

A woman in a black leotard and headphones is captured in a dynamic, low-to-the-ground pose, possibly a dance move. She is wearing large, over-ear headphones and has her arms extended forward. The background is a vibrant teal color with a subtle, grainy texture. Overlaid on the image is the title "KISS THE STORMY SKY" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in four lines: "KISS" on the first line, "THE" on the second line, "STORMY" on the third line, and "SKY" on the fourth line. The woman's figure is partially obscured by the text, creating a layered effect.

KISS THE STORMY SKY

EILERS
Dance Theatre

With Gratitude

Thank you to the presenting partners whose belief in this work has kept it alive: Chris Stanton and the Hamilton Fringe; Deanna Jones and Suitcase in Point for In the Soil; Isaac Mulé and the OutFest team in Halifax; Sam Varteniuk and The Registry Theatre; Holly Bright at Crimson Coast Dance; and Ziyian Kwan at Odd Meridian Arts. Your leadership sustains independent performance.

To Sarahi Cárdenas, The Fifth, and Casa De Danza—thank you for offering space and resources that made this tour possible.

To Canada's National Ballet School—thank you for your continued support.

To the artists and collaborators who shaped Kiss The Stormy Sky—thank you for your rigour, presence, and creative honesty.

To Danielle Denichaud: co-director, outside eye, coach, and mentor—your care and insight shaped every layer of this work. Thank you for walking beside me in process and policy.

To Cass Cabral Pucci: thank you for your administrative skill, emotional labour, and commitment to building EILERS Dance Theatre with integrity.

To AJ Morra and Amy Bell: your curiosity and technical support as summer technician brought heart to this process.

To Andrea Nann: for your leadership through the Conscious Bodies Practice and Method.

To Shahar Binyamini: for sharing with me the rigour of your choreographic research and teachings - for creating ways for me to reach my dancing possibilities and lastly for the encouragement to explore character and movement through costume.

To Henry Mak: for your thoughtful documentation and expanding this work's reach.

To Shn Shn: your music carries this piece in ways words cannot thank you for your sound and spirit.

To Maria Montejo: thank you for your teachings and for opening the door to ancestral memory.

To the founding board of EILERS Dance Theatre: MK Alderson, Kelly Wolf, and Sandy Marshall: thank you for your trust and belief in this vision.

To James Farrington: for The Gardener's Journal, and for allowing this story to live within it.

To my first company Aeris Körper and the Hamilton organizations support its growth Zee Float, Defining Movement Dance, Theatre Aquarius, and Goodbody Feel. To Robin Lacambra: thank you for supporting the roots of this journey.

With gratitude to the Hamilton City Enrichment Fund, Ontario Arts Council, and Canada Council for the Arts for your support of independent artists and visionary work.

To my mother: thank you for granting permission and asking that your story be shared.

To my child, Quintin: you are my mirror, my anchor, and my motivation.

To Sharon: for your steady love, for your unwavering belief in me and for all the fun, joy and passion you bring to my life.

To the land, wind, water, sun, plants, animals, ancestors, the young ones who carry this work forward, the elders whose memories echo within it, and those who've passed into knowing...thank you for your guidance.

To Nicole Eilers: may your memory be held in freedom and peace.



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Show Notes

"Kiss The Stormy Sky" originated from a question posed by Elder Maria Montejo during my participation in her workshop, Indigenous 101, at Dodem Kanosha, where I sought to learn the intricacies of delivering a land acknowledgment.

Elder Maria's inquiry, "find out where you are indigenous to," prompted an exploration into my own family history, leading me to uncover the narrative of my great great grandfather, Henry Eilers - a German who traversed the tumultuous landscapes of Russia during the Russian Revolution. His journey, intertwined with the shadows of the Nazi regime, eventually culminated in my grandparents seeking refuge in Canada, arriving in Halifax on July 1, 1950. Their story, like many others, echoes the resilience of settlers and acknowledges our debt to the Indigenous custodians of this land.

Driven by a desire for introspection, I embarked on a personal journey to understand the twists and turns of my own life and to unravel the reasons behind my delayed self-acceptance. "Kiss The Stormy Sky" emerged as a platform for connection, a space to share, be acknowledged, and understood.

The mysteries surrounding my ancestors continue to beckon, particularly through the detailed journals left by my great great grandfather, Henry Eilers. These chronicles offer insights into his experiences as a gardener employed by Czars in late 19th-century Russia, detailing his rise to wealth and subsequent loss during the Russian Revolution. The echoes of his story resonate through subsequent generations, including my grandfather Alfred, who managed the family business, Eilers Blumen, in the 1940s, until it was abandoned during the Nazi regime. Their narratives, though grand and dramatic, have left an indelible mark on my life, shaping the exploration depicted in this show.

As I grappled with understanding my gender identity, my therapist encouraged experimentation. This included rekindling my childhood love of dress-up and then as an adult exploring how I could appear as masculine or feminine as possible. Through exploring expressions of masculinity and femininity, I discovered the limitations of binary definitions and embraced the fluidity of my non-binary identity. This playful exploration of personas and attire has woven itself into the fabric of "Kiss The Stormy Sky."



Take a deep breath.

Get quiet. This is a place for you.
To reflect. To feel. To be you.

When you think about your own
identity, gender and sexuality,
what are the first things that
come up for you?



