The Winter Bear Project 2015 Bethel & Beyond Tour





The Winter Bear

is a play

about an Alaska Native teenager who rises above the traumas of his past to become a leader with the help of mentor Sidney Huntington.



The Winter Bear Project combines the play with outreach developed in cooperation with rural Alaskan communities. Professional teaching artists also lead workshops with local students.

Our Mission is to change the climate of fear & hopelessness that breeds suicide by broadening awareness, stimulating dialogue, and promoting healing through the performing arts.



In April 2015, The Winter Bear Project traveled to seven communities in Southwestern Alaska to deliver a message of hope through live theatre performance.

Bethel & Beyond Tour



Department of Health & Social Services

QUYANA!

Donors

Alaska Community Foundation

Donlin Gold

Calista Corporation

Bethel Community Services Foundation

Bethel Native Corporation

Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc.

In-Kind Benefactors

Drew's Foundation

Grant Aviation

Cama-i Festival

Air/Land Transport

Ann & Bruce Jamieson

Northern Air Cargo

Lower Yukon School District

Kashunamuit School District

Immaculate Conception Church

Yuut Elitnauviat Learning Center

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation



Tour

2015 Bethel & Beyond Schedule

April 2	Preview Performance at Fairbanks Youth Facility
April 8	Evening Community Show, Hooper Bay School
April 10	Student Workshops, Chevak Evening Community Show, Chevak School
April 13	Student workshops, Scammon Bay Evening Community Show, Scammon Bay School
April 15	Evening Community Show & Potluck Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, Bethel
April 16	Evening Community Show Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, Bethel
April 15-18	Community Workshops, Bethel Bethel High School, UAF Kuskokwim Campus, Cama-i Dance Festival
April 20	Student workshops, Emmonak Evening Community Show, Emmonak School
April 22	Student workshops, Alakanuk Evening Community Show & Potluck, Alakanuk School
April 24	Student workshops, Mountain Village Evening Community Show & Potluck, Ignatius Beans Memorial School

"This is so worth seeing. I couldn't take my eyes off the stage I was so drawn in to the story. All you Bethel folks especially the young teens should see this wonderful production."

Play Attendance

Community	Attendance	Community Population	Community Turnout (%)
FAI Youth Facility	30	n/a	n/a
Hooper Bay	432	1200	36%
Chevak	327	1000	33%
Scammon Bay	178	507	35%
Bethel	253	6000	4%
Emmonak	110	816	13%
Alakanuk	324	724	45%
Mtn Village	305	755	40%

Total Play Attendance: 1959



School	Student Contact Hours	Instructor Contact Hours
Hooper Bay	9	2
Chevak	150	22
Scammon		
Bay	216	26
UAF Kusko		
Campus	21	4
Bethel HS	118	12
Cama-i	70	6
Emmonak	42	10
Alakanuk	204	25
Mtn Village	214	14
TOTAL	1044	121

Workshop Attendance

Workshops Offered:

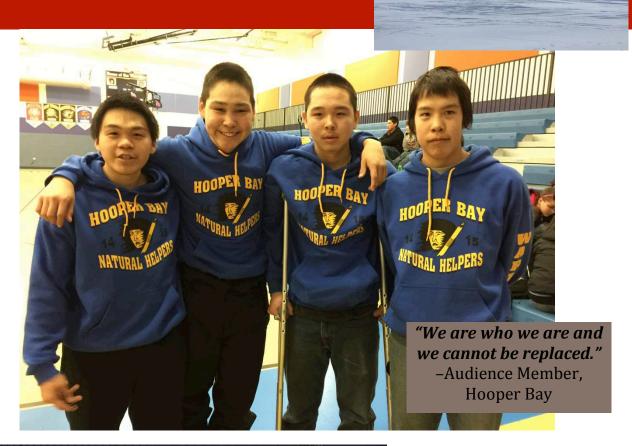
Theater Games, Native Dance, Hip Hop Dance, Creative Movement, Telling Your Story, Shakespeare



Hooper Bay

"Quyana, thank you for coming to Hooper Baywe have a lot of hurting people and I hope this play has shed some light in their lives."

