

## **THAT'S AWSM! 2**

Final Cast & Crew List with Bios for APTN  
December 9, 2019

### **Key Creative Bios**

#### **Darcy Waite – Host**

Currently based in Winnipeg, DARCY WAITE has appeared in shows like *Blackstone* and *Delmer & Marta* prior to becoming the awesome host of *THAT'S AWSM!* A National Screen Institute alumni, he has also begun to make a name for himself as a Producer, producing short films such as *Fourth Period Burnout* and *Zaasaakwe* for CBC Short Docs and the web series *Colour of Scar Tissue* for APTN. Recently, he was honoured with the Rising Producer Award at ImagineNATIVE 2018! Outgoing, sporty, goofy and caring, he is the perfect host for *THAT'S AWSM!*

#### **Leo Singer – Director**

LEO SINGER has written and directed documentary and drama-documentary for major broadcasters including the History Channel, Discovery, National Geographic, BBC, Channel 4, and more. Previous projects include *The Will: Family Secrets revealed* for Discovery ID, five episodes of the History Channel series *MonsterQuest*, and *The Cell*, a 1 x 86' documentary-drama for ARTE (nominated for best science/tech documentary at the Banff Television Festival, 2008). Other credits include the Discovery Canada/Five series *Mayday*, two drama-docs for the Channel 4 strand *Secret History*, the BBC2 drama-doc series *Disaster*, and the C4 documentary series *Six Experiments that Changed the World*. Leo has also written two non-fiction books, which were published to accompany the BBC Science landmark series *Human Instinct* and *Superhuman*.

#### **Geneviève Brault – Director**

GENEVIÈVE BRAULT is a director-filmmaker with a keen interest in social issues. Her experience as a director and researcher for television allows her to explore relevant topics such as cultural diversity, gender equality and the struggles and successes of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and abroad. Her stories have been presented on several public networks like CBC Newsworld, Radio-Canada, RDI, TVOKids and TV5. She has worked on a number of series for APTN including *Working It Out Together*, *Indians + Aliens* and *THAT'S AWSM!* She frequently collaborates with the Youth Media Alliance. Geneviève has recently been involved in several productions where she enjoys the opportunity to create content dedicated to children and teenagers.

#### **Angie-Pepper O'Bomsawin – Director**

ANGIE-PEPPER O'BOMSAWIN is a bilingual Mohawk/Abenaki Director and Media Professional. Since graduating from Concordia University's Fine Arts, she has been responsible for and directed many different projects ranging from kids programming to socially driven documentaries, reality TV And docu-series and dramatic reconstruction. Her work has been seen on major networks such as CBC, TVA, Fox Net, Fox Sports1, APTN, Spike, TVO and others. She is extremely diverse in her skills and in all of her many pursuits—as writer, producer, director, and teacher -- Angie-Pepper O'Bomsawin has become well known for her drive and dedication to changing the image of First Nations on screen. She strongly believes in the power of storytelling for transformation and social change and prides herself on being a positive role model and an inspiration to Indigenous youth.

#### **Frances Koncan – Writer**

FRANCES KONCAN is an Ojibwe writer from Couchiching First Nation, currently based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Frances holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the City University of New York Brooklyn College, where she specialized in Playwriting. She also has extensive experience writing in a wide variety of styles and mediums, and has written screenplays, fiction, non-fiction, and articles for CBC Arts, Intermission Magazine, and Red Rising Magazine.

Youth engagement in the arts is her passion, and as a theatre director she works primarily with youth under the age of 30 to create new plays or re-imagine established works in order to make them contemporary and relevant for young audiences. Frances endeavors to maintain a connection with the pulse of contemporary youth culture.

She specializes in work that draws from both contemporary popular culture and traditional Indigenous culture, as she believes going forward, both will be necessary and important.

#### **Levi Marshall – Writer**

LEVI MARSHALL is 21-years-old, and is in his third year of studies for a BFA in Film Production, and minor in Business at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. Levi is Mi'kmaq from the community of Membertou First Nation, in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Levi currently works as a Multi-Media Specialist with TD Technology Solutions, while completing his studies. Levi plans to continue his work in the film/media industry as a producer or director for film/ television. He is very in tune with youth pop culture and very active in social media networks. Coming from a small community in Nova Scotia, and as he is currently living in the big city of Toronto, he offers a perfect balance of city/country culture.

