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Indigenous Screen Culture

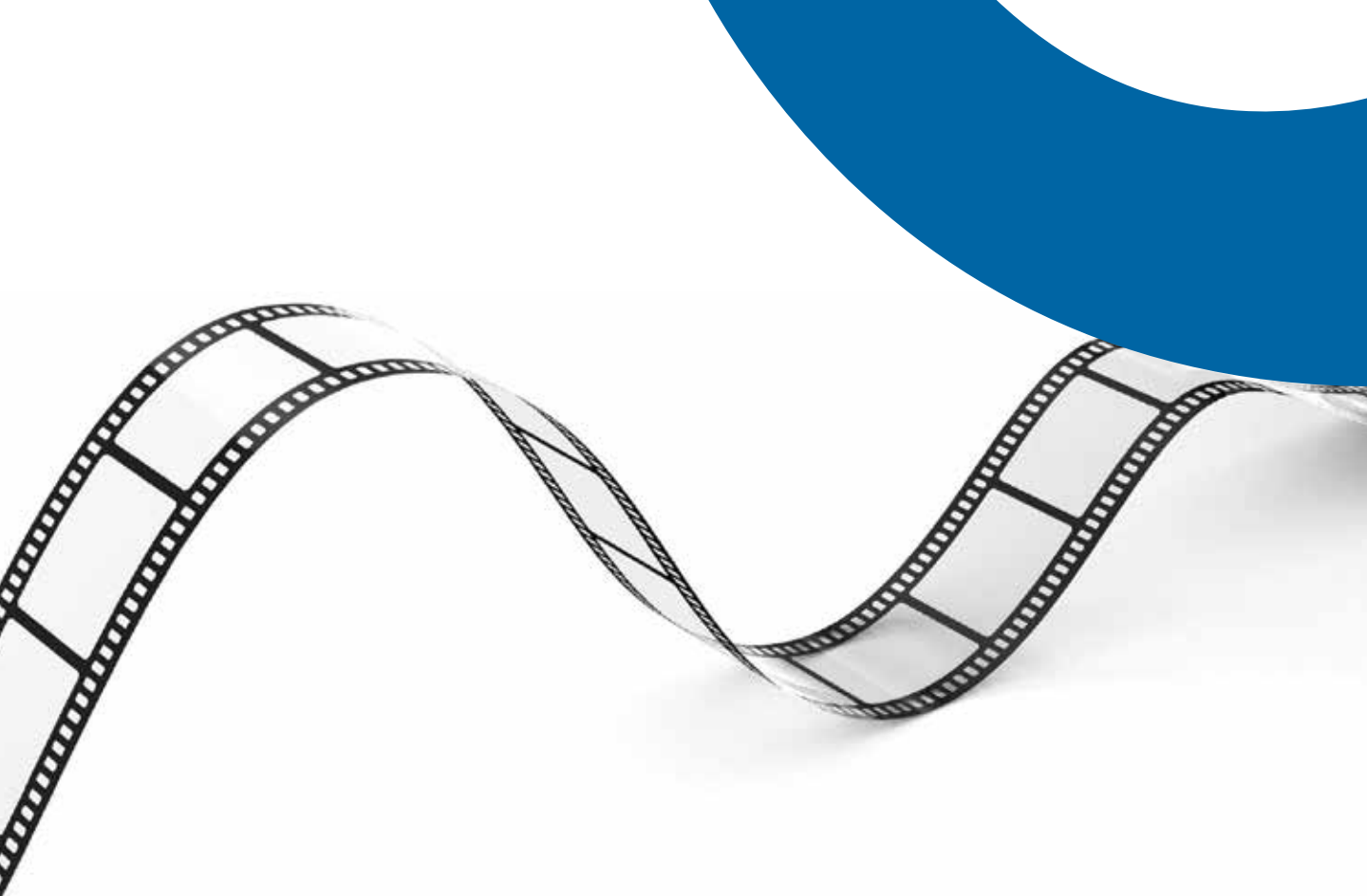
imagineNATIVE
Original. Indigenous

October 18 - 22, 2017

18th imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival

Film. Video. Audio. Digital Media.

#IN18 imagineNATIVE.org



Proud Presenting Sponsor
of the ImagineNATIVE
Film + Media Arts Festival

Celebrating outstanding Indigenous
filmmakers and media artists.