**When you reflect on your
identity and what makes you,
what do you hear?**

**Is it your voice? Or someone
else's?**

**Whose voice have you been
listening to?**





“As a genderqueer, the underrepresentation of trans folx in dance, specifically those who have been assigned female at birth has been a major roadblock for me.

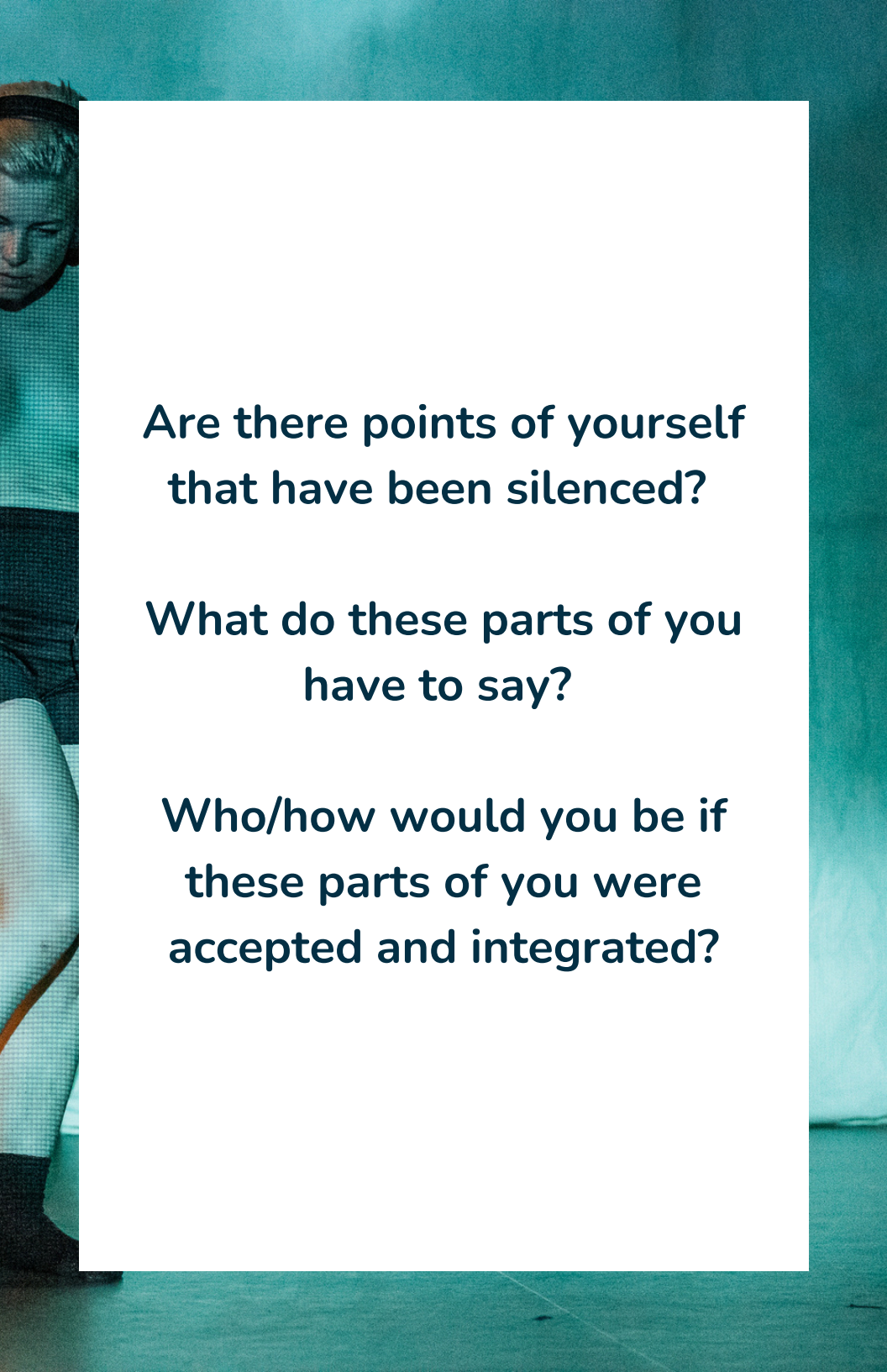


Kiss The Stormy Sky is my origin story and my hope is that it sparks conversation around our past, to understand how we got to our present so we can intentionally create our futures.”



Sid Ryan Eilers
creator & performer





Are there points of yourself
that have been silenced?

What do these parts of you
have to say?

Who/how would you be if
these parts of you were
accepted and integrated?

Show Credits

Creator & Performer:

Sid Ryan Eilers (they/them)

Composer:

Shanika Lewis-Waddell (she/they)

Co-Director:

Danielle Denichaud (she/her)

Stage Manager:

AJ Morra (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager:

Amy Bell (she/her)

Projection:

Clairandean Humphrey (they/them)

Costumes:

Tanis MacArthur (she/her)

Sound Designers:

Vik Mudge (he/they) & Rudi Natterer (he/him)

Puppeteer Coach:

Leia Mahoney (she/they)

Queer Conscious Moving Bodies Workshop Co-Facilitator:

Shannon Kitchings (she/they)

Dramaturg:

Anna Chatterton (she/her)

Outside Eye:

Louis Laberge-Côté (he/him)

Program Prompt Questions:

Robin Lacambra (she/they)

Creative Operations Assistant:

Cass Cabral Pucci (they/them)

