



Preeti Vasudevan, Clarice Assad, and Nina Sanders (Apsáalooke)

Voices of Women is a multimedia project rooted in storytelling through music, dance, and visual media, created by women, about women, and for everyone. VoW is the brainchild of South Asian American choreographer and cultural storyteller Preeti Vasudevan, in collaboration with Brazilian-American composer Clarice Assad, Apsáalooke (Crow) curator and cultural consultant Nina Sanders, and a black filmmaker* (in current discussion). The project presents universal themes of women's stories while also bringing unique and unheard female experiences to light through movement, music, performance, art and digital media.

Voices of Women performance brings the four women on stage to share their personal and cultural narratives both individually and weaving a tapestry between each other's stories to form a universal experience of women in America. The work is multidisciplinary with theater, dance, music and film brought on stage by the 4 protagonists as they meet each other and create a circle of women's stories through their own experiences, channeling their ancestors and inspiring the future generations. The project shares deep connection with land, culture sharing wit, humor, and resilience through changing life situations.

Women trace their identities as Americans along three paths that they or their ancestors have followed: Indigeneity, immigration, and African enslavement. Indigenous women are originally from North America. Their ancestors' presence predates the United States. African American women's ancestors were stolen from their own land and forced to live in America, often under brutal circumstances. In the past as well as today, immigrant women arrived on this land under diverse circumstances to carve out new identities as American women.

These three pathways are both timeless and time-bound, demonstrating ways that these women incorporate their own personal journeys and the steps of their ancestors into defining a uniquely American life and culture. Furthermore, complete with the range of human emotions and experiences, Voices of Women forms the foundation of an unbroken and often invisible narrative of the lives of women worldwide.



Artwork by Nina Sanders, Crow Country

Duration: 60-75 minutes

Timeline: 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons

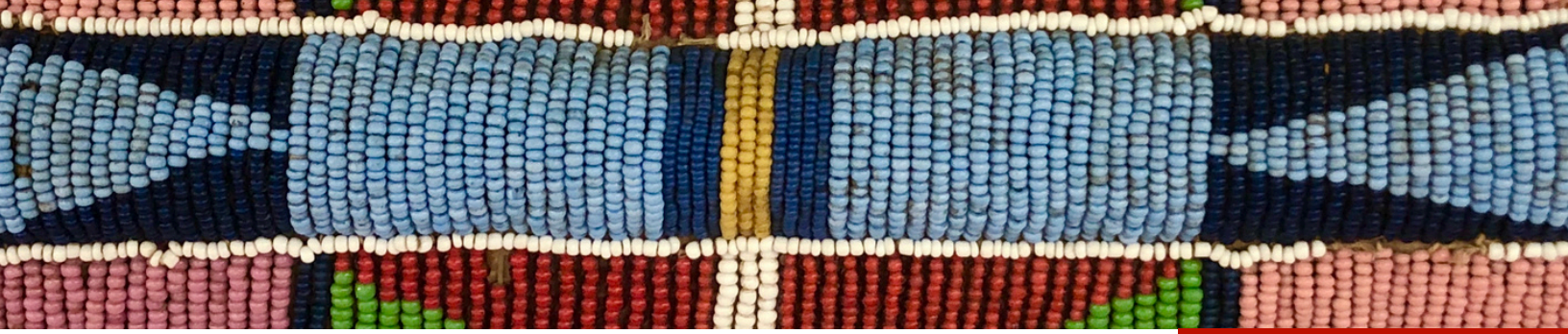
Music Composition: Recorded

There is customization available in this project for co-commissioners to be able to include voices of indigenous women that belong to tribes in commissioners' specific regions.

Outreach:

Voices of Women will also be developing educational components based on the digitizing and filming of stories narrated by storytellers.

Outreach and education is tailored for college level students (and faculty) to introduce the various aspects of this project. The main 4 collaborators can offer residencies and master classes. These include working with departments as dance, theater, music, visual arts, film, women and gender studies, cultural and anthropology, education, Native American studies etc). Students will be able to work in a multidisciplinary manner to foster deep exchanges and learning between each other. Each specialization will be further broken down into various components depending on the focus of each department (for example, in the dance department we can offer as range as: cultural techniques and vocabulary in dance techniques, composition and choreography, Indian classical dance techniques and storytelling etc). Cross departmental discussion and collaborations will be encouraged in both practice based and scholarship learning. Complete with the range of human emotions and experiences, Voices of Women forms the foundation of an unbroken and often invisible narrative of the lives of women worldwide.



Artwork by Nina Sanders, Crow Country

Empowering the Next Generation: Voices of Women Educational Series

The Voices of Women educational series empowers college students and faculty through dynamic master classes, residencies, and repertoire exploration. Led by our three core collaborators, these immersive experiences span diverse disciplines—dance, theater, music, visual arts, film, and more—inviting students to engage in multidisciplinary learning and creative exchange.

Within each field, we offer specialized training. For instance, dance students can delve into cultural techniques, choreography, and composition. By embracing the full spectrum of human emotions and experiences, the Voices of Women series sparks profound learning, self-reflection, and creative expression.