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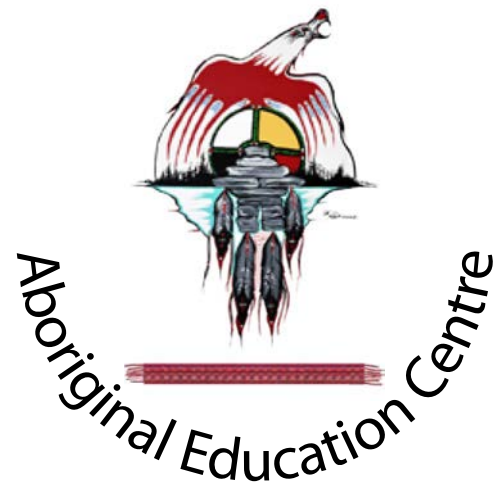
Proud to be a Sponsor of the

**18th Annual imagineNATIVE
Film + Media Arts Festival**

aptn.ca

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network
Réseau de télévision des peuples autochtones





About Us

The TDSB Aboriginal Education Centre offers a wide variety of services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and their families. We are committed to ensuring Aboriginal students throughout the TDSB are well supported in their education and in their personal lives.

We strive to create more inclusive learning environments that enrich the education of all students by promoting the infusion of Aboriginal perspectives and by providing support and guidance to staff who work with Aboriginal students.

TDSB Aboriginal Education Centre

16 Phin Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4J 3T2. 416-393-9600

www.tdsb.on.ca/AboriginalEducation



Proud to support the
imagineNATIVE Film + Media
Arts Festival.

We are working together with
imagineNATIVE to make a
difference in our communities.



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Proud Supporters of
Imaginative Film and Music Festival and
the launch of Bullseye Music Contest

iN  BULLSEYE

imagineNATIVE's search contest for
emerging Indigenous music talent

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Declaration
of Indigenous Cinema

WE, THE INDIGENOUS SCREEN STORYTELLERS,
UNITED IN THIS NORTHERN CORNER OF OUR MOTHER THE EARTH
IN A GREAT ASSEMBLY OF WISDOM DECLARE TO ALL NATIONS

WE GLORY IN OUR PAST,

- when our earth was nurturing our oral traditions
- when night sky evoked the visions of our dreams
- when Sun and the Moon were our parents in stories told
- when storytelling made us all brothers and sisters
- when our stories brought forth great chiefs and leaders
- when justice was upheld in the stories told.

WE WILL:

- Hold and manage Indigenous cultural and intellectual property.
- Ensure our continued recognition as primary guardians and interpreters of our culture.
- Respect Indigenous individuals and communities.
- Faithfully preserve our traditional knowledge with sound and image.
- Use our skills to communicate with nature and all living things.
- Heal our wounds through screen storytelling.
- Preserve and pass on our stories to those not yet born.

We will manage our own destiny and maintain our humanity and pride as Indigenous peoples through screen storytelling.

Guovdageaidnu, Sápmi, October 2011

Written by Ása Simma (Sámi), with support from Darlene Johnson (Dunghutti), and accepted and recognized by the participants of the Indigenous Film Conference in Kautokeino, Sápmi, October 2011.

Thanks to the International Sámi Film Institute (Ása Simma and Anne Lajla Utsi) for sharing this document in our Catalogue. For more information on the Institute, visit www.isf.as.



18th imagineNATIVE Film +
Media Arts Festival

October 18 - 22, 2017

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Sponsors

Presenting:



Gold:



Silver:



Bronze:



Foundations:



Public Funders:



Sponsors

Community Partners:



Mentorship Partners:



Festival Hotel:



Hospitality Partners:



Media Partners:



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An extra special thank you to Salah Bachir and Jacob Yerex for their immense generosity and philanthropic efforts.



401 RICHMOND STREET WEST,
SUITE 446, TORONTO, ON
M5V 3A8 CANADA

Since our first Festival in 2000, the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival has programmed film, video, audio and digital works made by Indigenous media artists in key creative roles as producers, directors and/or writers. In programming these works over the years, imagineNATIVE has embraced works from Indigenous creators, from Canada and around the world, that push artistic boundaries to represent a diversity of ideas, themes and genres in our programming, seeking representations of subjects that would not necessarily be made available through mainstream forms of media.

