



**CREATIVE ARTS  
AND DESIGN**

## **Waawaate Fobister**

**Theatre Arts Performance, 2005**

**Actor, Dancer, Choreographer, Playwright, Producer**

Growing up in Grassy Narrows First nation, Waawaate's father and grandfather were storytellers in the indigenous oral tradition. Although Fobister always understood that he was to carry on this tradition, his life changed when he saw *The Rez Sisters* by Aboriginal playwright Tomson Highway. A 15-year-old at the time, Fobister was inspired to become a playwright and actor. Shortly after graduating from Humber he wrote his first play, *Agokwe*, which premiered in Toronto in 2008, and in 2009, won six Dora awards including outstanding new play and outstanding performance by a male in a principal role. *Agokwe* is a powerful story of love and loss based on the infatuation of two Aboriginal teenage boys. Partly autobiographical, the play speaks to the idea of a "two-spirited" person, a male and a female spirit entwined in one body, once an accepted part of indigenous culture but now lost through assimilation.