#### **Brittany LeBorgne – Writer**

BRITTANY LEBORGNE is a Kanien'kehá:ka actor/director/writer from the community of Kahnawake, on the south shore of Montreal, Quebec. Brittany is best known for her role as Zoe on the award-winning APTN comedy series, *Mohawk Girls*. But when she's not in front of the camera, she's behind the scenes as a director, for APTN documentary series' *Dream Big* and *Working It Out Together 3*, co-director for CBC's digital documentary series, *Thunderblanket*, and now, as a writer for *THAT'S AWSM!*

#### **Stephanie Blanshay – Producer**

With close to 25 years of experience in the development and production of various forms of media, STEPHANIE BLANSHAY has developed a rare blend of creative instinct, business know-how and producing skill. After many years in the magazine industry, she took the plunge into the world of television production as a researcher, and never looked back. Working on a variety of different genres – children's, docudrama, true crime, sports documentary - her in-depth experience ranges from research & development to production management to content producing. She was thrilled to add directing to her wealth of experience with her directorial debut on Ep 113 of *THAT'S AWSM! Season 1*.

#### **Geneviève Simard-Lévesque – Producer**

GENEVIÈVE SIMARD-LÉVESQUE has been working for almost 20 years in the field of television and digital media production. With her experience in the design, development and production of variety, youth and documentary projects, Geneviève is driven by the desire to bring current, authentic and high-quality human stories to the screen, working alongside other passionate teams. In addition to numerous projects in development at WABANOK, she recently produced, in collaboration with the Line Producers, the youth series *THAT'S AWSM!* (APTN), *Méchant Trip Seasons 1, 2 & 3* (APTN), the documentaries *Ce silence qui tue / Quiet Killing* (APTN / Canal D) and *La ligne rouge* (Canal D / APTN), as well as numerous websites and digital media projects.

#### **Michèle Rouleau – Executive Producer**

MICHÈLE ROULEAU, (C.M., C.Q.) Métis Ojibway, is the former President of the Quebec Indigenous Women's Association and a long-time advocate of First Nations and human rights. She has worked in the field of communications for over twenty-five years. Ms. Rouleau was the host of the news magazine show *Nations* (on Télé-Québec and RDI), a ground-breaking series which tackled many issues related to the Indigenous reality in Quebec. Subsequently she hosted and produced the documentary series *Mishkuenita*, broadcast on APTN and has since focused solely on film and TV production.

#### **Teen Participant Bios**

##### **AWE201 Corey Sanipass**

COREY is a 14-year-old Mi'kmaq youth from Halifax, Nova Scotia, originally from Eskasoni First Nation. Outgoing and positive, he's the Grade 9 rep of his school's student council and is also extremely organized! He's a big fan of pineapples and also loves pizza, but won't go anywhere near pineapple pizza. He enjoys making videos with his

friends, and really wants to learn to sing and play guitar. He also loves English and writing his own adventure stories. He dreams of being a police officer when he grows up... maybe.

#### **AWE202 Misko Manito’Kwe**

MISKO MANITO’KWE, is a 14-year-old Ojibwe-Cree hoop dancer and make-up lover from Toronto, Ontario. She is very involved with her culture and is currently learning Ojibwe from her grandfather. She has even toured performing her hoop-dances throughout Toronto! Aside from dancing, Misko loves to play the violin. One of Misko’s biggest goals is to become an Indigenous Midwife, and another goal she has is to visit Hollywood and meet some of her favourite celebrities, one of whom she will be meeting on *THAT’S AWSM!*

#### **AWE203 Drea Norton**

DREA is a 16-year-old Kanien’kehá:ka youth from Kahnawake, Quebec. Adventurous and athletic, Drea loves travelling, and is really into sports, like figure skating, and basketball. Her favourite food is Indian tacos - our much beloved Indigenous twist on the classic Mexican fare! She loves music, and would one day like to learn how to play the piano. Drea also loves curling up with a good murder mystery novel, and writes in her spare time, but dreams of being a photographer when she grows up.

#### **AWE204 Apachita Muskego Graner**

APACHITA is a 15-year-old Dene youth who lives in Toronto. She loves sushi, boxing and being with her family. She often spends summers in Bancroft, where her mom owns a piece of land, and enjoys helping her mother in the garden. She’s also a huge fan of amusement parks, and has been on all the roller coasters in Canada’s Wonderland... except one! Her dream is to do something that involves travelling and experiencing new places, and she dislikes selfish people, but believes everyone has their pros and cons!