In keeping with our artistic policy, the Festival prioritizes works that balance and present: unique and new perspectives expressed within the content of the work; cultural, community and social relevance; a creative approach to form characterized by innovative expression; distinctive style; personal vision; and a practice of crossing aesthetic borders in terms of genre, medium and emerging content platforms.

imagineNATIVE is a Festival that supports the diverse artistic visions and perspectives of Indigenous artists working in the media arts; works selected for programming do not need to have overt Indigenous content or themes. As identified in our mission statement, imagineNATIVE is a charity committed to dispelling stereotypical notions of Indigenous peoples through diverse media presentations from within our communities, thereby contributing to a greater understanding by all audiences of Indigenous artistic expression.

Founded by Cynthia Lickers-Sage and Vtape with the help of other community partners, imagineNATIVE is now the largest festival of its kind and an international hub for creative excellence and innovation in the media arts.

In addition to the Festival, the Centre for Aboriginal Media (imagineNATIVE's legal name) also presents numerous special projects, the annual imagineNATIVE Film + Video Tour and the indigiFLIX Community Screening Series, which extend our mandate to present Indigenous-made works year round.

imagineNATIVE.org #iN18 @imagineNATIVE

TEL: +1 416 585 2333
info@imagineNATIVE.org

facebook.com/imagineNATIVE
twitter.com/imagineNATIVE
youtube.com/imagineNATIVE

imagineNATIVE is committed to paying industry-standard artists fees for all our initiatives. For more information on imagineNATIVE, please visit our website.

Statement on Programming

imagineNATIVE supports the work of Indigenous media artists, including those who give their time, insight and talent as Board members, staff, contractors and volunteers of the organization.

The Indigenous media arts community is a small one and we value Indigenous artistic representation within our organization. We believe we cannot disadvantage Indigenous artists who give their time to imagineNATIVE by excluding them from artistic presentation opportunities or prizes, both of which are determined without their input or influence.

These artists are eligible to submit their work to the Festival; however, they do not influence programming decisions. In cases where their work is being considered, they are not present for programming discussions and decisions about their work, nor do they have input into the scheduling of it.

These artists are also eligible for annual prizes. The Festival's competition is adjudicated by independent juries at arm's length from the organization.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

imagineNATIVE is a Registered Charity
#898938717 RR0001

To donate, please visit: www.imagineNATIVE.org



Left to Right: Audrey Rochette, Lindsey Thomsen, Amee Lê, Claudia Skunk, Soufian Jalili, Gina Rim, Saskia Rinkoff, Ariel Smith, Daniel Northway-Frank & his evil twin, Jason Ryle, Victoria Kucher, Dhanela Sivaparan, Jesse Steckley, Judith Schuyler

Board of Directors

Marcia Nickerson (Chair) • Andre Morriseau (Vice-Chair)
Paula Devonshire (Treasurer) • Eileen Arandiga
Shane Belcourt • Adam Garnet Jones • Kona Goulet
Melanie Hadley • Jason Edward Lewis • Anne Pick

Advisors

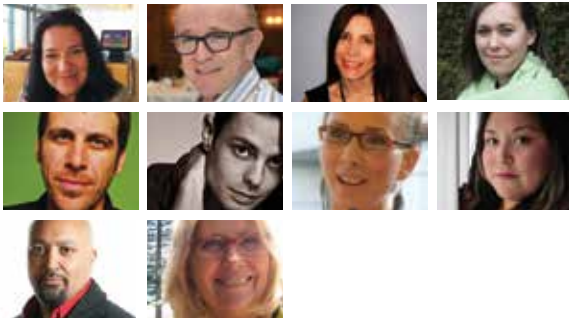
Julie Ouellon-Wente • Pauline Shirt • Jesse Wente

Patrons

Roberta Jamieson • Rhonda Kite • Frank Meawasige
Laura Michalchysyn • Alanis Obomsawin
Bill Roberts • Carla Robinson • N. Bird Runningwater
Lisa Steele • Kim Tomczak • Patrick Watson
Margaret Zeidler

