

Jesse Bowman Bruchac is a Nulhegan Abenaki Citizen. As one of the last fluent speakers of Western Abenaki, he works vigorously to revitalize the language and many other related Eastern Algonquian languages, a family of languages that include dialects once spoken by Pocahontas and Squanto. He works as co-director of his family run education center Ndakinna, where he teaches Native American Life Ways and the Abenaki language. His efforts in language revitalization have led to his creation of a free website WesternAbenaki.com. He has also hosted and facilitated free immersion camps for over two decades with the Abenaki, Mohegan, Penobscot, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy. He created the popular Western Abenaki YouTube Channel, and helps facilitate an Abenaki language Facebook Group with nearly 1,000 members. He has written and published bilingual books, several recordings, and reprinted essential historic works in the Abenaki language.

He has lectured and taught at major universities including Yale, Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, and visited hundreds of primary schools and tribal communities.

In film and television he acted as a consultant and translator for the AMC show *TURN* (2014), and *When All the Leaves Are Gone* a film by Alanis Obomsawin, and as translator, Dialog Coach, and composer for the National Geographic movie *Saints & Strangers* (2015), and for three seasons of the PBS, NBC/Universal miniseries *Jamestown* (2016-present).

As a musician and traditional storyteller he has performed at major festivals around the world. Opening for such notable acts as The Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, and Woodstock '94. He won Best Storyteller Competition at Indian Summer in Milwaukee in 1995. In 1996 he toured Europe as a member of the Abenaki Drum from the Odanak reservation in Quebec. He worked as composer and performer for the operetta *The Purchase of Manhattan* by Brent Michael Davids. He has also composed music for several motion picture sound tracks including *Saints and Strangers* and *Jamestown*.

Jesse began learning the Abenaki language, songs and stories as a child from his father Joseph Bruchac. As a boy he first heard the language spoken fluently by the Abenaki elders his father would visit while learning traditional Abenaki stories. He began studying the language in earnest at the age of 20 from Cecile Wawanolette in 1992. He studied with her, and dozens of other speakers at the Abenaki reservation of Odanak, Quebec for over a decade. He has continued to learn and teach the language with Cecile's son Joseph Elie Joubert.

In the fall of 2018 he will be co-teaching a course in Wabanaki languages alongside renowned Eastern Algonquin linguist Conor Quinn at USM.