

Marie Clements. (b. 1962)

Marie Clements is an award-winning Métis performer, playwright and director whose work has been presented on stages across Canada, the United States, and Europe. Marie was the Simon Fraser University's Ellen and Warren Tallman Writer-in-Residence for Fall-Winter 2012-13. She is the founder of Urban Ink Productions, a Vancouver-based First Nations production company that creates, develops, and produces Aboriginal and multicultural works of theatre, dance, music, film, and video. Her twelve plays, including *Copper Thunderbird*, *Burning Vision*, and *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, have been presented on some of the most prestigious stages for Canadian and international work including the Festival de Theatre des Amériques (Urban Tattoo 2001, *Burning Vision* 2003) in Montreal, the National Arts Centre and The Magnetic North Festival (*Burning Vision* 2003, *Copper Thunderbird* 2007) in Ottawa. Her work has garnered numerous awards and publications including the 2004 Canada-Japan Literary Award and a shortlisted nomination for the 2003 Governor General's Literary Award.



Clements was invited to the prestigious Festival de Theatre des Amériques in 2001 for *Urban Tattoo* and in 2002 for *Burning Vision*. In 2002, she worked in the writing department of the television series *Da Vinci's Inquest*. A fellowship award from the BC Film Commission enabled her to develop the film adaptation of her stage play, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*. She is also a regular contributor on CBC Radio. Clements writes, or, perhaps more accurately, composes, with an urbane, incisive and sophisticated intellect; her refined artistry is deeply rooted in the particulars of her place, time and history. The world premiere of *Copper Thunderbird* is the first time Canada's National Arts Centre has produced the work of a First Nations playwright on its main stage.

Awards and Recognition

- Canada-Japan Literary Award (2004) “*Burning Vision*.”

- Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, Finalist (2003) *Burning Vision*.
- Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Original Play, Nominee (2002) *Burning Vision*.
- Elinore & Lou Siminovitch Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Theatre, Nominee (2002).
- Jessie Richardson Awards, P.T.C. Award for Outstanding Original Play in Development (1998) *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*.
- Sundance Screenwriting Competition, Finalist (1998) *Now Look What You Made Me Do*.
- Praxis Screenwriting Competition, Short-listed (1997) *Now Look What You Made Me Do*.
- Jessie Richardson Awards, Sydney Risk Award for Original Script by an Emerging Playwright (1993) *Age of Iron*.

Publications:

- *Burning Vision*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2003.
- *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2005.
- *Copper Thunderbird*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2007.
- *The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story*. Marie Clements and Rita Leistner. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2010.
- *Tombs of the Vanishing Indian*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2012.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
 Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
 Louis Riel Institute