

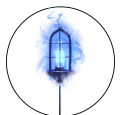


## Alaska Theater Festival: Radio Plays

Co-produced by KTOO and Theater Alaska  
In association with Juneau Ghost Light Theatre

**THEATER ALASKA**

**KTOO**



Alaska Theater Festival: Radio Plays presents

# Reeling

by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse

## The Beginning of Eagle

By Vera Starbard (adapted from stories told by Daaxkoowdein Tommy Jimmie)

*Produced by Theater Alaska and KTOO*

*Alaska Theater Festival: Radio Plays is supported in part by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council and the City and Borough of Juneau, The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and Sealaska.*

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*Rehearsal space for the Alaska Theatre Festival: Radio Plays was provided by Filipino Community, Inc. and Trail Mix.*

### PRODUCTION TEAM

**Cheryl Snyder** Vice President & General Manager, KTOO Music & Arts

**Flordelino Lagundino** Producing Artistic Director, Theater Alaska

**Cate Ross** Board member, Juneau Ghost Light Theatre

**Jennifer Lagundino** General Manager, Theater Alaska

**Sarah Wallace** Alaska Theater Festival: Radio Plays Production Manager

**Meghan McLaughlin** Theater Alaska Production Manager

**Sheli DeLaney** KTOO Arts & Culture Producer

**Mikko Wilson** KTOO 360TV Production Manager

**Keith Giles** Sound Engineer, Alaska Music One

### REELING

**Frank Henry Kaash Katasse** Playwright

**Flordelino Lagundino** Director

**Donnie Gott** Stage Manager

**Ed Littlefield** Sound Design and Foley Artist

**Christina Apathy** Vocal Coach

**Erin Tripp** Alexandria

**Jake Waid** Charlie

**Jay Zeller** Jessica

### THE BEGINNING OF EAGLE

**Daaxkoowdein Tommy Jimmie** Storyteller/Cultural Specialist

**Vera Starbard** Adapter/Playwright

**Jared Olin** Director

**Victoria Johnson** Cultural Specialist

**Donnie Gott** Stage Manager

**Ed Littlefield** Sound Design and Foley Artist

**Christina Apathy** Vocal Coach

**George Holly** Storyteller

**Jared Olin** Eagle Man

**Alfie Price** Father Sun

**Andrew Tripp** Uncle Earth

**Erin Tripp** Baby Eagle, Flicker Woman

**Miriah Twitchell** Mother Moon, Eagle Sister

### THEATER ALASKA FOUNDING COMPANY MEMBERS

Deb O, Enrique Bravo, Tommy Schoffler, Christina Apathy, Jake Waid, Frank Henry Kaash Katasse, Meghan McLaughlin, Ericka Lee, Jenny Lagundino, Flordelino Lagundino

### THEATER ALASKA ADVISORS

Sarah Asper-Smith, Alicia Hughes-Skandijis, Jacque Tagaban

### SPECIAL THANKS

Edric Carillo, Dante Reyes, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Mike Sparks, Keith Giles and Alaska Music One, Erick Chadwell, Perseverance Theatre, Annie Bartholomew, Marian Call

Thank you to Betsy Sims and Frank and Stacy Katasse for generously providing artist housing.

BIOS

**Sheli DeLaney** (KTOO, Arts & Culture Producer) began working for KTOO Public Media in 2016 in the role of Operations Manager for the radio stations KTOO, KRNN, and KXLL. As a producer for KTOO Music & Arts, she has hosted and helped to produce the daily live talk show Juneau Afternoon on KTOO, as well as the music shows Shel's Bells on KXLL and Women's Prerogative and Music Monday on KRNN. She has coordinated the radio and video broadcasts of productions such as *At Home with the Juneau Symphony*, *The Alaska Folk Festival*, *Poetry Out Loud*, and *Wearable Art*. She is also a board member of the Alaska Folk Festival.

**Donnie Gott** (Stage Manager, *Reeling*, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is honored to have been born and raised a guest on Lingit Aani. She is grateful to be a part of this project. She enjoys supporting Juneau's rich artistic community, making coffee at the Alaska State Capitol, hanging with her children, and subverting the patriarchy. This is her first time stage managing for Theater Alaska.

