

The Saratoga Native American Festival Returns For 2018

::For Immediate Release::

The Ndaakina Education Center and the National Museum of Dance are proud to announce that the Saratoga Native American Festival, which has become one of the major highlights of the start of fall in Saratoga Springs, will once again return to the beautiful grounds of the National Dance Museum in Saratoga Springs, NY on September 16th, 2018, from 10-7. Admission to the festival is free, though donations are accepted.

The festival will begin with a traditional Opening Address delivered in Mohawk and English by Tom Sakokwenionkwas Porter, a member of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs and the spokesman and spiritual leader of the Mohawk community of Kanatsiohareke near Fonda, NY. Porter will also do a Closing Address at the end of the day.

Featured storytellers and musicians, including the Bruchac family, Kay Olan, Perry Ground, the Akwesasne Women singers, and others will perform throughout day between dance programs.

Numerous Native American artists and craftspeople (carefully selected by Jeanne Brink (Abenaki), the coordinator of our arts and crafts area), nearly all from the Native American nations of the northeast, will display and sell their own work at the festival.

The Vendor Tent will feature the following demonstrators each day of the festival:

Al Cleveland – demonstrates flutes

The Underwood Family – making pine needle baskets, wood burned double curve gourds, nature prints

Jennifer Lee - traditional Mokoks & curved bottom one piece bark baskets

Earl Dionne – wood burning art on various wood items

Aaron Wood – preparing brown ash log for weaving brown ash and sweet grass baskets

The following are some of our Native American artisans and what each artist vends:

Eveline Olson – hand made and hand crafted jewelry and art

Tom Huff – stone & clay sculptures

Rose McLeod – hand made moccasins, belts, bags, purses

Sheila Escobar – raised beadwork

Heather Homer – beadwork, leather work and paintings

Harry Wallace – wampum beads, jewelry, clothing

Irene Peters – wampum, leather and beaded bags, jewelry, feather work

Barbara Flayter - hand made silver jewelry

Marla Skye – hand made jewelry, paintings

Edye Waterman – quill earrings, beadwork earrings, necklaces, bracelets

Eric & Dawn Marczak – flutes

Food Vendors

Iroquois Eatery – Joann Reusswig

Me Me's Snack Shack – Janice Knowlton

Our Children's Area has been one of the favorite areas in past festivals. It will again provide Native

games and traditional crafts for children accompanied by a responsible adult.

Saratoga Arts made this program possible with a Community Arts Grant funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. We would also like to thank our Gold Sponsor Druthers Brewing.

The National Museum of Dance & Hall of Fame was established in 1986 as the only museum in the nation and one of the few in the world that is dedicated entirely to the art of dance. The Museum is located in the former Washington Bathhouse, a historic building in the Saratoga Spa State Park. The Museum's archives house a growing collection of photographs, videos, costumes, documents, biographies and artifacts that honor all forms of dance throughout history. Available to the public is a Resource Room, which offers thousands of books, periodicals, and print items for dance research. Throughout the building's many galleries are a variety of yearly rotating exhibits and three permanent exhibits including the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame. Opened in 1987, it honors dance pioneers of all types whether they are choreographers, composers, writers, dancers, or patrons.

The Ndinna Education Center, an affiliate of the Greenfield Review Literary Center, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and charitable organization, based at the Marion F. Bowman Bruchac Memorial Nature Preserve in Greenfield Center, New York. The Center offers programs, performances, camps, field trips, and special events focusing on regional Native American understandings, Adirondack culture, martial arts, wilderness skills and awareness of the natural world. For more information: www.saratoganativefestival.com

For further information, email info@ndakinnacenter.com or call Joe Bruchac at (518) 934-1169