-Audience Member, Hooper Bay





"My child has thought
[about] committing
suicide and this show
has made me open my
eyes. We watched it
together and I know it
has opened up some
positive thought[s]. To
stay positive and openhearted
no matter what."
-Audience Member,
Hooper Bay

Chevak

"The show was excellent, it really taught us so much."

-Audience Member, Chevak



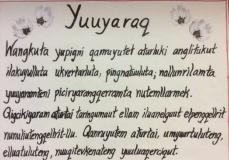






"Thank you so much for coming out. It was a blast and the community of Scammon Bay was so impressed with the play."

-Melissa Rivers, Instructional Leader, Scammon Bay School.



Sign in the Y'upik Cultural Room speaks to Yuuyaraq, or "the way of living."

Bethel



"I will speak the truth and tell my story more."

-Audience Member, Bethel



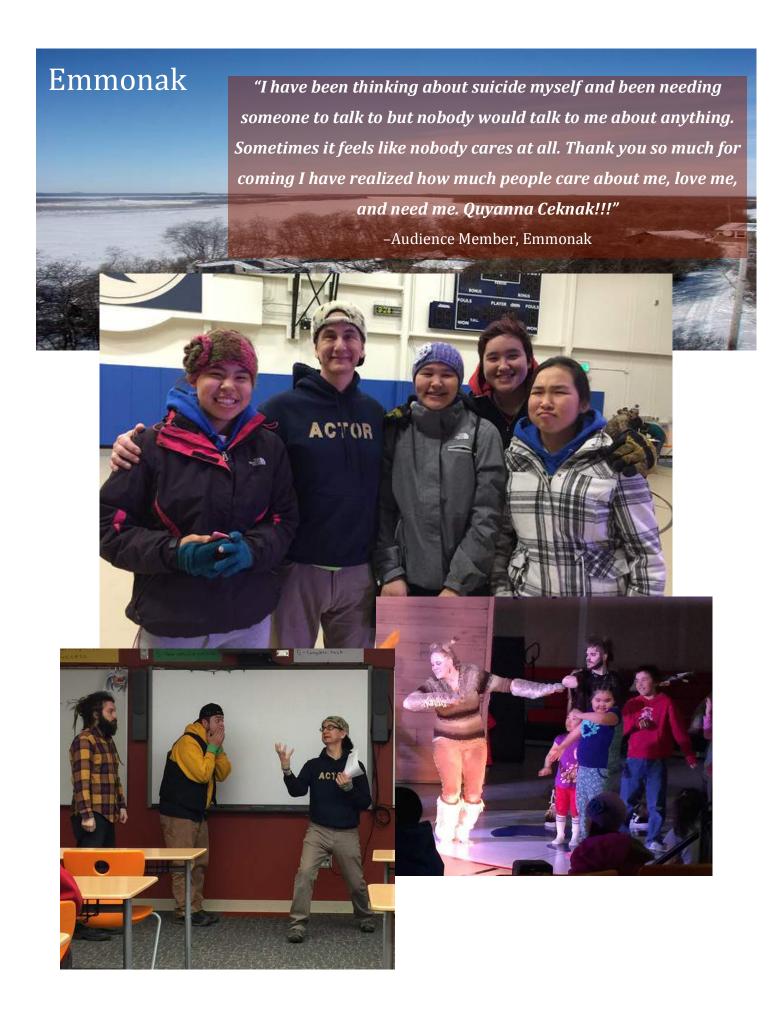
ABOVE and RIGHT: The cast attended the 4th Annual Memory Room Dedication at the Cama-i Festival. Drew's Foundation dedicates this room to loved ones lost to suicide.

Photo: John Wallace, www.tundraphotos.com

> "Having you here helps us heal."

-Paul O'Brien,







Mountain Village

"Mountain Village had a wonderful time watching the play! Thanks for the great message!"