Residencies: Ignite Interdisciplinary Exploration

Dance, Movement & Theater:

Renowned choreographer Preeti Vasudevan offers master classes and workshops in Indian classical dance, original choreography for stage and film, and storytelling through theater and gesture. Preeti's expertise in Laban Movement Analysis enriches her teaching, and she will also set a captivating repertoire work on dance students.

Indigenous Studies, Storytelling & Artwork:

Esteemed storyteller and educator Nina Sanders guides students through the world of Indigenous storytelling, focusing on powerful female narratives. The class incorporates Crow language instruction, cultural history of the Apsaalooke (Crow) people, and contemporary creative expressions. Nina connects students with the wisdom of intergenerational female storytellers and their relevance today.



Music Composition & Repertoire:

Celebrated composer Clarice Assad leads workshops in composition, exploring the works of influential female composers and the impact of intercultural influences on creative expression. Clarice will also collaborate with student musicians to set a repertoire work, providing invaluable hands-on experience.

Participating Departments:

- Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Theater)
- Women's and Gender Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Communications
- Visual Arts
- Language Studies
- Indigenous/Native American Studies
- Film and Media Studies

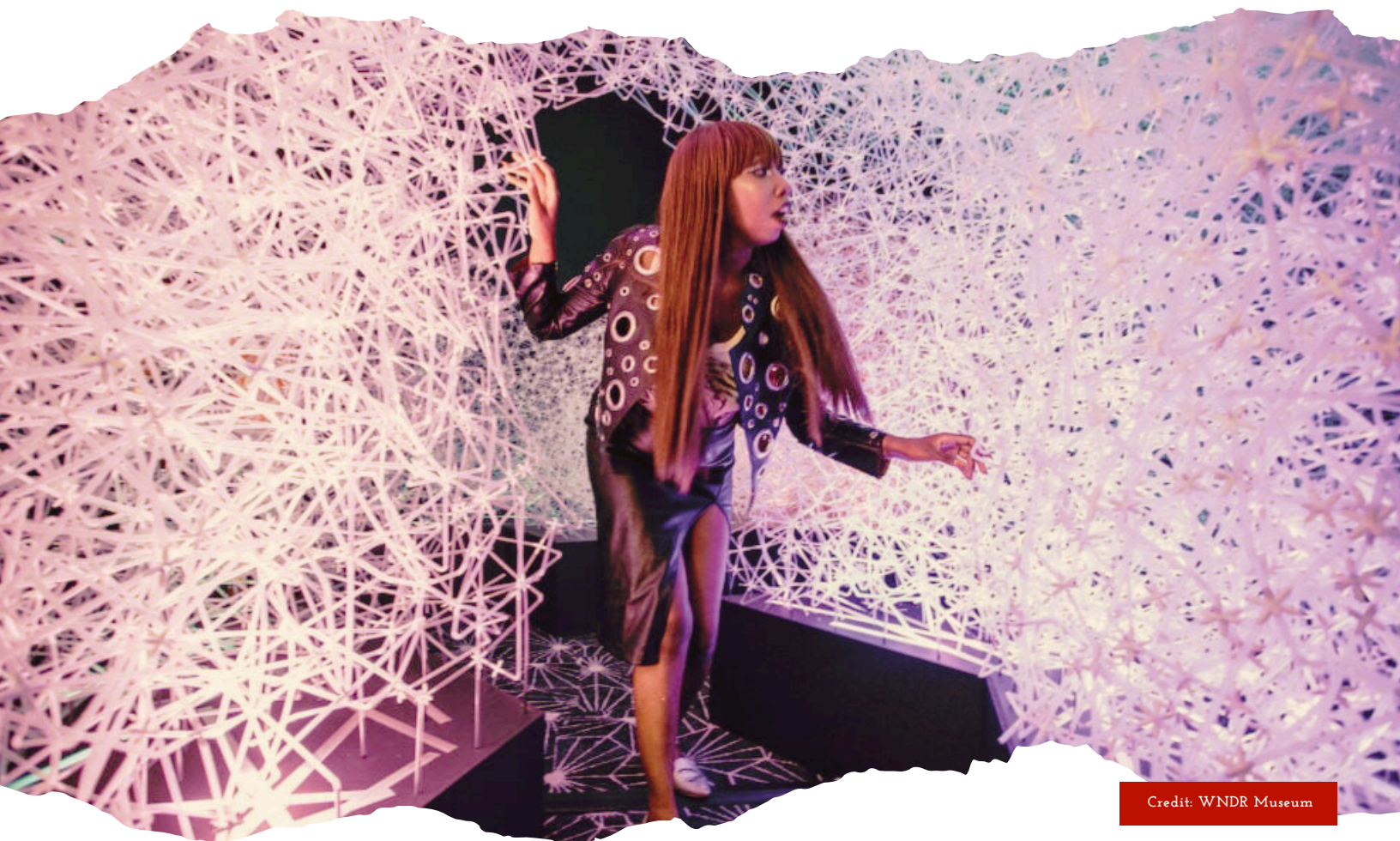


VOICES OF WOMEN IMMERSIVE

WOMEN-LED | FOR EVERYONE

Imagine entering a period of time and space where you engage with intimate stories: stories that tell you about the land, about families, about cultures, and about our universal connection to the fabric of change...Change through a woman's perspective.

