

PALABRA FLAMENCO presents

# Fox Woman

Artistic Director Denise Yeo

Producer Garth Martens

When a mysterious and powerful fox woman appears unexpectedly in his hut, a lonely hunter is forced to choose between the wild and the tamed. Their relationship grows. How to accommodate one another? What do we risk when we accommodate too much? And if violence emerges, do we recognize it? Do we leave? Before the West cultivated hatred of the wild, before today's ecological crisis, there was a love affair.

Flamenco dancer and storyteller **Denise Yeo** retells this Siberian myth accompanied by her husband, accomplished flamenco guitarist **Gareth Owen**. With an array of evocative, traditional flamenco dances, **Yeo** embodies **Fox Woman** and the **Hunter** through hypnotic and improvised movement and rhythm, drenched with the darkest impulses.

Flamenco has its origins around the hearth fire. Known for its contrast of incendiary emotion and control, percussive rhythms, and expansive representations of womanhood that include strength, resiliency, playfulness, mockery, empowerment, and pride, it is uniquely equipped for this story. This is joy tall as the flame, joy with ash in its teeth: to hold death near and honour what we've lost.

## SYNOPSIS

Once there was a lonely hunter. Upon returning to his hut one day, he sees smoke coming from the chimney. Inside, he finds a warm fire, a hot meal on the table, his clothes washed and dried, a fox pelt hanging from a hook, and a woman with long red hair and green eyes stirring a pot of stew. He understands this is 'fox-woman-dreaming' — that she has walked from another world into his. She says firmly, "I will be the woman of this hut."

They make love. The edges of the hut, the edges of the forest and the stars, become intertwined. Many days pass like this.

Soon Fox Woman's pelt gives off a pungent, wild smell. The Hunter tries to ignore it, but the smell is in his pillow, his clothes and hunting gear, even in his mind. He gently asks Fox Woman if she will consider getting rid of the pelt. She says nothing.

The scent grows stronger, wilder, until at last the Hunter makes a decision that will change their lives forever.

Fox Woman tells a story about our relationship with the wild — in ourselves and others — and our emerging ecological crisis. It's also a story that empowers us, in our human relationships, to leave situations that are not safe.