**George Holly, Yuxgitsiy-Gunanaa Gooch** (Storyteller, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is a Deg Xit'an storyteller and songster. He joins us from the Haa Tóo Yei Yatee Lingit Language Violin Program at Sit Eeti Shaanaxh - Glacier Valley Elementary. He believes all people can support the language and identity of the place they live. It's within us!

**Daaxkudein, Ch'aak' kudi hit, Kaagwaantaan Tommy Jimmie** (Storyteller, Cultural Specialist, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is from the Eagle nest house, and of the burnt house people. In the mid-seventies he was awarded an apprenticeship grant from the Alaska State Arts Council which focused on the indigenous place-names of Haines, Alaska with Austin Hammond. In 1978 he attended the University of Oslo in Norway as a representative of native peoples of Alaska. The focus of the university's summer term was on the subject of peace. He was chosen to attend this summer term because of his knowledge of Tlingit practices and peaceful efforts. He worked professionally for years as an educator, and then, as an addictions counselor. Throughout his career he incorporated culture and language as a large part of what he shared. For personal and medical reasons he retired in 2000 but he continues to share stories, still today, with both children and adults. His interest and passion for these stories only intensifies as he grows older and it seems only natural to him to become more responsible as an Elder to be sure our children carry them on into the future with them. aa tlein gunalcheesh hoho, hoho.

**Victoria Johnson** *Tléikw xoo* - Among the berries (Cultural Specialist, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is Alaskan Native from the Northern Salt Water Tlingit, Raven Moiety, T'akdeintaan Clan, from the Freshwater Marked Sockeye House from Hoonah, AK. She was born and raised in Juneau, Hoonah, Tenakee, Alaska and Seattle, Washington. She is artist and owner of Raven's Creations, actress, storyteller, Tlingit language and Cultural apprentice and educator. She worked with Sealaska Heritage-Naa Kahidí Theatre, Perseverance Theatre - *Battle of Fire and Water*, McPhetres Hall - *Blue Ticket*, and produced *Raven's Tales* from playwright David Hunsaker for an Annual Fundraiser for the Juneau-Douglas High School - Early Scholars Program.

**Frank Henry Kaash Katasse** (Playwright, *Reeling*) is an Alaska Native from the Tlingit clan Tsaagweidí. Frank is an actor, director, producer, improviser, educator and playwright. Frank received his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Hawai'i: Mānoa. In 2017, Frank's play *They Don't Talk Back* received an NNPN rolling world premiere at Perseverance Theatre, Native Voices at the Atrium, and La Jolla Playhouse.

**Flordelino Lagundino** (Director, *Reeling*) is the producing artistic director of Theater Alaska. He is a director, actor, and producer. His directing credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* (Theater Alaska); *Fuente Ovejuna*-upcoming (Theater for a New Audience); *Aubergine* (Park Square Theatre); *FOB* (Drama League DirectorFest); *Trigger* (Leviathan Lab); *Deliverance*-workshop (Syracuse Stage); *Un*-workshop (Pan Asian Rep); *Sweeney Todd*, *Doubt*, *Yellowman*, *Cedar House*, and *Animals Out of Paper* (Perseverance Theatre); *Flipzoids*, *The Reincarnation of Stories*, *True West*, and *Shakespeare's R&J* (Generator Theater Company); *Sweeney Todd* (Juneau Symphony); *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Stone Cold Dead Serious*, *In the Blood* (Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company). As an actor, his credits include: *Vietgone* (Mixed Blood Theatre) - Ivey Award for Best Ensemble; *Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe); *Camino Real* (The Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Willy Wonka* (The Kennedy Center); *The Long Season*, *Yeast Nation*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hair*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Noises Off*, *The Last Five Years*, *The Inspector General* (Perseverance Theatre); *Invisible City 14th Street* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). Directing fellowships: SDC Sir John Gielgud Classical Directing Fellow, Drama League NY Directing Fellow, Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival FAIR Fellow, Arena Stage Allen Lee Hughes Fellow. Education: MFA in directing, Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company; MFA in acting, University of Texas at Austin.

