

Read. Return. Repeat.

A ReadICT Podcast

Show Notes

Season 4 Episode 3:

Skoden! featuring Tommy Orange

May 3rd, 2024



In this episode

Sara and Daniel interview Tommy Orange, author of *There There* and *Wandering Stars* to talk about urban native representation, why it's important to read books by and about people different from you and how much they love the Reservation Dogs soundtrack as they dig into ReadICT Category 12: A book by an indigenous author.



About Tommy Orange

Tommy Orange is the author of the bestselling novels *There There* (2018) and *Wandering Stars* (2024). His debut novel, *There There*, was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize and received the 2019 American Book Award. Tommy is also a 2014 MacDowell Fellow and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow, as well as a graduate from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and was born and raised in Oakland, California. He now lives in Angels Camp, California, with his wife and son.

More about Tommy Orange

[Penguin Random House Speakers Bureau Bio](#)

[Tommy Orange Wikipedia Page](#)

Books by Tommy Orange

There There (2018)

Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology (contributor; 2023)

Fourteen Days (contributor; 2023)

Wandering Stars (2024)

A Cage Went In Search of a Bird: Ten Kafkaesque Stories (contributor; coming June 2024)

Books/Authors mentioned in this episode

The Education of Little Tree by Forrest Carter (aka Asa Earl Carter)

Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty

Fire Exit by Morgan Talty (coming June 2024)

Louise Erdrich's novels (A list of her books can be found at [Fantastic Fiction](#))

Calling for a Blanket Dance by Oscar Hokeah

[Poet Natalie Diaz](#) (Author of *Postcolonial Love Poem*)

Swim Home to the Vanished by Brendan Shay Basham

Moon of the Turning Leaves by Waubgeshig Rice (sequel to his novel *Moon of the Crusted Snow*)

The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History (The Henry Roe Cloud Series on American Indians and Modernity) by Ned Blackhawk

Musicians, films and filmmakers mentioned in this episode

[Reservation Dogs \(Television Series\)](#)

[The Exiles \(1961 film\)](#)

[Sugarcane \(documentary film\) directed by Julian Brave Noisecat](#)

[Samantha Crain \(musician\)](#)

[Ryan Redcorn \(filmmaker, photographer and screenwriter\)](#)

[Love and Fury \(documentary film\) by Sterlin Harjo](#)

[Micah P. Hinson \(musician\)](#)

[Vincent Neil Emerson \(musician\)](#)

[Mato Wayuhi \(musician\)](#)

[Lil Mike and Funny Bone \(musical duo\)](#)

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- Daniel shares some Native slang 1:05
- Tommy discusses using multiple POV in *There There* 4:00
- How urban Natives stay connected to their culture 5:27
- The 3-d printed gun in *There There* 7:48
- Erasure of Native American history 10:30
- Visibility of urban Natives in literature 13:15
- *Wandering Stars* 16:02
- Assimilation in *Wandering Stars* and *There There* 17:05
- How Tommy approaches historical research when writing 21:10
- Creating context for non-Native readers 22:16
- Approach to storytelling 25:01
- Native representation in media past vs. present 32:00
- Native authors today 36:07
- Annoying misconceptions about Natives 40:41
- Native musicians, filmmakers and more to check out 44:07
- Tommy's book/author recommendations 47:39

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

- [Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma](#)
- [Associated Press: Supreme Court will take up the legal fight over ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers \(April 22, 2024\)](#)
- [Urban Native Collective: Be an Indigenous Ally](#)
- [PBS.org: Native American History: Documentaries on American Indian Boarding Schools and Forced Adoptions \(November 15, 2023\)](#)
- [National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institute: Celebrating Native Cultures Through Words: Storytelling and Oral Traditions](#)
- [Storycenter.org](#)
- [NPR's All Things Considered: The Artful Reinvention of Klansman Asa Earl Carter \(April 20, 2012\)](#)

[Link to episode transcript](#)

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