

Fun Facts

Eagle Vision's founding partner, Lisa Meeches, is Anishinaabe from Long Plain First Nation, Sandy Bay First Nation, and Ebb and Flow First Nation.

Eagle Vision is the most prolific film and TV production company in Canada with Indigenous ownership.

Eagle Vision's first show was the preschool puppet show *Tipi Tales*, which won three Parents' Choice Awards (two Gold), and was the first Indigenous show on mainstream kids' TV.

DJ Burnt Bannock's creator/writer/director/star, Darcy Waite, was teased as a kid for being "The Russell," the goofy cousin on *Tipi Tales*.

Eagle Vision is built on mentorship. The careers of many diverse content creators have been supported by the Eagle Vision team. The partners are leaders in many local and national mentorship programs.

The biggest star to ever appear in an Eagle Vision show is probably Samuel L. Jackson, but we all fan girl/fan boy most over Buffy Sainte-Marie (and we're currently in production on a feature documentary about her life story).

Darcy wrote a scene where he eats ice cream out of the soft-serve machine based on an old joke with his dad – but we couldn't get an ice cream machine so he blasts whipped cream into his mouth instead. Maybe an ice cream machine for season two?

Our team goes into Indigenous ceremony on each project, and we are guided by elders and knowledge keepers in all that we do.

Eagle Vision is known for its work in factual drama, including the landmark residential schools feature *We Were Children* (which was #1 on iTunes docs last year), and the groundbreaking MMIWG themed series *Taken*.

Eagle Vision's first feature film *Capote* was nominated for five Oscars and won one!

Even though *DJ Burnt Bannock* is a comedy, Darcy wanted to tackle some deeper issues in subtle ways (which will unfold more throughout the seasons).

Sometimes we do big shows, like the CBC/CW/Netflix hit *Burden of Truth*, and the upcoming horror prequel *Orphan: First Kill*, but we made *DJ Burnt Bannock* with a small team including many stellar up-and-comers.

The Eagle Vision team was at the forefront of developing COVID-19 protocols for the film and television industry, locally and nationally.

Eagle Vision's #SacredMMIWG social action campaign reached 1/3 of all Canadians.

Diversity is Important to Us

Eagle Vision is a majority Indigenous-owned production company, but our team and our work reflect and honour all nations (which we were encouraged to do in ceremony). We are proud to have LGBTQ2S+ representation on our team. We are committed to diversity, gender parity, and inclusion in everything we do. Some people on our team live with disabilities. Some have mental health issues. Some are neurodivergent. It's important to us that we respect each team member's wants and needs to work in a safe, healthy, and accessible environment.

CAST BIOS

Darcy Waite

"Kevin", Series Creator, Writer

Darcy is the founder of Turtle Mountain Media and is one of Canada's fastest-rising producers and creators. Most recently he produced the soon-to-be-released film *Finality of Dusk* and hosted and wrote and directed on the new series *7TH GEN* for APTN. Darcy also hosts *That's AWSM!* and the upcoming *Bullseye*.

Darcy Long Bio

Darcy Waite, founder of Turtle Mountain Media, is one of Canada's fastest-rising producers and content creators and most recognizable Indigenous TV hosts, having hosted the series *That's AWSM*, and currently hosting the series *7TH GEN* and *Bullseye*. Darcy produced his first feature *Ruthless Souls* with the support of Telefilm's Talent to Watch Program. The award-winning film premiered at ImagineNATIVE and was featured at Berlinale. Darcy produced the award-winning CBC Short Docs film *Zaasaakwe* and the short *Lost Moccasin* for APTN, both of which played ImagineNATIVE. Darcy was also Associate Producer on the CBC Short Docs film *Fourth Period Burnout*. Darcy produced the web series *Colour of Scar Tissue*, which won the 2017 ImagineNATIVE Web Series Pitch Competition and premiered at ImagineNATIVE 2018 before airing on APTN Digital. Recently, Darcy won the ImagineNATIVE Film Festival's Rising Producer Award. Darcy's film *Case Number #####*, supported by the Winnipeg First Film Fund Grant, was an Official Selection of the California American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival and the Los Angeles Skins Festival where it was nominated for Best Narrative Short. In 2018 Darcy participated in the Whistler Film Festival's Indigenous Filmmaker Fellowship Program. Darcy is a graduate of the National Screen Institute Indigenous Documentary Program and New Voices Program and completed the CMPA Digital Skills Mentorship. He is currently

producing his second feature film *Finality of Dusk*. Darcy recently joined the Board of Directors of the CMPA and is the Co-Chair of the REDI Action Committee.

