

# CAST INFORMATION

## For Immediate Release

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## ***Return to Niobrara*** **Cast Information**

### **Albert “Abby” Ybarra (Dad/Chief Standing Bear)**

Albert “Abby” Ybarra has been an active actor since the age of five. Abby performed with the L.A.-based children’s theater touring company, “We Tell Stories,” and starred as a dancer and singer in the musical spectacular *Hollywood Olvidado: Forgotten Hollywood*. Recently he’s performed in Mary Kathryn Nagle’s *Manhatta* at the NYC Public Theater, *William Yellowrobe*, *Wood Bones*, NYC, *Grandchildren of the Buffalo Soldier* at the Museum of the American Indian, and a staged reading of *Return To Niobrara* at the Kennedy Center, *Beyond Eden* at Arena Stage in Washington DC.

Abby has also guest starred on *Mr. Belvedere* and had many recurring roles in television soaps such as *Santa Barbara*, *General Hospital*, *Days of Our Lives*, and *Generations*. As a reporter Abby was nominated for an Emmy for his documentary “Nicaragua: Under Siege,” which he wrote, produced and hosted for CBS in Sacramento, California.

Abby, Pascua Yaqui, has grown up in the dueling culture of the indigenous spirit and actively participates in native activities throughout the country.

### **Kenny Ramos (Steven/Bear Shield)**

Kenny Ramos is elated to make his debut at The Rose Theater in ***Return to Niobrara***, after previously workshopping the piece at the 2018 New Visions/New Voices Festival at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Originally from the Barona Indian Reservation in Southern California, Kenny is Diegueño lipay/Kumeyaay from the Barona Band of Mission Indians and he received his BA in American Indian Studies from UCLA. Kenny is a member of the Artist Ensemble at Native Voices at the Autry, a company member of Dancing Earth: Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations, and a 2019 recipient of the First Peoples Fund’s Cultural Capital Fellowship. Kenny’s credits include the world premiere productions of Larissa FastHorse’s *Urban Rez* (Cornerstone Theater Company), Randy Reinholz’s *Off the Rails* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), and Dillon Chitto’s *Bingo Hall* (Native Voices at the Autry). Other Regional: *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *42nd Street*, *Cats*, *Aida* (Moonlight Stage Productions). Kenny is tremendously grateful to Mary Kathryn for uplifting Native perspective through her work, to The Rose for choosing to share Ponca truth on their stage, to his family for their steadfast support, and to the Omaha, Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe, and Otoe & Missouri peoples, whose ancestral tribal homelands encompass the region of Eastern Nebraska.

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## **Return to Niobrara Cast Bios**

**The Rose Theater**

**Page 2 of 4**

**Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641**

### **Dan Chevalier (Tom/Tibbles)**

Dan Chevalier is thrilled to be back at The Rose after previously appearing as Buddy in *Elf*. Over the past decade, Dan has appeared on stage at many theatres in the Omaha area, including the Omaha Community Playhouse, Bellevue Little Theatre, Chanticleer Theatre, and Shelterbelt Theatre. Some favorite roles include Snail in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, Bud in *Gutenberg! The Musical!*, and Alexander T. Wolf in *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*. Dan is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

### **Nils Haaland (Principal McGovern/General Crook)**

Nils Haaland received his BFA from the State University of New York at Purchase and his MFA from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Nils has worked for The Rose Theater in many capacities. Nils currently works with Why Arts? and with the Ollie Webb center. Nils is thrilled to be Included in this wonderful ensemble of actors, designers, technicians, and feels honored to be a part of this world premiere production of **Return to Niobrara**.