#### **AWE205 Rorih Cross**

RORIH is a 15-year-old Mohawk from Kahnawake. He is a super sporty and very funny person. He considers his greatest quality to be his sense of humour and is always being able to make his friends laugh. He loves playing pranks, and is really good at remembering long numbers. He’s a skilled athlete and loves playing Lacrosse. Some of his favourite celebrities include Lacrosse players like Cody Jamieson, Lyle Thompson, and Miles Thompson! One of his life-long dreams is to be a pro Lacrosse player, and another is to fly a plane. Maybe one of those dreams will come true on this very episode!

#### **AWE206 Ryleigh Mayo**

RYLEIGH is not your typical 13-year-old – she’s an old soul, and has an enormous collection of vintage vinyl and cassette tapes! A Mohawk from Kahnawake, she’s a determined and hardworking dancer and musician, who is constantly working on her craft. If dancing isn’t her superpower, then seeing the best qualities in all people sure is, as being positive is in her nature! Ryleigh is the clumsiest person she knows and can hardly go a day without falling down, but she always picks herself back up as she’s a firm believer in perseverance!

#### **AWE207 Destiny Cote**

DESTINY is a 16-year-old Anishinaabe youth from Kitigan Zibi, Quebec. Outgoing, with an unlimited supply of energy, Destiny is into sports like broomball and hockey, as well as the arts. She’s a painter, plays a little piano, and loves to watch comedy films. Destiny loves traveling, and has been to Sweden and Hawaii, and would love to get to Fiji one day. She lives in a pretty athletic and healthy household and doesn’t get to eat much junk food at home, so when she has the chance, her favourite treats are gushers, chocolate, sugary cereals, and of course – pizza! Destiny’s ultimate goal is to go into an early childhood education program for university.

#### **AWE208 Riley Laforte**

RILEY is a 17-year-old Ojibwe football player and enthusiastic leader from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Riley is all about spreading positivity, and he loves putting a smile on other people’s faces, especially his little sister, Echo! Riley considers himself to be a family man, and makes sure to spend lots of time with his lil’ sis. A good leader has many idols and Riley is no exception. His idol is NFL quarterback Russell Wilson, whom he considers to be the most incredible Football player! Riley wants to end high-school in a big way - by performing on his guitar at his school’s

talent show. What would he perform? Something by David Bowie and Nirvana of course. Yes, this guy has great taste!

#### **AWE209 Teanna Nepinak**

TEANNA is a 15-year-old Saulteaux youth living in Winnipeg. She's good-natured and positive and loves to laugh. She is kind, caring and very close with her friends and family. Her favourite hobbies include thrift store shopping, writing poetry, and watching documentaries - especially murder mysteries! Aside from documentaries, Teanna enjoys watching *North of 60* with her mom. She's a real 90s fan! Teanna loves to teach herself new things; she's been learning the ukulele on her own, and also taught herself how to do her own unique bird calls!

#### **AWE210 Bryanna Carter**

BRYANNA is 15-years-old and from Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. She is very focused, intelligent, mature and thoughtful in everything she says and does. Her connection to her Cree heritage motivates her to achieve her dreams - like becoming a lawyer and working in the Prime Minister's office! Super curious, Bryanna loves to try new things and isn't afraid of hard work, which is good, because one of her biggest dreams is to receive a Nobel Prize!

#### **AWE211 Zowie Okanee**

ZOWIE is a 15-year-old Cree youth from Battleford, Saskatchewan, and belongs to Thunderchild First Nation. She's an aspiring actor, who also has an ear for music - she taught herself how to play the bass guitar just by watching YouTube videos! Zowie also has a knack for sewing, and loves to make herself new clothing items out of her little brothers' Marvel pajamas. Her favourite traditional food from her community is 'flour soup', which is tomato soup with ground beef, vegetables, and flour - which she says makes a really weird texture - but she loves it! Zowie says her best quality is her kindness. She once cut off all her hair to help cancer patients.

#### **AWE212 Trey Rorick**

TREY is 16-years-old from Skidegate in Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. He is a visual artist, spruce weaver, and traditional dancer, who's very proud to have won the traditional men's dance competition in his own community last year. In his free time, Trey loves to go boating and to visit different islands with his cousins. Although he has to be careful, because sometimes he has the occasional run-in with a sea lion! Trey's dream is to continue pursuing his passion for creating Haida art. When he gets older, he plans to continue living in his community of Skidegate as an artist.

#### **AWE213 Tyee Hunter Davis**

TYEE is a 17-year-old teen from Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation. A friendly, positive person, Tyee knows what he wants and isn't afraid to work hard to achieve his dreams. His true passion is living off the land, and he loves hunting and fishing. He's such a good hunter, he once took down a moose 365 yards away and he even won 1st Place in a school archery contest! Tyee is also an avid banjo player, and loves folk music!

