

# Simon Moccasin: Storyteller

**Simon Moccasin - “Storyteller”** is about identity. Simon starts with a number of stories relating to how animals came to be - as seen and heard through Cree Myths and Cree Legends. Simon then tells a story of how he received his Spirit Name – and then talks about what a Spirit Name is. He includes the importance and power of Women through a poem called *Tipi-Woman*, and reiterates a few more spoken word poems on identity. Simon then turns it over to the school and tells a story about their community and how it came to be named (i.e. in the case of a larger centre like Regina, Simon would either tell a story about how Regina was named, or else how the school was named). Simon toured with OSAC in Spring 2008 as Stage Manager for **Learning the Game** which featured Saskatchewan actress Megan Leach. It was because of this tour that Simon assessed the need for First Nations storytelling in smaller rural settings. He wishes to connect some of his Ancestors’ stories to some less traditional venues. As well through this connection, Saskatchewan people - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal can start to learn more about each other. A “coming together” if you will. Simon has been told by the Elders that in the future, the amount of First Nations people will climb and that there will be more Cree speakers and in Simon’s stories there are also Cree words. Simon finds when he teaches Cree to the general public that they enjoy this. As well when these students become older, they will have been exposed to a First Nations language which brings down the level of awkwardness between groups. His philosophy: “All Cultures have similarities and it is time to explore them.”

Storyteller Simon Moccasin has been acting, writing, directing and producing shows for the last five years. He has had movie and television roles in *The Velvet Devil*, *Moccasin Flats*, *The Englishman’s Boy* and *Renegade Press*. He is also a stand-up Comedian and has travelled Canada and Saskatchewan. Simon’s latest play *Bush Party* premiered at the Regina International Fringe Festival, Summer 2008. Simon recently returned from Toronto where he performed the role of Martin Drunkenchief in the play *A Very Polite Genocide*, written by Melanie J. Murray and produced by Native Earth Theatre. Simon is a drama artist with *Learning through the Arts* in Regina Public Schools. Simon wishes to send his most gracious thanks to your wonderful community for giving him the opportunity to tell the stories that he keeps. Last but not least, the stories do not have to be changed because they are all Parental Guidance (PG).

Note: Simon will be available to tour in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010. A study guide will be sent to each school that books **Simon Moccasin**.

**Cost:** \$510 + GST, (1 performance)  
\$560 for 2 performances (1 school) + GST  
\$25 annual membership fee + GST

**Suitability:** Grades 4-12  
**Show Length:** 45-55 minutes with 10 minutes of improv and 5-10 minutes Q & A  
**Audience Size:** no maximum

The Saskatchewan Junior Concert Society began in 1957 when music educator, Barbara Cass Beggs, saw the need for Saskatchewan students to have access to live performances by professional performing artists. She persuaded staff at the Regina Conservatory to do a vocal, piano, and orchestral performance for 300 Regina students. The success of that first concert led to a provincial tour and now, over 50 years later, the program continues to thrive. Every year over 26,000 Saskatchewan students, many of whom live in rural areas, enjoy music, dance, drumming, mime, theatre, storytelling, juggling, and puppetry performances. The Society amalgamated with the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils in 1994 and the school-touring program is now known as OSAC *Junior Concerts*. Each fall and spring, top caliber professional performing artists from Saskatchewan, Canada and beyond, are selected to tour for their artistic excellence and special ability to interact with and relate to student audiences. Study guides, with suggestions for pre- and post-concert discussion and activities, are sent to schools before each tour. Block booking helps to lower the fee per performance because travel expenses can be amortized over two or three weeks and because OSAC guarantees the number of shows. School centres pay a \$25 annual associate member fee if they book, and a \$10 fee is added to the price of each concert.

For 40 years, OSAC has nurtured the traditions of presenting excellence in the performing arts for adults, children and family audiences in various genres and disciplines. **OSAC** annually presents over 300 live community and school performances, attended by a total audience of approximately 75,000. This is possible because of a dedicated network of volunteers committed to making culture an integral part of Saskatchewan community life, and vital funding from **Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Arts Board, and Canadian Heritage**. **Saskatchewan Lotteries** benefits more than 12,000 sport, culture, and recreation organizations around the province. Each year 600,000 people participate in programs and from activities initiated by these organizations, over \$1 billion of economic activity is generated, and 23,000 jobs are sustained.

For additional information, please contact:  
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# OSAC Junior Concerts

## Simon Moccasin: Storyteller Performance Booking Questionnaire

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Box #: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

PC: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to book:

\_\_\_\_\_ show(s) of Simon Moccasin: Storyteller

for Fall, 2009 \_\_\_\_\_ or Spring, 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

### Location of Performance:

(include street address if not shown above)

Location of Performance: (include street address if not shown above)	Grades	# of Students Attending Performance
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please list all dates from September 14, 2009 to May 28, 2010 on which you **CANNOT** have a performance - e.g. exams, breaks, conventions, interviews, music festivals, field trips, etc. Requests for specific dates, such as kindergarten days, special school events, etc., will be considered but cannot always be accommodated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A.M. classes begin at \_\_\_\_\_ End at \_\_\_\_\_

P.M. classes begin at \_\_\_\_\_ End at \_\_\_\_\_

Will the performance be held in your school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, how much busing/walking time is needed? \_\_\_\_\_

If a P.M. performance, will they return to their school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Or be dismissed from yours? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper that serves your community \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your current MLA or constituency \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended economical, clean mote or bed and breakfast in your community.

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name

I hereby agree to book the above-note performance(s) for my school, and understand that OSAC will contract with the performer on my behalf. The date(s) assigned to my school will take into consideration the restrictions that I have listed. If these dates are not suitable because of an omission on my part, OSAC will endeavour to reschedule but cannot guarantee an alternate date. **Booking deadline for Fall performances is May 15, 2009 and for Spring performances is December 11, 2009.**

For additional information, please contact:

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OSAC, 1102 - 8th Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 1C9

Ph: 306-586-1258; Fax: 306-586-1550, E-mail: [marianne@osac.sk.ca](mailto:marianne@osac.sk.ca)

If you have not received booking confirmation by June 19, 2009 for a Fall performance and January 15, 2010 for a Spring performance, please contact OSAC to ensure that your request has been received. School packages will be mailed in mid-August, 2009 for Fall 2009 performances and mid-February, 2010 for Spring 2010 performances.