Staff

Executive Director: Ariel Smith
Artistic Director: Jason Ryle
Industry Director: Daniel Northway-Frank
Programming Coordinator: Judith Schuyler
Communications Coordinator: Soufian Jalili
Fundraising Manager: Audrey Rochette
Festival Operations Manager: Amee Lê
Guest Services Manager: Gina Rim
Events Manager: Lindsey Thomsen
Volunteer Manager: Saskia Rinkoff
Fundraising Trainee: Claudia Skunk
Industry Trainee: Jesse Steckley
Fundraising Assistant: Dhanela Sivaparan
Visitor Services Coordinator: Warren Greene
Volunteer Assistant: Adriana Chartand
Front-of-House Manager: Victoria Kucher
Technical Coordinator: Eyan Logan
Copy Editor: Semareh Al-Hillal
Festival Driver Coordinator: Shaun Brodie



Left to Right: Marcia Nickerson, Andre Morriseau, Paula Devonshire, Eileen Arandiga, Shane Belcourt, Adam Garnet Jones, Kona Goulet, Melanis Hadley, Jason Edward Lewis and Anne Pick

Programming Team (Selection Committee)

Pauline Clague
Heather Haynes
Jason Ryle

Programming Advisors

Denise Bolduc
Audrey Huntley
Adam Garnet Jones
Jesse Wente

Design Team

Festival Creative: Terry Lau, beehivedesign.com
Illustration: James Monkman, Assistant: Dylan North

Trailer Team

Concept, Design, Animation: James Monkman
Assistant: Dylan North
Sound Design: Puppy Machine
Post-Production: Urban Post Production

Publicity

Carrie Sager, President
FLIP Publicity
Flip-publicity.com

SCREENING VENUES

- 1

TIFF Bell Lightbox
Reitman Square, 350 King Street West
Tickets & Info: +1.416.599.TIFF (8433)
- 2

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema
506 Bloor Street West
- 3

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
16 Spadina Road
- 4

Orchid
82 Peter Street
- 5

Art Exhibits (Art Crawl)
401 Richmond Street West
A Space Gallery, Suite 110
Trinity Square Video, Suite 121
PREFIX Institute of Contemporary Art, Suite 124
YYZ Artists' Outlet, Suite 140
imagineNATIVE, Suite 446
- 6