BIOS (cont.)

**Ed Littlefieldk, Shaakindustóow** - Lingít (Foley Artist, *Reeling, The Beginning of Eagle*) is a freelance percussionist, educator, and composer based out of Seattle, WA. He is Lingít from Sitka, Alaska and has released three albums featuring traditional native melodies, which he also arranged into the jazz idiom with the Native Jazz Quartet. This quartet also represented the United States in South America as “Jazz Ambassadors” through the American Music Abroad program. For film he composed a song for the 2009 Disney movie *The Proposal* for Betty White’s character and played the percussion score and consulted on indigenous music for the 2022 documentary *Exposing Muiybridge*. Ed has played K’alyaan in the world-premiere of *Battles of Fire and Water* by Dave Hunsaker and written and performed an original musical score for *Eurydice* by Sara Ruhl for Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska. He has done sound design and composition for the world premieres of *Our Voices Will Be Heard* by Vera Starbard, and was the composer and cultural advisor for *They Don’t Talk Back* by Frank Katasse at Native voices at the Autry, La Jolla Playhouse and Perseverance Theatre. He also did sound design for *Off the Rails* by Randy Reinholz at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and *Sovereignty* by Mary Kathryn Nagle at Arena Stage. Most recently he composed the songs for a new play produced by the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign called *The Neverland* by Madeline Sayet. Currently he is working on a three-year project to create the first ever Lingít opera. This project will combine traditional contemporary Lingít melodies inside the western opera genre and will also include an all-indigenous cast. Ed is also an active educator around the country facilitating artist residencies for students and teachers to help them learn more about Lingít culture and music and traditional ways of knowing.

**Jared Olin** (Director, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is Tl’eeeyegge Hut’aane, and grew up in Notaalee Denh. He most recently performed as Abraham Barnett for Skybound Entertainment’s *The Walking Dead: Last Mile*.

**Alfie Price** (Actor, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is Ts’msyen, Haida and Tlingit and is Gisbutwada (Killerwhale clan). He’s one of the co-founders of the Juneau Sm’algyax (Ts’msyen language) learners group. He works in I.T. and enjoys Native dancing, going for walks and photography.

**Cate Ross** (Board Member Juneau Ghost Light Theatre) has been a board member with Juneau Ghost Light Theatre since 2017 where during the pandemic, in collaboration with KTOO, she produced two radio plays (*A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery*, and *Dracula*). She is also an actor and performing artist in many other capacities. Favorite recent roles include Winnifred (*WITCH*, Theatre In the Rough), Hermia (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Theater Alaska), and Joan/the Susan Deys (*Fun Home*, Perseverance Theatre). Gunalcheesh to everyone who has come together to make this festival a reality!

**Cheryl Snyder** (KTOO, Vice President & General Manager, KTOO Music & Arts) has been working in public broadcasting for 25 years. In that time she has led, produced and coordinated dozens of projects that connect community groups, artists, musicians, teachers and culture bearers with broadcast audiences across Alaska. She served on the Juneau Arts and Humanities Board for six years and is a board member emeritus.

**Vera Starbard** (Playwright, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is a Tlingit and Dena’ina writer and editor. She is Playwright-in-Residence at Perseverance Theatre through the Andrew W. Mellon National Playwright Residency Program and Editor of First Alaskans Magazine. Vera is also a writer for the PBS Kids children’s program *Molly of Denali*, which won a Peabody Award in 2020. She has won numerous local, statewide and national individual writing and editing awards, including the Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Award and Alaska Literary Award. Vera currently serves on the HowlRound Advisory Council, and Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference Board, as well as serving as a founding member of Alaska Native playwright group Dark Winter Productions. Her full-length play *Our Voices Will Be Heard* premiered at Perseverance Theatre in 2016. It was then published in the textbook *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color* in 2017, and turned into a one-hour radio adaptation that aired nationwide in 2018.