Voices of Women Immersive is a digital experience that takes the audience through a specially curated journey, following American women through time in their environment. VoW immersive is the brainchild of Preeti Vasudevan, Artistic Director of Thresh Arts Impact alongside award-winning composer Clarice Assad, curator and storyteller Nina Sanders, Apsáalooke (Crow) and a black filmmaker. Filmed specially for the immersive and digital space, VoW immersive is a landscape of unheard and personal stories of women - representing key areas of Indigeneity, immigration, and African enslavement - taking the audiences through the emotional journeys of these women who have built the narrative of this country.

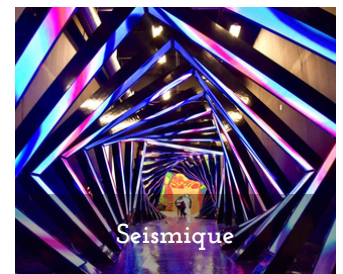


Credit: WNDR Museum

VoW immersive is a curatorial marvel, featuring interdisciplinary arts (dance, theater, music, visual and digital) in a project filmed and projected throughout a specially designed space, playing with scale and dimensions from floor to ceiling of moving projections, with original music and sound from the various cultural histories of the women. VoW immersive is a project created by women, about women that highlights the importance of the role of women in the narrative of America, sharing expressions of resilience and hope through their unexpected journey as ever-evolving to allow for present and future realities.

Voices of Women brings personal female stories to life, affirming individual and collective identity by forming a synthesis between their ancestral roots and their contemporary lives as creative forces in today's America. Voices of Women brings personal female stories to life, affirming individual and collective identity by forming a synthesis between their ancestral roots and their contemporary lives as creative forces in today's America. Furthermore, complete with the range of human emotions and experiences, Voices of Women forms the foundation of an unbroken and often invisible universal narrative of the lives of women worldwide.

Some early design explorations and discussions (inspired by various recent exhibitions):



Core Team



Preeti Vasudevan, Choreographer and Producer

Award-winning choreographer and cultural storyteller Preeti Vasudevan's provocative theatrical works redefine individual identity, uniting artists and audiences alike. Her creations have been lauded as a refreshing collision of eastern and western aesthetics pushing for a new expression in art-making. Using just about every mode of the performing arts (including dance, music, poetry, visual art, mime, and theater), Preeti invites cutting-edge collaborators to form a 21st-century language of expression. Her unconventional storytelling challenges the status quo of dance-theater, bridging ancient traditions with the contemporary world. More on [Preeti](#).



Clarice Assad, Composer

A powerful communicator renowned for her musical scope and versatility, Brazilian-American Clarice Assad is a significant artistic voice in the classical, world music, pop, and jazz genres. The Grammy Award-nominated composer, celebrated pianist, inventive vocalist, and educator is acclaimed for her evocative colors, rich textures, and diverse stylistic range. With her talent sought-after by artists and organizations worldwide, the polyglot musician continues to attract new audiences both onstage and off. Clarice Assad's 2022–2023 season includes commissions by the Camerata Pacifica, Music Accord, the League of American Orchestras, the Oregon Symphony, and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. More on [Clarice](#).



Nina Sanders (Apsáalooke), Artist

Nina Sanders (Apsáalooke), is a scholar, curator, editor, and Apsáalooke matriarch. Her work in museums is founded in historic collections of archives, art, belongings, and sacred objects from her own community. She concerns herself with building education around these items and their histories through the implementation of Indigenous people and methodologies. Over the years her work has expanded to include the curation of contemporary and historic art and objects. Collaborative exhibitions and publications. She has done work for institutions such as the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the Field Museum in Chicago, and the School for Advanced Research. Nina is grounded by her children, family, animals, and art. She resides in Crow Country at Medicine Tail Coulee with her sons and their Blue Heeler. More on [Nina](#).



Mary Serbe, Education & Learning

Mary Serbe is a certified art educator with an MAT from the Art Institute of Chicago who has taught in schools, museums, and arts organizations with students from preschool age to adulthood. For four years, she was Education Director at the Yellowstone Art Museum, overseeing all aspects of education and learning including partnerships, classes, tours, docents, a dedicated gallery to art of young people, and all online learning and engagement. Currently, she is curator and co-proprietor of Kirks' Grocery, an alternative art gallery, performance venue and gathering space where she also teaches and manages educational programming. At Montana State University Billings, Mary teaches Fundamentals of 2D Design. Mary Serbe has had the privilege of being part of the Advisory Board for the First Voices project since 2020. She currently serves in that capacity in addition to writing grants and developing educational resources for *First Voices*.

*We are currently in discussions with a black filmmaker to join our creative team.