OCAD Onsite Gallery – First Stop of Art Crawl
199 Richmond Street West
- 7

Wallace Studios – Final Destination of Art Crawl
258 Wallace Ave
- 8

Horseshoe Tavern
370 Queen Street West

FESTIVAL HOTEL

- 9

Hilton Garden Inn
92 Peter Street

HOSPITALITY PARTNERS

- 10

**Best Western Premier
Toronto Airport Carlingview Hotel**
135 Carlingview Drive
- 11

The Chelsea Hotel
33 Gerrard Street West
- 12

Fox & Fiddle
106 John Street
- 13

Freshii
140 Spadina Avenue
- 14

Jugo Juice
220 Yonge Street (Eaton Centre)
- 15

Marben
488 Wellington Street West
- 16

Orchid
82 Peter Street
- 17

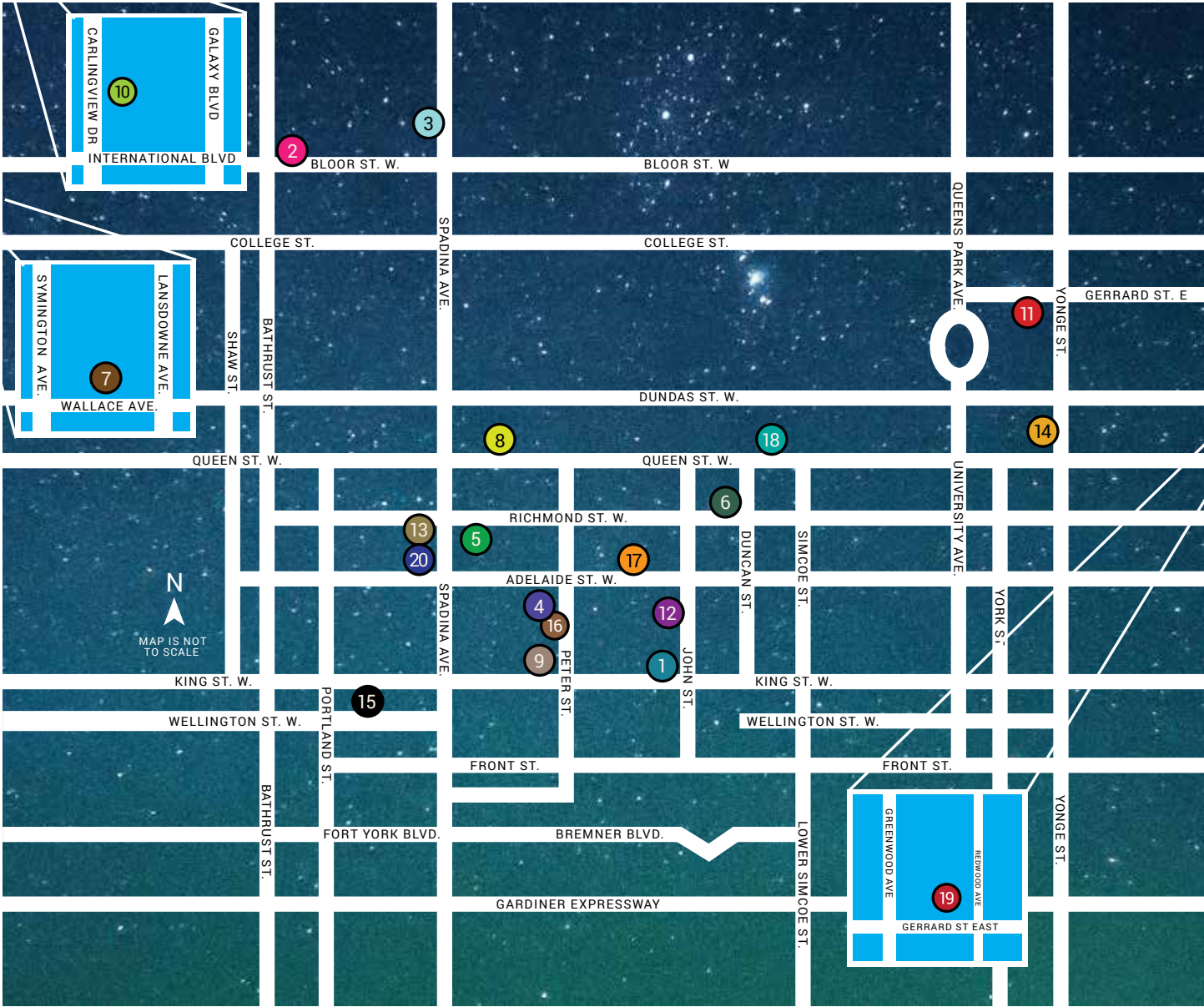
Pita Pit
318 Adelaide Street West
- 18

Queen Mother Cafe
208 Queen Street West
- 19

Tea-N-Bannock
1294 Gerrard Street East
- 20

The Chickery
130 Spadina Avenue
- Beau's Brewing Company**
beaus.ca
- Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery**
jacksontriggswinery.com

For information on hospitality discount offers, please visit www.imagineNATIVE.org
For more information on festival venues, please contact Lindsey Thomsen at events@imagenative.org





ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (AODA)

The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts festival strives to provide an accessible environment and positive festival experience for all patrons. We are committed to developing and maintaining **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)** standards. All staff and volunteers have been trained with AODA for more awareness and are attentive to our patrons' needs.

All of our venues are wheelchair accessible. Our Festival Hotel Hilton Garden Inn has accessible rooms available. All service animals, guide dogs and support persons are welcome at the venues.

For detailed information on our venue accessibility, visit our Guest Services page at **imagnative.org/guestservices**.

If you have any further questions or accommodation requests, please contact our Guest Services Manager, Gina Rim, at 416-585-2333 EXT 9 or **guestservices@imagnative.org**.

NOT JUST ANOTHER CASE

WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS MISSING OR HAS BEEN MURDERED

A web resource video by No More Silence and Aboriginal Legal Services
Produced and directed by Audrey Huntley
Focus Groups and Interviews conducted in Alberta, B.C., Ontario,
Newfoundland and Labrador

Video and all full-length interviews at:
<http://www.aboriginallegal.ca/notjustanothercase.html>
Healing resource by Dr. Janet Smylie available on the site

walking across, talking through

DANA CLAXTON
NALINI MALANI
LISA MYERS
SUMAIRA TAZEEN

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Video still from Nalini Malani, *In Search of Vanished Blood*, 2012, single channel video.
© Nalini Malani. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Lelong.



