

“Stone” Serious Subject Matter

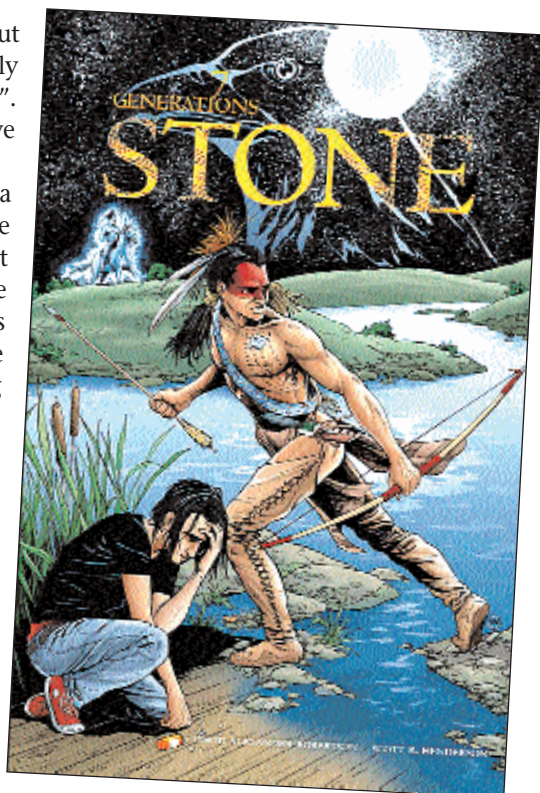
- GRN staff

Stone looks like a comic book but author David Robertson more accurately describes his work as a “graphic novel”. Graphic both as in vividly descriptive and pertaining to the use of drawings.

Stone introduces Edwin. He is a young, lost Aboriginal man, whose concerned mother realizes he must learn his family’s past if he is to have any future. She tells him about his ancestor Stone, a young Plains Cree man who came of age at the beginning of the 19th Century. Following a vision quest, Stone aspires to be like his older brother, Bear, a member of the Warrior Society. But when Bear is tragically killed during a Blackfoot raid, Stone, the best shot and rider in his encampment, must overcome his grief and avenge his brother’s death. Only then can he begin a new life with his bride Nahoway. It is Stone’s story that drives Edwin to embark on his own quest.

He must start by dealing with a grave matter which plagues First Nations youth; suicide. By drawing connections with the proud culture and history of Cree nation, Robertson is connecting with youth and the sense of identity which is so essential to life and purpose.

David Robertson was raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He received his BA in English from the University of Winnipeg. His realization that education could combat racism and sexism inspired him to write the graphic novel *The Life of Helen Betty Osborne*, published in 2008. David lives in Winnipeg with his wife and children, and works in the field of Aboriginal employment.



Cover art from the graphic novel *Storm*

David worked with artist Scott Henderson, illustrator of *7 Generations*, a graduate of the University of Manitoba’s School of Fine Arts. Scott’s many projects include work as a colourist and illustrator for comics, portraiture, advertising art, and most recently two WWII web comics. Scott is also the author and illustrator of the sci-fi/fantasy comic *The Books of Era*.

Stone is available through Portage and Main Press and at all book stores. ▲

Métis language to take centre stage at Le Cercle Molière

- Winnipeg Free Press - By Arielle Godbout

The closing play for next season at Le Cercle Molière theatre is already creating buzz — partly due to the fact the dialogue will be in French Michif, a dialect of Manitoba’s Métis.

It’s a first for the St. Boniface theatre company, which will premiere the new play next April.

“That is my understanding, that they’ve never focused on this language the way this play does,” said the La Salle-based playwright, Rhéal Cenerini.

The play — *Li Rvenant* — takes place in a fictional Manitoba community of

Métis fishermen.

The main character returns to his village after being exiled with a mission, Cenerini said.

Because of the setting, he said, it only made sense to write the dialogue in French Michif.

“The Metis language, if we could use that phrase, is a very diverse thing,” Cenerini explained, who is not Metis himself.

Some dialects more closely resemble their aboriginal language roots, while French Michif has more in common with its European side....

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