### **Allison Hicks (Mom/Susette Primeau)**

Allison Hicks (enrolled member, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and also of Choctaw descent) is an actor/writer based in Los Angeles, California. Allison is thrilled to be appearing in the world premiere of **Return to Niobrara** by Mary Kathryn Nagle at The Rose Theater. She is an ensemble actor member of Native Voices at the Autry (Los Angeles, CA), the leading American Indian Theatre Company in the United States. Her recent theatre acting credits include *Native Voices' Bingo Hall* (world premiere) and *Stories from Indian Boarding Schools* (Native Voices Touring Company). Other theatre credits include performing in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Theater for Young Audiences, New Visions/New Voices 2018 Festival, in Washington, D.C., The Arkansas New Play Festival at TheatreSquared in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Sliver of a Full Moon* (touring) *Round Dance* (Oklahoma City Theatre Company's Native American Play Festival) *Behind the Ides* (Lounge Theatre) and multiple appearances at Native Voices Playwrights Retreats and Short Play Festivals. Allison has also appeared in various film and television productions. She holds a B.A. from the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California, Irvine. Allison is a proud mother of two Native sons, who are both enrolled members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

### **Michael Murphy (Musician)**

Michael Murphy was born just blocks away from Fort Omaha and grew up there. He says, "I don't remember not knowing about Standing Bear and his trial, my mother use to say that there by the grace of God, I had blonde hair and blue eyes. She was in her way teaching me about race, we never talked about her ancestors as being different; she was Scottish, and French, but she also had Mohawk, and Huron blood. It was after she passed that I started playing the Native American Flute, a way to remember her, and that led me to start to understand, led me to opportunities to help with the music for this and other stories of Standing Bear as told by playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle."

### **Nathalie Standingcloud (Betsy/Prairie Flower/Bright Eyes)**

Oklahoma native Nathalie Standingcloud began her acting career at the age of five, starring in the independent film *Standing Cloud*, written by her aunt, Kimberly Norris Guerrero. Nathalie first appeared on stage playing Rose in the Cherokee Heritage Center's *Trail of Tears Drama* in Tahlequah and continued to perform in numerous stage productions throughout middle and high school including Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Rizzo in *Grease*. Nathalie also appeared in film and print advertisements for the Cherokee Nation and was a member of

**=MORE=**

## **Return to Niobrara Cast Bios**

### **The Rose Theater**

**Page 3 of 4**

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the Cherokee National Youth Choir. She studied acting at Oklahoma City University and was cast as Orangutan in *Water By The Spoonful*, then continued her film career appearing in acclaimed film director Sterlin Harjo's MEKKO, and *The Heart Stays* by writer/director Diane Fraher. Nathalie has worked for years with the award-winning sketch comedy troupe, The 1491's, appearing in their popular YouTube series and most recently, performing in their live comedy shows. In addition to her work as an actor, Nathalie is an award-winning fine artist and when not performing, can be found creating exquisite body art at River City Tattoos. Nathalie is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and is also Muscogee Creek, Colville and Salish-Kootenai.

### **Kyle Summers (Chorus)**

Kyle Summers is a teaching artist and storyteller from White House, Tennessee. He received his BA in Theatre with Minors in Elementary Education and Speech at Carson-Newman University. While in Tennessee, Kyle performed in many shows such as *Diary of Anne Frank* (Peter Van Daan), *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Edmund), *The Diviners* (Buddy), *Noises Off!* (Freddie/Philip), and *Proof* (Hal). He also served as a Teaching Artist and Camp Coordinator for Nashville Children's Theatre. Kyle moved to Omaha to be a full time Teaching Artist for The Rose Performing Arts for Children and Families. Kyle Summers was most recently seen on The Rose stage *The Meaning of Maggie* and *Point A to Point B*. Kyle aspires to implement theatre techniques to create a safe environment for all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, or disability, and encourage students to create a more positive and accepting generation.

### **Christopher Violett (Bob/Lambertson)**

Christopher is excited to be a part of this world premiere production at The Rose. He was most recently seen in this season's holiday production of *Elf the Musical* where he was seen as Matthews and the Macy's Santa. Favorite credits include: *The Secret Garden* (Dickon), *A Year With Frog & Toad* (Snail), *Clue: the Musical* (Mr. Boddy), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Harry Bailey), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Peter). He has sung around the world as a vocalist on Oceania Cruise Lines and as a lead singer in Hollywood to Broadway at the Ritz Carlton in Shanghai, China. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Arizona.

