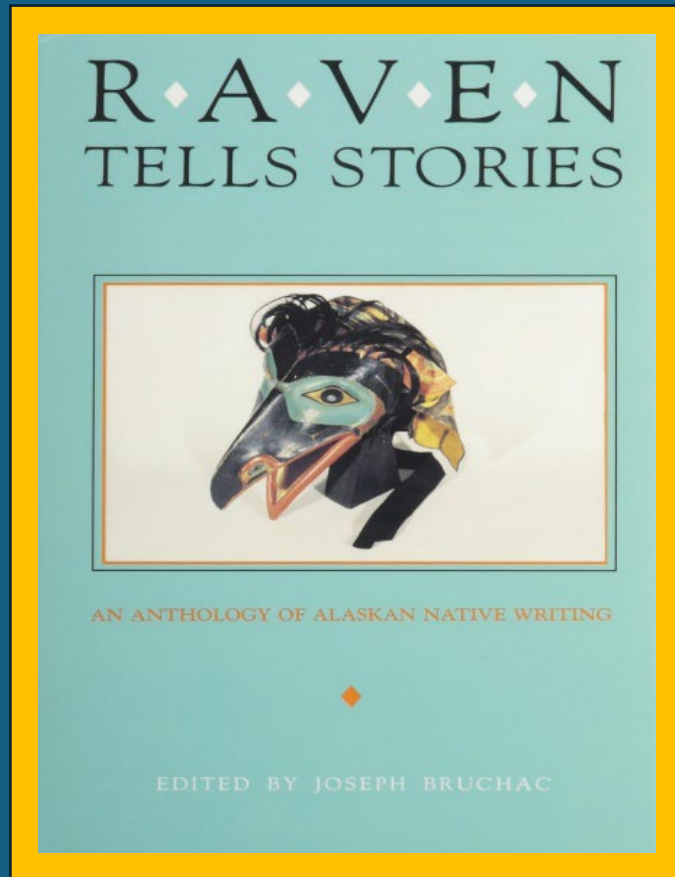


Sister Warrior

One-Act Play.

By Diane Lxeis' Benson.

This play is published in.



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by Diane Lxeis' Benson

Sister Warrior is a One-Act play. Billy is the primary Alaska Native character. The other primary character is Dora, a young white woman. Both young women are incarcerated. They are friendless and separated more by racial prejudice and ignorance of each other's culture.

Sister Warrior opened on March 5th, 1987, it was produced by Theatre Guild at the Red Ram in Anchorage, Alaska. (Benson p.3).

Other characters include Mrs. Reed, the Matron of the jail. She is the antagonist of the story. There is Tom Knight, a well-meaning police officer. Chicky is a friend of Billy and brings her news from the outside world. Last, there is Pastor White. He is a missionary and a secondary antagonist.

I have selected a scene that takes place between Billy and Pastor White. This conversation illustrates Billy's increasing anger and resentment toward white-Christian societal structures and life after colonialism.

Billy | *"In the church, we're not supposed to wear jewelry, is that right?"*

Brother White | *"That's right?"*

Billy | *"That means I can't wear this [grandmother's] necklace if I fixed it, could I?"*

Brother White | *"We take guidance from the scripture. It says in first Timothy that we are not to adorn ourselves."*

Diane Lxeis' Benson



Diane Lxeis' Benson on acting and her work in 'True Detective: Night Country'

By [Hannah Flor, KFSK - Petersburg](#)
March 1, 2024

alaskapublic.org/2024/03/01/lxeis-diane-benson-on-acting-and-her-work-in-true-detective-night-country/

Born October 17th, 1954, in Yakima, Washington. She grew up in Sitka, Ketchikan, and Petersburg, Alaska.

During her childhood, she attended boarding schools, lived in logging camps with her father, and in Sitka with her grandparents. Also, she has experienced homelessness and lived in foster care. Much of her success is directly tied to her non-traditional upbringing. Her story is a tale of resiliency and perseverance.

Culture & Ethnicity

- T'akadeintaan (Sea Tern crest of the Raven Moiety) and Tax' Hit (Snail House)
- Norwegian Ancestry on her paternal side.

Education

- Accepted at Stanford University.
- BA from UAA.

Work History

- First female tractor-trailer truck driver on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, 1975.
- Dog musher.
- Professor of Alaska Native Studies at the UAF University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- Artist in the Schools Residency Program, 1993.
- Board Member, FNA Executive Board.
- National Museum of the American Indian Consultant., 1991-92.
- Published Author.
- Actress, *White Fang* 1991, *True Detective* 2014, *Kusah Hakawaan* 1999, *True Detective* 2024, "For the Rights of All" PBS film about Elizabeth Peratrovich

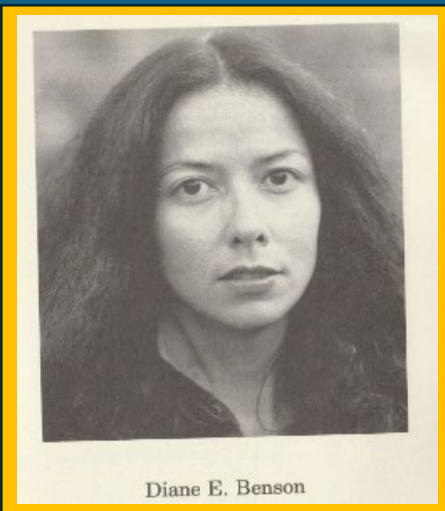
Awards, Accomplishments & Nominations

- Created the First Alaska Native contemporary performance arts theater in 1985; The Alaska Native Dance & Story Theatre.
- Founder of the Alaska Native performance and Film Commission in 1993.
- 2010 Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor of Alaska.

Discussion Questions & Journaling Activities.

1. Healing generational trauma is a difficult process, how would you mentor a younger version of yourself through the healing process? How would you heal that inner child?
2. In your own words, explain Billy's anger toward Pastor White. Are those reasons valid, why, or why not?
3. From Pastor White's perspective, he is trying to counsel as best as he can within the scope of his knowledge. Do you believe that his method is reasonable and why or why not?
4. **Journaling Activity:** Anger is a valid emotional response when facing trauma. We must go through the full process of anger, fear, and grief. In your own words, what are you most angry about concerning generational trauma? Were you able to process it? If so, what were the steps that you took to achieve post-traumatic growth and how long did it take you? If not, what are you still working on?
5. **Journaling Activity:** We cannot change the past. We cannot kill, deny, or ignore the parts of self that experienced trauma. During an emotionally traumatic and vulnerable point of your life, what were the things you needed most, and why? How would you mentor that part of self? Do you live with the ghosts of your past, or do you try to find a way to nurture, love, and live with them? If so, how do you do it and why? If not, why not, what is preventing you?
6. **Journaling Activity:** Choose 3-5 sections within the text to respond to. Write a response to those sections from the perspective of your angry younger self. Then, write a response from the perspective of your older self to guide that younger self through that anger and resentment. What would you teach them? How would you guide them through their anger? Do you still believe the same as you did? If so, why?

Billy | "Okay Indians, repent! Being Indian is evil! Isn't it Brother White? That's why missionaries go out into the world. To make people just like them. You. You came up here to Alaska, to do what? Save us heathens?"



Diane E. Benson

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