

For Immediate Release: Aug 2008, please include in all listings & announcements.

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buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

proudly presents the world premiere of

AGOKWE

Gay Love on the Rez

BY WAAWAATE FOBISTER

DIRECTED BY ED ROY



Created and performed by **Waawaate Fobister** Director and Dramaturg **Ed Roy**

Original Music by **Marc Nadjiwan** Lighting Designer **Kimberly Purtell**

Set and Projection Designer **Andy Moro** Costume Designer **Erika Iserhoff**

Sound Designer **Lyon Smith** Stage Manager **Tracy Lynne Cann**

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE PUTS YOUTH FRONT AND CENTRE, KICKING OFF ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF WAAWAATE FOBISTER'S AGOKWE.

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre kicks off the 2008-2009 Season with the world premiere of *Agokwe*, a new work from 23-year-old Ojibwa artist Waawaate Fobister. *Agokwe* explores unrequited love between teenage boys from neighbouring reserves. They meet briefly at a post hockey-tournament party where they bashfully confess their desire for each other. However youth, distance and isolation strive to pull the threads apart when tragedy intervenes.

Agokwe is a multi-character monologue performed and danced by Waawaate Fobister (*Death of a Chief* – NAC/Native Earth Performing Arts). *Agokwe* began as a short monologue, performed as part of Buddies' 2005/06 PrideCab, a collectively created, youth-driven cabaret created over 12 weeks and performed as part of Buddies' Cultural Pride Festivities. During the 2006/07 Season, *Agokwe* was further developed as part of Buddies' Young Creators Unit, during which Fobister was teamed up with award-winning director Ed Roy. The world premiere of *Agokwe* marks the first time that one of Buddies' mainstage presentations has been entirely developed through all stages of Buddies' Queer Youth Arts Programme. This is also the case with Mark Shyzer's *Fishbowl*, which premieres in the latter half of Buddies' 2008-2009 Season.

Renowned for provocative, rhythmic and visually-rich productions, award-winning director Edward Roy has a long history of working with young artists as instructor for institutions such as the National Theatre School of Canada and Humber College. As a playwright and director, Roy has been lauded for a varied roster of works for youth and adult audiences, including *The Other Side of The Closet* (Dora Award), *A Secret Life* (Chalmers Award), and *White Trash Blue Eyes* (Chalmers Award w/Daniel MacIvor). Most recently Roy premiered *Dead Ahead* at The Lorraine Kimsa Theatre For Young People (co-production w/Topological Theatre) and *The Golden Thug* at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (co-production w/Topological Theatre).

For the premiere of *Agokwe*, Fobister and Roy are joined by an accomplished team of designers which included Andy Moro (Set), Kimberly Purtell (Lighting), Erika Isteroff (Costumes) and Lyon Smith (Sound). Original Music for *Agokwe* is being created by Marc Nadjiwan.

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

AGOKWE by Waawaate Fobister, Directed by Edward Roy

September 23 – October 12, 2008. Opening Night Performance Thursday September 25, 8pm.

For tickets call 416-975-8555 Shows Tues – Sat, 8pm & Sun, 2:30pm. www.artsexy.ca

At Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto, Canada.