



History At Play™, LLC Journeys to the Founding of Chicago:

VOYAGEURS: Indigenous People, the Fur Trade, and Early Chicago

**A Solo Performance Featuring Historical Interpreter Jon F. Rice as
French Canadian Fur Trader and Voyageur, Francois Le Mai**

[History At Play™, LLC](#) (HAP), has garnered nationwide acclaim for their Immersive Living History Experiences, chronicling the lives of legendary trailblazers who changed society. In ***VOYAGEURS: Indigenous People, the Fur Trade, and Early Chicago***, HAP Troupe Member and Living Historian Jon F. Rice introduces audiences to French Canadian fur trader and voyageur, Francois Le Mai, as he and his friend Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable arrive by canoe to early Chicago. Although nothing more than a little swamp filled with wild garlic and a muddy river running through it, businessman DuSable grasps the importance of that stream: "It's location, my friend!" Through music, song, and dance, we learn of the Meti-society (Creole culture) of Chicago, and why DuSable, a fur trader of African descent and the "Father of Chicago", abandoned his dream. *Indigenous People, the Fur Trade, and Early Chicago* is produced by HAP.



Jon Francois Rice is a Chicago-based tri-racial historian, performer, researcher, and interpreter. Rice obtained a PhD in American History from Northern Illinois University. He is a retired Professor of African American History at Northern Illinois University and taught Native American History at UMass/Boston. Rice has performed for the Chicago Historical Society; as an interpreter for The Freedom Trail Foundation in Boston; and as a Wampanoag elder at the Wampanoag Homesite, at Plimoth Patuxet (formerly Plimoth Plantation). Rice, who descends from the Choctaw Heritage, delves into the lives and eras of his portrayals to create dialogues that encompass the time in which they lived.

HAP was founded in 2010 by Artistic Director Judith Kalaora in order to create Immersive Living History Experiences and to chronicle the lives of influential and often forgotten figures. Kalaora is a professional educator, award-winning playwright, and living historian. She graduated Magna cum Laude from Syracuse University and completed the Globe Education Program at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre of London, England.

Josh Lederman, *NBC News* Political Correspondent, attests: "*History At Play* connects the dots between the characters that made up our past and the events they shaped that still influence our lives."

[History At Play™, LLC](#) (HAP) has garnered international applause for their solo and ensemble Immersive Living History Experiences, chronicling the lives of influential and often forgotten figures. Since 2010, the HAP Troupe has brought the legacies of historical figures to life in museums, libraries, universities, historical societies, senior living communities, and schools across the United States. *History At Play™, LLC* is now available for booking both virtual events as well as traditional live theatrical performances. Visit HistoryAtPlay.com to learn more and email info@HistoryAtPlay.com, or call +1.617.752.2859 for booking inquiries.