**Kaaláaa Miriah Twitchell** (Mother Moon, Eagle Sister, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is Inupiaq on her mother’s side and from the Bourdon family in Sitkasuaq, or Nome, and her father immigrated from Iran. She was adopted by the Daḵl’aweidí Kéet Gooshí Hít, has resided in Juneau for fourteen years, and works to support culture and language revitalization. Miriah is grateful to live and raise a family on Lingít Aani, and to be returning to performing arts.

BIOS (cont.)

**Andrew Tripp, Shkák Kawdulaak** (Uncle Earth, *The Beginning of Eagle*) was born and raised in Alaska. He lives in Juneau with his beautiful wife and 3 children. He is a local Tlingit artist who works at Mt Juneau trading post and is aspiring to one day make voice acting part of his life as well.

**Erin Tripp, Xáalnook** (Baby Eagle, Flicker Woman, *The Beginning of Eagle*) is a Lingít actor, passionate about working on projects that uplift Indigenous stories and people across all mediums. Most recently, she filmed for ABC's *Alaska Daily*. Her latest theater projects have included Frank Katasse's *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* at Perseverance Theatre, *We the Peoples Before* at The Kennedy Center and *Othello* at the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival. She's lent her voice to the audiobooks for *The Smell of Other People's Houses* and *Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town* by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock. Erin is a 2023 First Peoples Fund fellow and member of the Penguin Random House Audio Narrator mentorship program. Instagram: @erins\_library. erintripp.com.

**Jake Waid** - Tlingit & Haida (Charlie, *Reeling*) was last seen at Perseverance Theatre as John in *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse. Other favorites: Paul in *They Don't Talk Back*, Eagle in *Spirit of the Valley*, the title role in *Hamlet*, Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, Raven in *Raven Odyssey*, Starbuck/Queequeg in *Moby Dick*, and the title role in *Macbeth*, which, in partnership with The Kennedy Center and Shakespeare Theatre Company, was translated into Tlingit and performed at The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. He also originated the role of John Ross / Jim Ross in Mary Katherine Nagle's *Sovereignty* at both Arena Stage and Marin Theatre Company. Other theatres: Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre, Theatre in the Rough, Shakespeare and Company, History Theatre, Pillsbury House, Working Class Theatre, and Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. Film: *Cortez*, and *Feels Good*. Training: Cornish College and Freehold Theatre Lab/Studio.

**Jay Zeller** - Lingít name - Dóosh Tláa (Jessica, *Reeling*) was born and raised in Juneau. Their passion is for writing and digital artwork, and they have a goal to create a Tlingit graphic novel someday. Previous theater work includes acting in *How Crane Got Blue Eyes* and stage technician.

## ABOUT THEATER ALASKA

Theater Alaska brings vibrant theatrical events directly into community spaces. We are a theater for all and create accessibility to the arts through equity and inclusion. Each year, Theater Alaska presents professional productions - most recently *Every Brilliant Thing*, the Alaska Theater Festival, The Neighborhood Cabaret, Alaska Writers Workshop, and brings educational programming and theater performances to the Juneau High Schools. [www.theateralaska.org](http://www.theateralaska.org).

## ABOUT KTOO

KTOO is a non-profit public media organization, licensed to the city of Juneau, that operates KTOO-FM, KRNN-FM, KXLL-FM and KTOO-TV. Services also include the statewide public affairs and cultural programming channel 360TV, and a robust news website at [ktoo.org](http://ktoo.org).

## ABOUT JUNEAU GHOST LIGHT THEATRE

Juneau Ghost Light Theatre is Juneau, Alaska's oldest theatre, established in 1961 as Juneau-Douglas Little Theatre. Our long tradition continues in our new name with a new vision for community theatre in Juneau. The ghost light has a rich history in the theatre world. It is surrounded by superstition, but its grounded purpose is to be a safety light for artists when the theatre is dark. We chose to name our theatre after this light because of the support that the Juneau community gives to the arts that allows us to prevail through the darkest of times. [www.juneaughostlight.com](http://www.juneaughostlight.com).