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## REVIEW OF “SING THE BRAVE SONG: THIS ISN’T OVER”

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**Dr. Mindy R. Carter** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University. Her areas of interest include teacher identity, teacher education, drama and theatre education, and curriculum theory. Her first book *The Teacher Monologues: Exploring the Identities of Artist-Teachers* was published by Sense in 2014. Recently Mindy received FRQSC's Établissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs funding (2015-2018) for her research entitled *Monologues d'enseignants: étudier les expériences d'enseignants en formation initiale du Québec envers des problématiques vécues par les autochtones*. She is the current President for the ARTS special interest group, an affiliate of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education and Secretary for the American Educational Research Association's Arts Based Educational Research (ABER) special interest group.

**Hala Mreiwed** is a PhD student, RA, and Course Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at McGill University. She is a recipient of the 2015 'P. Lantz Fellowship for Excellence in Education and the Arts and the FRQSC 2017–2018 *Bourse de doctorat en recherche*. Her research interests include child rights and drama education, children's media, impact of war-trauma on education, teacher education and community-building within classrooms.

**ABSTRACT:** This is a review of the world premiere of “Sing the brave song: This isn't over” This play, written and directed by Alayna Kolodziechuk, grapples with some of the issues and concerns related to taking up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action for education.

**KEYWORDS:** Art/Research reviews; Research-based theatre, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; Pre-service teachers

“Sing the brave song: This isn’t over” is a research-based play, written and directed by Alayna Kolodziechuk, that explores some of the lesser known current and historical experiences of Aboriginal peoples in Canada using video montages, residential school and newspaper first-hand accounts, pre-service teacher candidate interviews, and dance. “Sing the brave song: This isn’t over” was written as a part of an FRQSC research funded project exploring how drama and theatre can be used to help pre-service teachers learn and teach about Indigenous people’s experiences in Canada. The play debuted at Morrice Hall (Montréal, Québec) on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of 2017 for two sold out performances and included talk back sessions afterwards. Framed as “theatre as research” within a larger funded project, the play targeted difficult issues such as residential schools, the role of settlers in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action for education and missing and murdered Indigenous women.

***“This isn’t over” was written as a part of an FRQSC research funded project exploring how drama and theatre can be used to help pre-service teachers learn and teach about Indigenous people’s experiences in Canada.”***

It was on many accounts a deeply emotional and difficult experience for the audience who voiced both their surprise about not knowing about many of the historical and current topics explored and the need for this information to be shared more widely in Québec. The three women and one man who acted in this production were all McGill University students, graduates and/or staff including: Julianna Astorino, Julie Reckziegel, Asha Bittenbender, and Jesse Meredith. The actors were able to help shape the production along with the playwright/director through the questions that emerged about themes such as appropriation and embodiment, as settlers trying to find an appropriate and significant way to wrestle with the tensions and contradictions that emerged as non-Aboriginal performers.

As a part of the FROSC-funded project: "Exploring the experiences of pre-service teachers using drama education and research-based theatre to understand Aboriginal issues in Quebec, Canada" with Dr. Mindy R. Carter (McGill Department of Integrated Studies in Education) as Primary Investigator



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Research-based play  
**SING THE BRAVE SONG: THIS ISN'T OVER**  
Alayna Kolodziechuk

May 18 & 19 2017 | 1pm  
McGill University, Morrice Hall  
3485 rue McTavish

Playwright, Director: Alayna Kolodziechuk  
RA, Stage Manager: Hala Mreiwed  
Producer: Dr. Mindy R. Carter

+Talk Back sessions with audience, invited guests  
Doors at 12:30 pm | Curtain at 1pm

Free admission, please reserve tickets at: [hala.mreiwed@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:hala.mreiwed@mail.mcgill.ca)

 Faculty of Education | Department of Integrated Studies in Education

Figure 1. Poster advertising the performance of "Sing the brave song: This isn't over."

## REFERENCES

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Kolodziechuk, A. (2017). *Sing the brave song: This isn't over*. Montreal, QC. May 18 & 19, 2017. World Premiere (play).