TD BANK GROUP
ACCESS-FOR-ALL INITIATIVE

imagineNATIVE is pleased to announce that TD Bank Group has returned again this year to sponsor our Access-for-All Initiative!

The TD Access-for-All Initiative helps imagineNATIVE ensure our festival remains accessible to youth, seniors, students, people with low income and people with disabilities. We want as many people to experience imagineNATIVE programming as possible. Thanks to TD Bank Group’s generous contribution, regular-priced individual tickets to all imagineNATIVE film screenings are only \$6, and tickets for morning and afternoon screenings are free for students, seniors, Elders and people with low income. This year the TD Access-for-All Initiative has also allowed imagineNATIVE to secure dedicated accessibility volunteers who are working with our Visitor and Guest Services Team.



ONSITE ELDER AND
SUPPORT WORKERS

As a result of colonial violence, many Indigenous people have experienced trauma. imagineNATIVE greatly values the importance of healing and cultural safety. We understand that some content presented by imagineNATIVE may be upsetting or triggering for direct or intergenerational survivors of trauma. For this reason, elders and support workers from Ontario Indian Residential School Support Services (OIRSSS) will be available, for the duration of the Festival, onsite at the TIFF Bell lightbox.

These services are for anyone, including non-Indigenous people, requiring emotional support or access to traditional medicines. If you would like to access the services of the OIRSSS, please present yourself at the imagineNATIVE iNfo Booth located in the lobby of the TIFF Bell Lightbox on the main floor. Festival personnel will be able to direct you to these supports upon request.

At imagineNATIVE we support uncensored Indigenous expression. Verbal disclaimers will be given during introductions for any programs containing scenes of graphic physical or sexual violence, or that deal with issues of Indian Residential Schools.

TICKETS + PACKAGES

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS	REGULAR PRICE	SENIORS / STUDENTS WITH ID / LOW INCOME
Regular Screenings (including Opening + Closing Night Gala Screenings)	\$6.00	\$6.00
Regular Screenings (before 6pm)	\$6.00	FREE TICKETED
Opening Night Gala (including Opening Night Party)	\$11.00	\$9.00
Opening Night Party only	\$7.00	\$6.00
The Beat (advance and at the door)	\$13.50	\$10.00
Awards Presentation	FREE TICKETED	FREE TICKETED
2167 (can be purchased online in advance)	FREE TICKETED	FREE TICKETED

All regular screenings from Thursday, October 19 to Sunday, October 22 before 6pm are FREE to Seniors/Students with ID/Low Income. FREE tickets must be picked up in person at the TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office on the day of the event a minimum of 30 minutes before the screening or event begins. One FREE ticket per person. We would like to thank the TD Bank Group for sponsoring our ticket subsidies through the TD Access-for-All initiative.

TICKET PACKAGES	REGULAR PRICE	SENIORS / STUDENTS WITH ID / UNDEREMPLOYED
FLEXI 5: 5 tickets (Regular Screenings only)	\$28.65	\$25.65
FLEXI 10: 10 tickets (Regular Screenings only)	\$48.65	\$41.65
FLEXI 15: 15 tickets (Regular Screenings only)	\$65.65	\$53.65
Festival Pass: 1 ticket per screening or event for ALL screenings & events including Opening Night Party + The Beat (On Sale until October 18, 2017)	\$85.65	N/A

Flexi Packages are transferable; share this package with your family & friends! Flexi Packages can be redeemed for a single screening.

HOW TO PURCHASE

ONLINE www.imagineNATIVE.org/boxoffice	BY PHONE 10:00am to 7:00pm daily 416.599.TIFF (8433) Toll free: 1.888.599.8433	IN PERSON 10:00am to 10:00pm daily TIFF Bell Lightbox 350 King St. West (at John Street)
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If you encounter issues with your TIFF Ticketmaster online account, please call TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office at 416.599.8433.

RUSH TICKETS: When a screening “goes rush” or is off-sale it does not mean it’s sold out. In past years, 95% of people in the Rush Line got into the screenings. Arrive early. Rush tickets will be released 15 minutes before the screenings begin at the TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office based on availability. For Opening Night Gala Screening at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema and other offsite events, rush tickets will be released at respective venues. Rush ticket sales are **Cash Only**.

TICKET HOLDERS: Must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the screenings to ensure seating. We cannot guarantee a seat after this time even if you have purchased a ticket.