Paul Rabliauskas

“Allan”

Paul is one of Canada’s top stand-up comedians. He recently had his own Just For Laughs special, and has appeared on *The John Dore Show*, *The New Wave of Stand-Up*, *Homegrown Comics*, and in the film *The Pre-Drink*. Paul is about to star in a series he created for CTV Comedy called *Acting Good*.

Ivana Yellowback.

“Alice”

Ivana is a nehinaw/nihithaw (Muskego and High-Rock Cree) iskwew (woman) from Manto Sipi Cree Nation and Mathias Colomb Cree Nation (Pukatawagan). She is a sundancer, pipe carrier, buffalo dancer, wihtikokaan dancer, drum carrier, singer, and youth worker. She recently hosted the series *7TH GEN* in Cree and English

Joy Keeper

“Kookum”

Joy has been with *DJBB* since the beginning. She also stars as “Kookum” on the animated series *Wolf Joe*, and worked with Eagle Vision on the Parent’s Choice Award-winning preschool series *Tipi Tales*, and on the series *Burden of Truth*. Joy also starred in such films and TV series as *Stryker*, *Ruthless Souls*, *Cashing In*, and *Spirit Rider*.

Meegwun Fairbrother

“Officer Smith”, Co-Director (Episode 2)

Meegwun has starred in many television series and films, including *Burden of Truth*, *Mohawk Girls*, *Helix*, *Hemlock Grove*, *Haven*, *The Murdoch Mysteries*, *The Beaverton*, *Butterhead’s Guide to the Galaxy*, *Carter*, and the upcoming *Finality of Dusk*. He is also a devoted storyteller who is quickly building credits as a writer, director, and producer.

Sarah Luby

“Officer McVee”

Sarah Luby is a world-class musical theatre performer, which prepared her well for the physical comedy of *DJBB*. Credits include the TV movies *Let’s Meet Again on Christmas Eve*, and *No Time Like Christmas*, the series *Burden of Truth* and the upcoming *Skymed* and *Orphan: First Kill*. Sarah also works behind the scenes in film.

GeNie Baffoe

“Wesley”

GeNie is an accomplished actor, dancer, choreographer, and beloved dance teacher. His acting credits include *Ruthless Souls*, the recent action hit *Nobody*, the series *Edgar*, the TV movie *Crashing Through the Snow*, *Sweet Autumn*, and *New Year’s Resolution*. He recently did a stunt role in the film *Harland Manor*.

Olaoluwa Fayokun

“Bartender”, Co-Director (Episode 4)

Olaoluwa Fayokun has an extensive theatre background, and was also a writer/showrunner shadow on *DJBB*. Olaoluwa participated in a Creative Manitoba’s Mentorship, and began creating his own scripts and developing his skills as a writer, director, and producer. He can soon be seen in the upcoming series *The Porter*.

Vern Coot Bird

“DJ Dust Bunny”

DJ Dust Bunny is Vern Coot Bird’s first major role, though he has appeared in countless projects spanning many years as one of the most highly sought-after background performers in his community. Vern frequently works with his beautiful and talented wife Gwen, whom you can spot in the opening scenes of *DJ Burnt Bannock!*

Skye Pelletier

“Jerk Kid”

Skye Pelletier has starred in many films and series including *Colour of Scar Tissue*, *Indian Horse*, *The Pinkertons*, and *Burden of Truth*. He won a Best Actor Award in The 48 film competition at the Gimli Film Festival for his role in the film *Remotion*. And despite playing a jerk kid, Skye is the actual sweetest guy you could ever meet.

Maddox Fredrickson

“Little Kevin”

Maddox loves to act. His first role was in the recreations for the television series *Taken*, he first shared his tremendous talent and ability to take direction. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, and loves sports – swimming, Taekwondo, bike riding, and tennis. Maddox likes going to the movies and describes himself as a "gamer nerd."

Conway Kootenay

“Kevin’s Dad”

Conway (AKA Smudge Pan) is a comedian, MC, actor/stunt performer (including in the Oscar-winning film *The Revenant*, and the series *Outlander*) and champion Chicken Dancer. He has garnered national attention through his online sketch comedy series, with millions of views and thousands of followers.

Stephanie Sy

“Jaslana”, Co-Director (All Episodes)

Stephanie’s scope of performing experience spans from playing the lead in the musical *Beauty and the Beast*, to starring in the international web series *Nikola Tesla and the End of the World* (for which she won an ACTRA Award), and so much more. Branching into writing, directing, and producing, Stephanie just made her first film.