-Kristy Pfennig, Educator, Mountain Village





"Open up and do something." –Audience Member, Mountain Village



"Play About Redemption and Survival Speaks to Good and Bad of Alaska Village Life." by Lisa Demer Alaska Dispatch News, April 17, 2015

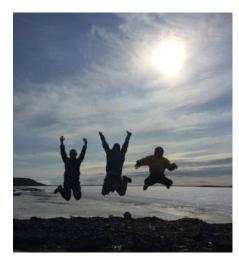
"For a play that is intended to combat suicide, The Winter Bear is surprisingly funny. Its humor and depiction of the good and bad, the old and the new of village Alaska – fish soup and snogos, bingo and Facebook, alcohol and despair – help it reach beyond performances into the lives of those who see it."

Full article: http://www.adn.com/article/20150417/play-about-redemption-and-survival-speaks-good-and-bad-alaska-village-life

"Alaskan Play Highlights Suicide Prevention." by K.J. Lincoln Delta Discovery, May 7, 2015

"A live theater production called *The Winter Bear* enthralled audiences duing the two showtimes it was played the same week as the Cama-I Festival – showcasing the talented Alaskan actors and spreading a message of hope to those touched by suicide. The play also had powerful themes that resonated with the audience: restorative justice, the value of education, the relationship between a girl and her grandfather, strength to endure abuse caused by alcohol, and the priceless worth and how precious every single person's life is."

Full article: http://www.deltadiscovery.com/story/2015/04/29/village-telegraph/alaskan-play-highlights-suicide-prevention/3166.html

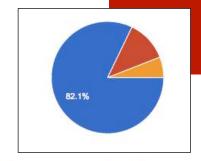


Evaluations were made available to audience members after most performances. A total of 171 were completed.

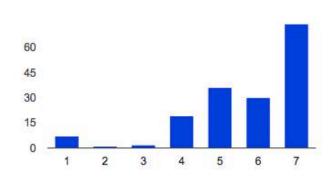
Respondents

82.1% Alaska Native

67.7% Under age 25



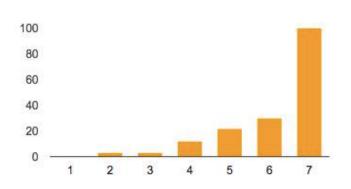
Did the play help you understand someone who was thinking abut suicide?



Not at all:	1	7	4.1%	
	2	1	0.6%	
	3	2	1.2%	
	4	19	11.2%	
	5	36	21.3%	
	6	30	17.8%	
Very much:	7	74	43.8%	

Evaluations

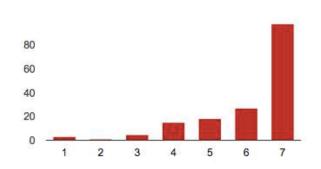
Did the play make you feel hopeful?



Not at all: 1	0	0%
2	3	1.8%
3	3	1.8%
4	12	7.1%
5	22	12.9%
6	30	17.6%
ery much: 7	100	58.8%

1 8%

Does seeing this play make you more likely to reach out to a friend who may have suicidal thoughts?



NOT at all. 1	3	1.070
2	1	0.6%
3	5	3%
4	15	9%
5	18	10.8%
6	27	16.2%
Very much: 7	98	58.7%

Not at all: 1



Playwright & Producer - Anne Hanley
Director - Erick Robertson
Technical Director - James Bartlett
Assistant Producer - Sarah Mitchell
Tour Manager - Amanda Bent
Rehearsal Stage Manager - Anna Stitt

Wolverine - Kevin Lee

Thank you to these additional partners who helped make our Bethel & Beyond tour a success.

UAF Kuskokwim Campus

Tribal Councils in each community

Bethel Regional High School

Lower Kuskokwim School District

KYUK Bethel

Bethel Suicide Prevention Coalition



The Winter Bear Project is a Domestic Nonprofit incorporated in Alaska.

The North Star Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, is the fiscal agent for The Winter Bear Project.

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