



Meet Montana Summers

Wolf clan, 25 years young

Welcome to a new section in our Oliwase where we will be featuring Oneida community members. In this community profile, we'd like to introduce Montana Summers. He has been working in theatre and dance professionally for 7 years.

Can you tell us about your family history at Oneida?

I was raised most of my life living on the Oneida reserve, growing up living with my mother, siblings and grandparents. I went to Standing Stone Elementary. My Aknulha is Victoria and works in the community taking care of our Elders in the health field. Both my grandparents are well known in the community. My Aksotha Joanne is a clan mother for the wolves and my Laksotha Claude has been the mail man for the community for many years.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment so far is in the field of performance. I began training in dance while I was at H.B. Beal Secondary School, where they have a great arts program. Several opportunities were presented to me before I was able to graduate to pursue my dance career professionally, and I have since chosen to do so. I have been working in theatre now for over 7 years professionally and I'm now at the point of my career where I'm focusing on developing my own shows and projects. Just this year I was able to go to The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta to work on my project, "Conditions to Strike", which is based on the Onkwehon: We tale of the Thunder Boy.

What is your greatest memory you have of the community here at Oneida?

My favourite memories of the community would have to be the summer camps at the Oneida community centre or the Longhouse or the fun fall fairs at the fairgrounds. Those were really special times that I like to look back on.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

I still see myself living at Oneida, hopefully running my own dance studio and company to help serve the community.

In seven generations' time, what would you say to the community?

I would encourage the next seventh generation to be open to possibilities. The future could be limitless for our Oneida community if we support our youth to follow their dreams and allow them freedom to express themselves individually.