Billy Mitchell

“Conway”

Billy Mitchell lent his services in many capacities on *DJBB*, as a production assistant, and assistant locations manager. But when we were looking for the perfect actor to play Conway, he drew on the acting training he participated on as a kid to bring the house down in his audition, and on set. We couldn't have done *DJBB* without him.

Dinae Robinson

“Angry Mother”

Dinae is a proud Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) writer, director, actor, and advocate from Swan Lake First Nations, Manitoba on Treaty 1 Territory. She is currently writing her first feature film, supported by Telefilm, in addition to creating, running and developing several series for a variety of broadcasters on a variety of platforms.

Brock Couch

“Chef”

In real life, Brock does know his way around a kitchen as the managing owner of The Kin Drive-Inn in Stonewall, Manitoba. He also knows his way around comedy, having been trained at Second City, and having appeared in such films as the award-winning *Boy Toys*, *Pillows*, *Party Animal*, *Advanced Wizards and Warriors*, and *Bloody Mary*.

Joseph Foure

“Wayne”

Joseph came to Eagle Vision as an intern in the editing department before becoming an editor on the series *7TH GEN*. When given the opportunity to play the role of Wayne in *DJBB*, although Joseph had no prior professional experience in front of the camera, he brought a lifetime of personal experience and professionalism.

Nicole Loewen

“Hostess”

Nicole has dreamed of being a professional actor for many years but has been a devoted nurse including working with COVID patients in Ontario. When the opportunity to play the Hostess in *DJBB*, Nicole was already working as a COVID Supervisor on the show. The team is grateful that Nicole made us laugh, and kept us safe.

Jaz Sealey

“Male Dancer”

Jaz was in the original Broadway cast of the musical *Aladdin*, and has been a dancer in such films and TV shows as *Bomb Girls*, *Christmas Dance*, and *Everybody's Doing It* for MTV. He played Curio in Des McAnuff's film production of *Twelfth Night*, which also ran at the Stratford Festival, where he appeared in numerous productions.

Paul Essiembre

“Mayor Novack”

Paul has dozens of credits in film and television, including the Oscar-winning film *Good Will Hunting*, and lead roles in the animated series *The Silver Surfer* and *Rescue*

Heroes. Paul has worked frequently with Eagle Vision, including their films *Hard Way Girl*, *Sea Legs*, *Jack*, and the series *Burden of Truth*.

Chris Sigurdson

“Sophisticated Man”

Chris is a well-known character actor, having appeared in such films as *Fractured*, *Night Hunter*, *I Still See You*, *Sorry for Your Loss*, *Steel*, *The Journey Home*, *Perfect Sisters*, and *The Stone Angel*. TV credits include *Channel Zero*, *The Pinkertons*, *Burden of Truth*, and Chris has even puppeteered for *Tipi Tales* and *Curse of Chucky*.

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE TEAM

Lisa Meeches, CM, OM

Executive Producer

Lisa is one of the most respected producers in the film industry and is Anishinaabe from Long Plain First Nation, Sandy Bay First Nation, and Ebb and Flow First Nation. She created, produced and hosted *The Sharing Circle* for 16 seasons and recently co-created and hosted *Taken*.

Rebecca Gibson

Executive Producer, Showrunner, Director

Rebecca is an award-winning actor, writer, director, producer, and devoted mentor and advocate for equity, diversity, and accessibility. In addition to creating and running several shows, she leads development on many others, from comedy, to drama, to animation, with companies around the world.

Kyle Irving, OM

Executive Producer

Kyle has produced more than 230 hours of film and television content in 20 years, including the Oscar-winning film *Capote* and the hit series *Burden of Truth* (CBC, The CW, Netflix). Upcoming projects include *Orphan: First Kill*, and the series *Skymed*. With Lisa, he executive produced *We Were Children* and *Night Raiders*.

Hannah Johnson

Producer

Hannah is Eagle Vision's Head of Business Affairs, and a producer of the upcoming films *Diaspora* and *Finality of Dusk*, among many other shows. Her educational focus on intersectional social issues and human rights is something she applies to her career and all aspects of her life.

Cynthia Murdock

Producer

Cynthia is an Indigenous filmmaker who is a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation. She has championed *DJBB* from the beginning. She recently was head researcher and an associate producer on *7TH GEN* and is the lead producer on the development of a limited series based on Beatrice Mosionier's landmark book *April Raintree*.