### **Roxanne Wach (Director)**

Roxanne Wach is pleased to share this important story with audiences at The Rose. In 2009, she began working with playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle, directing/producing plays about Chief Standing Bear, including *Machunatzha: I Am a Person* (Hruska Federal Courthouse, Nebraska State Capitol - 130th anniversary of the landmark trial), followed by *In My Father's Eyes* and *Three Stars*, both for the Douglas County Historical Society. Roxanne is the Executive Director of Shelterbelt Theatre, a new works theatre in Omaha. A multifaceted artist, she has performed, designed and directed for many Omaha stages over the past 47 years, including work with BroadStreet Productions, Chanticleer Theater, Circle Theatre, Dundee Dinner Theatre, Omaha Community Playhouse, Omaha Symphony, Opera Omaha, Quincy Productions, Shelterbelt Theatre, and SNAP! Productions. Most recently, she directed *Fun Home* for the Omaha Community Playhouse and *Three To Beam Up* for Shelterbelt. She wrote two musicals for middle/high school students with composer Jay Atwood, *The Purple Pomegranate* and *Faith*. An Omaha Theatre Arts Guild (TAG) life member and past-President, she has been the recipient of multiple TAG Awards for writing, production, direction and performance, as well as Roberts TAG Board Recognition Awards and the Filbert TAG Lifetime Achievement Award. Productions she directed have won outstanding production awards from Omaha Entertainment & Arts Awards. She is a member of the International Centre for Women Playwrights and the Executive Director of Compassion Omaha.

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**Meganne Rebecca Horrocks (Assistant Director)**

Meganne Rebecca Horrocks is an alumnus of the Circle in the Square Theatre School's 2-year Professional Actor's Workshop in New York City. She also holds a bachelor's degree in theatre arts and a master's in education. Meganne has directed and assistant director several productions, including *Mary Poppins: The Musical* (Chanticleer), *What the Butler Saw* (Chanticleer), *Gumball Machine* (Bluebarn's Witching Hour), and *Catherland* (Shelterbelt.) She is a long time Omaha area actor. Favorite roles include George in *Across Rhodes* (Shelterbelt), Mistress For in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Flatwater Shakespeare), Louka in *Arms and the Man* (Brigit St. Brigit), and Candy Starr in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Chanticleer). She also teaches performing arts workshops and works as a private drama coach.

**Mary Kathryn Nagle (Playwright)**

Mary Kathryn Nagle is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program. She is also a partner at Pipestem Law, P.C., where she works to protect tribal sovereignty and the inherent right of Indian Nations to protect their women and children from domestic violence and sexual assault. Nagle has authored numerous briefs in federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. Nagle studied theater and social justice at Georgetown University as an undergraduate student, and received her J.D. from Tulane Law School where she graduated summe cum laude and received the John Minor Wisdom Award. She is a frequent speaker at law schools and symposia across the country. Her articles have been published in law review journals including the Harvard Journal of Law and Gender, Yale Law Journal (online forum), Tulsa Law Review, and Tulane Law Review, among others.

Nagle is an alumn of the 2012 PUBLIC THEATER Emerging Writers Group, where she developed her play *Manahatta* in PUBLIC STUDIO (May 2014). Productions include *Miss Lead* (Amerinda, 59E59, January 2014), and *Fairly Traceable* (Native Voices at the Autry, March 2017), *Sovereignty* (Arena Stage), and *Manahatta* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). In 2019, the Rose Theater (Omaha, NE) will produce her new play **Return to Niobrara**, and Portland Center Stage will produce the world premiere of *Crossing Mnisose*.

Nagle has received commissions from Arena Stage (*Sovereignty*), the Rose Theater (**Return to Niobrara**, Omaha, Nebraska), Portland Center Stage (*Mnisose*), Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and Yale Repertory Theatre (*A Pipe for February*).

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