



**GOVERNOR GENERAL'S  
PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION  
FONDATION DES PRIX DU GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL  
POUR LES ARTS DU SPECTACLE**

**Alanis Obomsawin**

2019 Mentorship Program Mentor

Alanis Obomsawin (GGPAA 2008), a member of the Abenaki Nation, is one of Canada's most distinguished documentary filmmakers, a passionate advocate for education and social justice, and a proud defender of Indigenous culture. As a writer, director and producer, she has created a legacy of groundbreaking films that capture complex human stories. Her work both celebrates the rich heritage of her people, and sheds light on the injustices and conflicts faced by Indigenous communities today.

Ms. Obomsawin (her surname means "pathfinder") was born in New Hampshire in 1932, on Waban-Aki Territory, and grew up on the Odanak Reserve in Quebec. An accomplished singer/storyteller and visual artist, she began her long affiliation with the National Film Board of Canada in 1967. She wrote and directed her first documentary, *Christmas at Moose Factory*, in 1971. Her 50<sup>th</sup> and most recent film, *Our People Will Be Healed*, was released in 2017.

Alanis Obomsawin is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Grand Officer of the National Order of Quebec, and was inducted into the Playback Canadian Film & Television Hall of Fame in 2010. Her other accolades include the National Aboriginal Award, Prix Albert-Tessier, Canadian Screen Awards' Humanitarian Award, more than 30 Canadian and international film awards, and honorary doctorates from over a dozen Canadian universities.