### **Celebrity Guest Bios**

#### **AWE201 Jade Hassouné**

Lebanon-born and Montreal-raised, JADE HASSOUNÉ is an actor and musician best known for his work on TV shows like *Shadowhunters*, where he plays Meliorn. He's outgoing and positive, with a passion for all things creative. He's been transitioning to music and is about to release his debut album, complete with a brand new hairstyle. He's a big fan of hacky sack, and sketching his own cartoons – he even used to dress up like cartoon characters and perform at birthday parties!

#### **AWE202 Tiera Skovbye**

TIERA SKOVBYE is an actor who hails from beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. She is best known for her recurring roles as Polly Cooper in the CW series *Riverdale*, as Robin Hood in ABC's *Once Upon a Time* and in 2020 will have a starring role in the Global TV drama, *Nurses*. Tiera was made for the outdoors, she loves hiking,

bouldering, rock climbing, and when she's looking to relax, she loves spending time on the beach  
#WestCoastBestCoast? Little known fact is that Tiera is super passionate about pups and spends her free time volunteering at animal shelters.

#### **AWE203 Eric Radford**

ERIC RADFORD is a two-time Canadian Olympic figure skating champion. He and his pairs skating partner Meagan Duhamel took home a gold and bronze medal at the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang. He may have retired from competition, but his love for skating hasn't. Eric's into skating choreography, and he's also a music composer, who's written music for his fellow Team Canada skaters to perform to. An entertainer at heart, Eric's secret talent is juggling and he loves telling terrible jokes (much to the dismay of his friends!) He considers himself to be a bit of a daredevil, but also loves to hit the spa when he needs to relax.

#### **AWE204 Ellen Wong**

ELLEN WONG is an actor from Toronto currently living in Los Angeles. She is best known for her work on movies like *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* and the TV show *GLOW*. Not only is she a talented performer, she is also a Blackbelt in Taekwondo! Ellen is super crafty and has a passion for paper, design, and calligraphy. She loves writing handwritten letters and having pen pals. One thing she hates though - judgmental People!

#### **AWE205 Damien Ketlo**

DAMIEN KETLO is a former pro hockey goalie. He left his home and his community at age 15 to pursue his dreams... and succeeded! After 11 years of pro hockey, he went back home and built a rec centre in his community... and started a band! Besides hockey, he is also passionate about fitness, and is embarking on a new career in the arts as a singer and songwriter. One of his secret skills is rapping really, really fast... and if he hadn't made it as a pro hockey player, he would have pursued politics!

#### **AWE206 Jordan Clark**

JORDAN CLARK is a dancer, actor, and professional ginger – self-proclaimed of course. Jordan is known for winning *So You Think You Can Dance Canada Season 4*, and for her role as Gisele on Family Channel's *The Next Step*. Jordan's hometown is Tottenham, Ontario. However, she spends most of her time in Los Angeles, California working on her career as an actor and choreographer, and the rest of her time is spent in Toronto. Jordan was not your typical teenager, and at the age of 17, she was already working on the set of *Camp Rock 2* as a dancer.

#### **AWE207 Varun Saranga**

VARUN SARANGA is an actor best known for his work on *Workin' Moms*, *Wynonna Earp*, and the Emmy-nominated *Schitt's Creek*. Varun got his start at 18 when he auditioned for YTV's *How to Be Indie* (his first ever audition!). Since then, he has built up an acting resume of 30 credits...and counting. Varun is a world traveler who once rode a motorcycle across Vietnam, and spent two weeks living in a Thai monastery. In addition to performing and traveling, Varun loves to stay active through rock climbing and yoga. He enjoys his downtime too, and loves to relax by watching movies, reading, and playing video games!

#### **AWE208 Justin Rain**

JUSTIN RAIN is a bad boy actor and tea lover from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Black Double Bergamot Earl Grey Tea is his favourite! You may recognize him from his roles on *Blackstone*, *Defiance*, and *Fear the Walking Dead* as Crazy Dog. Justin is a super laid-back type of guy, but when it comes to odd numbers... he can't even! Or, is it: he can only even? Winning board games is just one of Justin's many talents, another is photography – he never leaves home without his lens kit. If a zombie apocalypse were to ever break out, he's that one friend that you would want close by, as he's certified in combat choreography!

