises authentic Native American stories for the stage which means NNT's artists are intricately connected to the concerns and voices of their communities. NNT's plays are shorthand meant to be played for its most vital audiences, Native people, because when specific stories are made for Native community itself, they become undeniably powerful for the broader community too, no translations required.

Turtle Theater Collective <https://www.facebook.com/TurtleTheaterCollective/>

The Turtle Theater Collective is committed to producing high-quality, contemporary work that explores Native experiences and subverts expectations about how and when Native artists can create theater. In addition to producing Indigenous plays, we center Native bodies and voices by situating them within the broader theatrical canon, providing opportunities for Native artists to grow and play. The Turtle Theater Collective is: Ernest Briggs (White Earth Ojibwe), Marisa Carr (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe), Sequoia Hauck (White Earth Ojibwe/Hupa)

Marcie Rendon <http://www.marcierendon.com/>

Ms. Rendon is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, and is a playwright, poet, and freelance writer. She is the producer and creative mind behind Raving Native Theater.

Bdote Memory Map <http://bdotememorymap.org/>

The Bdote Memory Map is an interactive website which offers a variety of assets for classroom use, including:

- Videos, audio presentations, maps and writing about specific sites in the Twin Cities that are of significance to Dakota people.
- Background information in a variety of formats that places site-specific information in a broader cultural context.
- Video pieces of Dakota people and other presentations that give a more in-depth understanding of who we are, stories of our past, and how we live today in the Twin Cities.

Minnesota Humanities Center <https://mnhum.org/k12/educator-resources/>

The Minnesota Humanities Center is excited to offer resources that have been developed and created in partnership with community organizations from across the state. These resources have been carefully curated to help educators increase classroom engagement through the amplification of absent narratives. These include the Absent Narratives Resource Collection, the Bdote Memory Map, and the "Why Treaties Matter" website.

Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions <http://www.ojibwe.org/home/classroom.html>

PBS eight's landmark series, Ojibwe/Waasa Inaabidaa-We Look In All Directions, celebrates an extraordinary Native American nation, the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe of the Great Lakes region. We hope that the Ojibwe/Waasa Inaabidaa-We Look In All Directions television series, and teaching/discussion guides

for each program reflect the richness and resiliency of the past, present and future Ojibwe life. These guides were constructed for use in middle school and high school social studies classes, but they are very usable and appropriate for adult viewers as well. The series illuminates a vibrant, important, indigenous nation of the Great Lakes region with much to share and teach.

Broader national or international sources

Native American Women Playwrights' Archive at the Miami University of Ohio

<http://spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/nawpa/>

The Native American Women Playwrights Archive is a collection of original materials by Native women playwrights of the Americas. NAWPA hopes to identify playwrights, collect and preserve their work, try to make it widely known, and encourage performances and continued creativity. Plays in manuscript, disk, videotape, or other format are cataloged, given appropriate preservation treatment, and made available to anyone who wishes to read them in the library. NAWPA welcomes playwrights at any level of development. To request further information about the Archive, or to contribute to its holdings, please contact the Walter Havighurst Special Collections at SpecColl@MiamiOH.edu or call the library at (513) 529-3323.

Native Voices at the Autry <https://theautry.org/events/signature-programs/native-voices>

Native Voices at the Autry is the country's only Equity theatre company dedicated exclusively to producing new works by Native American, Alaska Native, and First Nations playwrights. The company has been hailed by critics as "a virtual Who's Who of American Indian theatre artists," "a hotbed for contemporary Native theatre," "deeply compelling," and "a powerful and eloquent voice."

Project HOOP <http://www.hoop.aisc.ucla.edu/default.htm>

Project HOOP, as its name suggests, is a national, multi-disciplinary initiative to advance Native theater artistically, academically, and professionally. Project HOOP, originally funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is currently funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), and seeks to establish and develop academic and artistic programs in the field of Native theater. The purpose and overarching goal of Project Hoop is to establish Native theater as an integrated subject of study and creative development in tribal colleges, Native communities, K-12 schools, and mainstream institutions, based on Native perspectives, traditions, views of spirituality, histories, cultures, languages, communities, and lands. (*This site includes links to Native Theater companies and profiles, course syllabi, and many other useful resources.)

Books/Anthologies

Allen, Paula Gunn. *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions*. Beacon Press, 1986.

Geiogamah, Hanay and Jaye T. Darby, Eds. *American Indian Performing Arts: Critical Directions*. UCLA American Indian Studies Center, 2010.

Geiogamah, Hanay and Jaye T. Darby, Eds. *American Indian Theater in Performance: A Reader*. UCLA American Indian Studies Center, 2000.

Huston-Findley, Shirley A. and Rebecca Howard, Eds. *Footpaths & Bridges: Voices From the Native American Women Playwrights Archive*. The University of Michigan Press, 2008.

