



Thank you for requesting a workshop package from

**RYAN MCMAHON COMEDY**  
&  
**MOOSEGUTS THEATRE COMPANY**

IT IS THE AIM OF **THE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS WORKSHOP SERIES** TO DELIVER THE MOST **CUTTING EDGE, PROGRESSIVE, PRACTICAL AND FUN** WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT INDIAN COUNTRY FOR THE ABORIGINAL YOUTH COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

## **OUR COMPANY MISSION:**

- MooseGuts Theatre Company's mission is to release our Nations past from our present to allow our Nations to move into the future using theatre, storytelling and comedy. MooseGuts Theatre Company loves to share laughs.
- MooseGuts Theatre Company's commitment to the Aboriginal Youth community is unwavering. Through the delivery of the LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS WORKSHOP SERIES, MooseGuts Theatre aims to help direct ABORIGINAL YOUTH into the future as proud, empowered and fearless young people that contribute positively to their own communities and the mainstream alike.

## **OUR COMPANY ROOTS:**

- MooseGuts Theatre Company acknowledges Mother Earth for the source of all that is possible in this world. Our stories, songs, and histories come from her. She is the inspiration of all that MooseGuts Theatre Company does;
- MooseGuts Theatre Company acknowledges our Nations histories by staying connected to the Elders and other Teachers that form the identity of MooseGuts Theatre Company whenever training, writing, or performing in a community or for a community;
- MooseGuts Theatre Company strives to empower, free, and direct young people into the future as confident, strong, and informed Anishinaabe Youth Community through the delivery of the Leadership Through The Arts Workshop Series;
- MooseGuts Theatre Company believes in the core value of unity. Multiculturalism is the thread that holds Canada together, and MooseGuts Theatre Company is committed to building understanding between Native and Non-Native people through the sharing of histories, the stories those histories hold, and of course – laughter.

## **MOOSEGUTS THEATRE COMPANY YOUTH WORKSHOP COMMITMENT**

- MooseGuts Theatre is committed to delivering a community based, community driven, grassroots theatre program to each and every community that we visit. We strive to deliver the highest quality training and facilitators available to the company to enhance program delivery. All of our teachers are working professionals in their chosen medium which promises a degree of expertise in every facet of delivery.
- MooseGuts Theatre will ALWAYS deliver a program that is right for your community. Many theatre practitioners deliver general workshops that may not suit the community's needs. MooseGuts Theatre is committed to delivering exactly what you want. Through a series of meetings and many cups of coffee we will draft your experience to suit the individual needs your community.
- MooseGuts Theatre will work closely with local leaders, program coordinators, elders, parents, and youth to link the needs of the community to the program delivered. Each workshop is different. Each workshop is challenging. Each workshop is rewarding. When necessary, MooseGuts Theatre Company will tailor the times, dates, and budget to ensure the workshop is right for you and your community.

# **THE HISTORY OF THE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS PROGRAM**

In 2001, while employed at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto I was hired as a Youth Programs Manager and essentially given a program and a budget in which I was to, “help youth at risk.” At the time, there was an overwhelming sense that these youth were frustrated, angry, and “bored” with many things in their lives. I consulted with the youth and asked a simple question, “What do you want from a youth program?” It was through that initial consultation that I learned that the most important thing the youth wanted was to “be something” in their lives but they didn’t believe it to be possible.

In my past experiences working with youth I knew that in general, all young people want to do is to be heard. So I created a platform for them to be heard.

## **WHAT IS THE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS PROGRAM?**

The Leadership Through The Arts Program is an Aboriginal Youth Program that combines popular Arts Practices (Theatre, Spoken Word, Visual Arts) with Traditional Life Skills and Leadership Training models to create and foster youth empowerment and youth leadership in a safe and supportive environment. The program itself brings young people together to explore using Popular Theatre Techniques as the base for the programming while “tricking” young people into exploring their own way into Leadership and Empowerment training while participating in games, exercises and programs.

The program explores SELF EXPRESSION as a way for the participatory youth to better understand who they are. They will be guided through exercises, engaged in programs and work with their communities to begin the process of becoming strong leaders and an empowered Youth Community.

## **WHO IS THE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS PROGRAM FOR?**

Anyone and everyone willing to take the risk in learning about themselves and strengthening their leadership skills. The program has been delivered to youth as young as 6 years old right through to university aged youth.

## **WHY THEATRE ARTS TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT?**

Why not? All joking aside, in the 1950’s a man by the name of Augusto Boal created The Theatre of the Oppressed which gave voice to Brazil’s Indigenous Peoples and created political movement and protest against the ruling regime. In modern times, and a contemporary sense, I use it now to “bring young people out of their shells” and allow them to “be heard” in a safe environment. Many educators and people that have hired me for my work have referred to my program as “Lifeskills on Steroids.”

The greatest thing about Theatre Training as a form of lifeskills is this -at its core, theatre training is 100% about LISTENING, COMMUNICATING, AND LEARNING TO BE YOURSELF. I believe this is key in helping to show young people who they are and this is the core basis for this work.

# WORKSHOPS SERIES MODULES

## TWO MOCCASSINS, TWO WORLDS: WHERE MY TEACHING HAVE TAKEN ME

**TYPE OF WORKSHOP:** Speaking Engagement, Keynote Speaker

**FOCUS:** Youth Empowerment, Leadership, Education, and Nationhood

**DURATION:** 1HR (1HR 15 MINS. W/QUESTION & ANSWER)

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** a microphone, PA system

**GROUP SIZE:** no limit to the group size

Two Moccasins – Two Worlds is a metaphor for living a grounded, strongly rooted cultural lifestyle while living and contributing to the “mainstream population.” Ryan McMahon weaves stories of struggle, empowerment, racism and education to create a revitalized youth movement that will move towards understanding their past, present, and their futures.

The Two Moccasins – Two Worlds Workshops carries a strong Anti-Racism message throughout. This workshop is often tailored to meet individual community needs around issues of empowerment, leadership, lifeskills, employability skills, or education awareness.

Youth are NOT the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today. This workshop will encourage ALL youth to mobilize in their communities. The workshop carries a strong message of hope through education. This workshop will identify the challenges of today’s young Anishinaabe people and their lives inside the “mainstream”.

## STAND UP AND SAY SOMETHING: YOUR VOICE, YOUR STORY, YOUR FUTURE

**TYPE OF WORKSHOP:** Theatre Arts Based Leadership & Empowerment

**FOCUS:** Youth Empowerment, Leadership, Education, and Nationhood

**DURATION:** Flexible (2 hrs minimum, no maximum)

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** a large, obstruction free space (gymnasium, large board room, conference room, outside may work in some circumstances)

**GROUP SIZE:** ideally, a group smaller than 20 youth

The STAND UP AND SAY SOMETHING workshop series is our most sought after workshop that we deliver. This workshop is practical, fun, and it’s been referred to as “life skills on steroids.”

The workshop always starts out with icebreakers to get all the youth comfortable with the facilitator and each other. We quickly move onto introductory theatre games and various exercises to get youth to begin the process or RISK TAKING, and, ultimately, SELF-EMPOWERMENT.

This workshop moves fast and furious as we engage the youth in the process immediately upon entering the workshop room. From there we explain that all a young person needs to succeed in the workshop is themselves. All youth are welcomed into this one of a kind, fast paced, fun and lighthearted look at leadership and empowerment!

***In 2002 the Leadership Through  
The Arts Program was listed as  
a BEST PRACTICE MODEL in  
the Senate Committee Report  
commissioned by the Federal  
Government on Urban  
Aboriginal Youth.***