#### **AWE209 Jessica Matten**

Edmonton-born, Metis-Cree JESSICA MATTEN'S acting credits include the short film *A Red Girl's Reasoning*, roles on the TV shows *Blackstone* and *Frontier*, as well as a leading role in the upcoming TV series *Tribal*. When she isn't busy acting, Jessica is passionate about supporting Indigenous charities and organizations. She heads #n8vgirls, a social media campaign that spreads awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and co-

runs Lemon Cree, an Indigenous health and wellness non-profit. Fun fact - she is a direct descendant of Cuthbert Grant, the first Metis leader of Canada!

#### **AWE210 Roseline Filion**

ROSELINE FILION is a retired diver who has won two Olympic Bronze Medals. Recently retired at the early age of 32, Roseline is back at school studying communications and dreams of a career in media - ideally doing something that would take her back to the Olympics, this time as a sports reporter! Roseline is ambitious, determined, and always ready to work hard. She also loves fashion, and even once wore heels to the pool!

#### **AWE211 Grace Dove**

GRACE DOVE is a Shuswap actor from Prince George, BC, and belongs to the Canim Lake First Nation. She is best known for her work in the Academy award-winning film, *The Revenant*, in which she played Leonardo DiCaprio's wife, and Netflix projects; feature film, *How It Ends* and hit series, *The Order*. Grace got her start as co-host for APTN's *UnderEXPOSED*, an action- adventure documentary series that followed a team of extreme sports photojournalists. Grace is a natural athlete who loves the outdoors, but also enjoys practicing yoga, and hanging with her pup. Next up for Grace – she's making the big move to Hollywood!

#### **AWE212 Simon Whitfield**

SIMON WHITFIELD is a champion in the sport of Men's Triathlon, winning the first gold-medal for the sport at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Simon has since been inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and was a flag-bearer for Team Canada not just once, but twice! Now retired from the Olympics, Simon loves to guide outdoor excursions, particularly paddle boarding. Simon is a board game fanatic, is obsessed with old maps, and loves to chill with his kids when he's not outdoors paddling.

#### **AWE213 Tristan D. Lalla**

TRISTAN D. LALLA is an actor who has an amazing rep in all areas of acting. He's done tons of video game motion capture for games like *Assassin's Creed* and *Far Cry*. Recently, he's been in big movies like *Long Shot* with Seth Rogen and Charlize Theron. Tristan has a grand total of 67 acting credits! He's also known for his work on stage and has performed in many of Shakespeare's greatest plays, including *Othello*. When Tristan isn't busy acting, he can be found watching movies, and creating things. His favorite movie of all time is...*The Matrix*! Tristan carries drumsticks wherever he goes, so he's always prepared for a jam session. And he loves his cat. A lot.

## FINAL THAT'S AWSM! CREW

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Casting Director                      | JESSICA GREENBERG  |
| Researchers                           | DANIELA PINNA<br>EMMA SAVAS  |
| Director of Photography               | JEROME LAFLAMME  |
| Camera Operator                       | DANNY BELAIR<br>ANDREW M. OSTER<br>ARTURO GOUY   |
| Assistant Camera                      | DANNY BELAIR<br>JASMINE BREEN<br>MATHIEU POTVIN<br>CORY REYNOLDS<br>OLIVIER GELINAS<br>JOCELYN CHARBONNEAU |
| Sound Recordists                      | DAVID DAOUD<br>JEREMY KANE<br>OLIVIER LÉGER<br>FRANK MANNINO<br>EMORY MURCHISON<br>PABLO VILLEGAS          |
| Assistant Director                    | BRIAN CUCCOVIA   |
| Production Assistants                 | GIUSEPPE DILONARDO<br>TAVIS PUTMAN<br>AMARA MONEYAS<br>CHRISTINE CAMERON<br>JUSTIN DJAMTORSKI              |
| Editor                                | FRANÇOIS GUIMOND   |
| Assistant Editors                     | MILINAH ROBERT<br>MARIE BOULANGER  |
| Post Production Coordinator           | ANTOINE GOUDREULT  |
| Sound Mix                             | CHARLES RIVARD   |
| Original Music Composition (SPACQ)    | PAKESSO MUKASH (KXO)<br>LOUIS-PHILIPPE MOAR<br>DJ HORG   |
| Production Secretary                  | MONIQUE BESNER   |
| Administrative Production Coordinator | BRIAN CUCCOVIA   |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Production Manager     | CONSTANCE COOK                                   |
| Director of Financing  | NATHALIE PETIT                                   |
| Production Accountants | ALAIN BLOT<br>DOMINIQUE BOYER<br>CHANTALE DOSTIE |
| General Manager        | JOSÉE LATRAVERSE                                 |