

Sioux Lookout play to explore teen dating

Shayla Cybulski
STAFF WRITER



ENTERTAINMENT

with meaning,” described Geoffrey Hyslop. Hyslop is one of 13 actors in an upcoming play, *A Rough Translation*, which deals with boundaries, identity and sexual assault in teenage dating relationships. It was written over the course of a year, using the IMPACT theatre approach, which is a collaborative creation and performance of a theatrical piece which tells a story of cultural, social or historical relevance to a group and/or community. The group comes together to learn about the issue or topic of interest, then share their own thoughts and experiences about the subject. The play is developed from that information, creating a deeply personal work. “I think one of the really special parts in the making of the play was during the very beginning when everybody

was sharing their own stories, when we were trying to figure out what to put in the play, and we just all shared our stories and what it was like to be a girl, what it was like to be a boy, our teenage experiences, different pressures,” reflected Migwin Orzechowska. “I thought that was a really awesome part because this play is basically a reflection of all of our stories put together. It’s a really personal play.” New Vision Unlimited is providing leadership to the project, with Erin Horvath directing both the play and the initial collaborative process. Greg Link is assisting with directing, Nadine Arpin has been involved in the writing and will be filming the final production, and Rebecca Crane was instrumental in the early stages of the project but is unable to act in the final play as she is away at university. Others involved in the project are Cesan Martin-Asmus, Miigwan Buswa, Shayna Carroll, Blaine Kuzemchuk, Isaac Giles, Davin Salo, Jared Mercer, and Steven Slowka.

New Vision Unlimited has been working with Sioux Lookout Creative Arts Circle and the Sioux Lookout Anti-Racism Committee to build up performing arts, with the Assault Care and Treatment Program as the supporting partner for the creation of this play. Queen Elizabeth District High School and the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board have come on board to support the production of the play, allowing the group to show it elsewhere in the region. Other funders and sponsors are the Ontario Arts Council Artists in the Community/Workplace grant, Bearskin Airlines, the Rotary Club of Sioux Lookout, Patricia Centre for Children and Youth, and the community policing committee. Many of the actors came to the project out of a love of acting. “I thought it would be an awesome opportunity because I saw *Bounce* and I thought it was a really good play, and I wanted to be in something like that. Acting is what I want to do,” shared Orzechowska.

"I got involved in it because I also love acting and last year I was in Bounce and I really liked the message that the play was putting out. I thought if we came together to make another play, another really good message would be sent out to the audience," said Martin-Asmus.

"I was involved in the earlier project Bounce, and acting, entertainment is sort of my area," explained Hyslop.

The actors are hopeful that the message of the play will reach

the audience.

"I think that the message is a really good one," Orzechowska said. "I have a feeling that it'll help some people maybe change their ways because you can give someone a piece of paper that says blah, blah, blah this is how it is, and sure they'll read it and maybe understand it, but through a play, and actually acting out the message we're trying to get across, I think it'll be much more effective in the youth and hopefully they'll get the message we're trying to send across and hopefully make things better."

A Rough Translation will be touring November 22 - 26, making stops at Pelican Falls First Nations High School, Kenora and Dryden, with two performances in Sioux Lookout on November 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. in the QEDHS gym. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, available through cast members, at the door, and through New Vision. The show is intended for a mature audience. For more information or tickets contact New Vision Unlimited at 737-0019 or 737-2230.



Bulletin Photo/Shayla Cybulski

From left, top: Greg Link, Migwin Orzechowska, Shayna Carroll, Steven Slowka, Miigwan Buswa, Geoffrey Hyslop.

From left, bottom: Davin Salo, Erin Horvath, Cesan Martin-Asmus.