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Tacoma Arts Live's Theater Northwest Production

## THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

A Satirical Comedy by Larissa FastHorse

14 Performances at Tacoma Armory's Roosevelt Room | October 12 – November 5

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Anne Howard, Communications Manager | [anneh@tacomaartslive.org](mailto:anneh@tacomaartslive.org) | 216.575.8942

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**TACOMA, WASH.—** Tacoma Arts Live's Theater Northwest will present the production of [The Thanksgiving Play](#) by Larissa FastHorse. Director Josh Knudson leads the cast in a seasonal satire about four white people attempting to create an educational and politically correct First Thanksgiving pageant for [Native American Heritage Month](#). The play explores themes of privilege, historical accuracy, and the challenges faced by the protagonists in navigating these complexities in an eye-opening, confrontational farce.

*The Thanksgiving Play* opens with a preview night on Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. followed by 13 performances October 13 – November 5 in the Roosevelt Room at Tacoma Armory. Tickets are \$39 and are [on sale now](#).

### Performance Schedule:

Preview Night: Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 27, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, November 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

All performances will be in the Roosevelt Room at [Tacoma Armory](#).

Tacoma Armory's Roosevelt Room will be transformed into a classroom-style space, with seating on both sides of the stage. Audiences expecting a 'traditional' Thanksgiving pageant may be intrigued by the play's subject matter, which draws attention to the disparities between the myth of the peaceful feast between pilgrims and Native Americans, and the much bloodier reality. Cast member Valerie Ryan Miller describes it as her "favorite medicine: uncomfortable, devastating comedy."

*The Thanksgiving Play* made its Broadway debut at the Hayes Theater in 2023, making Larissa FastHorse the first female Native American playwright known to have a play produced on Broadway. FastHorse is a MacArthur Fellow, a member of the [Sicangu Lakota Nation](#), a playwright, director, and choreographer from South Dakota. She has made significant contributions to Native American drama following a career in ballet, television, and film.

FastHorse wrote *The Thanksgiving Play* in response to production roadblocks and casting difficulties with her other plays, which require Indigenous actors. The play addresses the misrepresentation of Native Americans, the lack of Indigenous casting, and the challenges of accurately representing Indigenous people in theater.



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### Cast

Logan: Andrea Gordon  
Jaxton: Rodman Bolek  
Alicia: Valerie Ryan Miller  
Caden: Mikel Michener

### Production Team

Director: Josh Knudson  
Production Manager: Lily Oellerich  
Assistant Production Manager: Monique Otter-Johnson  
Stage Manager: Kay Meier  
Costume Designer: Mary Kelsay  
Lighting Designer: Brett Carr  
Sound Designer: Don Littrell  
Props Designer: Kelly Zeiler Lynch  
Technical Director: Mike Figueroa  
Dramaturg: Maria-Tania Bandes B. Weingarden  
Cultural Consultant: Andre Bouchard  
DEIA Liaison: Eric Clausell

All stage work on this production is performed by employees represented by IATSE, Local #15.

Please be advised that this production contains blood, excessive violence, and gunshots.

Tacoma Arts Live's [Theater Northwest](#) builds community through live professional theater with the belief in the intrinsic value of creativity and compensates all artists for their services. This allows Tacoma Arts Live to attract some of the region's best talent to create performances that include and honor all cultures. This work aspires to refresh audiences by connecting to a sense of empathy, challenging complacency, and inspiration to live with joy and thoughtful inquiry.

Tickets to *The Thanksgiving Play* are \$39 and are on sale now. To purchase tickets, call Tacoma Arts Live Box Office at 253.346.1721, visit Tacoma Armory in person at 1001 S Yakima Ave., or online at [TacomaArtsLive.org](https://TacomaArtsLive.org).

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Tacoma Arts Live's mission is to energize the community through live performance. Founded in 1979, Tacoma Arts Live is a non-profit arts organization deeply connected to the community and recognized for presenting world-class artists, events, exhibitions, and cultural celebrations. Located at the historic Tacoma Armory, an innovative cultural hub, Tacoma Arts Live serves over 240,000 guests annually, and delivers exhilarating events, inspiring productions, and essential educational and entrepreneurial programs in the South Sound. Learn more at [TacomaArtsLive.org](https://TacomaArtsLive.org).

Tacoma Arts Live gratefully acknowledges the following supporters of the 2023-24 Season: [Arts Fund](#); [Arts WA](#); [Bamford Foundation](#); [Boeing](#); [Forest Foundation](#); [Key Bank Foundation](#); [Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation](#); [Mid-America Arts Alliance](#); [Murdock Charitable Trust](#); [National Endowment for the Arts](#); Ruth Anderson Wheeler and Henry O. Wheeler Charitable Trust; [Safeco Insurance](#); [Tacoma Creates](#)