

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrated Actor Tantoo Cardinal Appointed Honorary Patron of Canada's Theatre Museum.

Comes as Museum Builds New Home in Legendary Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres.

TORONTO (Wednesday, June 12, 2024) – Canada's Theatre Museum announced today that distinguished stage and screen actor **Tantoo Cardinal** is joining the museum as a new Honorary Patron.

"Museums are valuable for sharing stories and preserving the history of various cultures, time periods and impactful events while helping to create understanding, strengthen values, and clarify misconceptions," says **Tantoo Cardinal**. "As an Indigenous woman, this is very important to me so I am honored and grateful to support Canada's Theatre Museum as Honorary Patron."

A founding member of the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, the celebrated actor started using theatre to tell stories and bring truths forward while touring the province in collective creations. Tantoo Cardinal appeared on stages across the country at a time when Indigenous roles were rarely performed by Indigenous artists, and when their stories were rarely given space. Her work to bring those stories forward and to play those roles continues.

She has appeared in over 130 film, television and animation projects over the course of her 50-year career, including *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Legends of the Fall*, and *North of 60*. She directed the film *Stories from the Seventh Fire* and was Executive Producer on *Sisters Rising*.

Tantoo was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for "advancing Aboriginal performing arts in Canada, ...and serving as an inspirational role model to aspiring youth, nurturing talent in those wishing to pursue a similar path." She is a recipient of the Governor General's Performing Arts Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award, has received a Gemini, an ImagiNATIVE Film Festival People's Choice Award, an Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television Lifetime Achievement Award, and honorary degrees from five universities.

"We are honoured that **Tantoo Cardinal** agreed to take on this key role for the museum as an honorary patron" says Board Chair **Brian Robertson**, adding "from her work touring collective creations, performing at small independent theatres, and the National Arts Centre, Tantoo has brought life to the stages across the land. We look forward to her assistance with the museum as we invite the world to explore and be inspired by the past, present and future of Canadian performing arts."

Tantoo Cardinal joins **Colm Feore** to be champions and advocates for Canada's Theatre Museum as its current Honorary Patrons.

ABOUT CANADA'S THEATRE MUSEUM

Inspired by the vision of theatre critic Herbert Whittaker, Canada's Theatre Museum, was founded in 1991 by a dedicated group of volunteers. It invites the world to explore and be inspired by the past, present and future of Canadian theatre. For three decades, activities have included pop-up exhibits, and in-person THEATRE MUSEUM GOES BACKSTAGE public learning events. Its most popular initiative is the LEGEND LIBRARY online oral history project with R.H. Thomson and Andrew Moodie interviewing pioneers of Canadian theatre.

In 2023 the museum announced that it will have a permanent home within The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres.

THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge funding from individuals, families and foundations that inspire future generations of theatre artists and audiences through their support of Canada's Theatre Museum. The museum receives key operational funding from The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation, and the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

-30-

SOCIAL MEDIA

[WEBSITE](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Michael Wallace, Executive Director

Canada's Theatre Museum

mwallace@TheatreMuseum.ca

416 413 7847