RATINGS: Admittance to screenings may be restricted to those 18 years of age or older. Please see film listings online for program ratings.

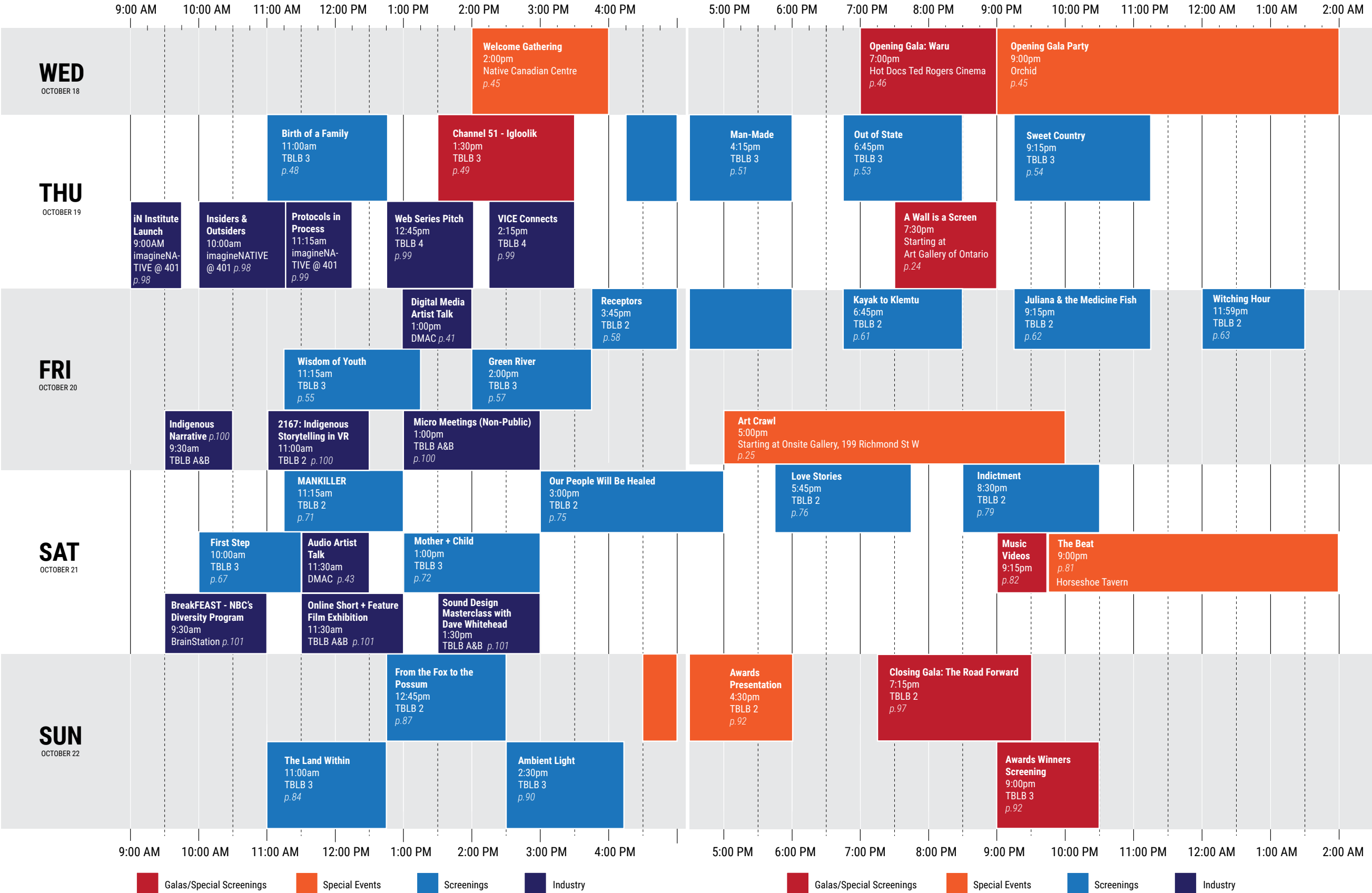
FREE TICKETED: Free screenings and events that still require a ticket must be collected from TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office on the day of the event, and will be available on a first come, first served basis. One FREE ticket per person.

PST EXEMPT: For Status Card holders please visit TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office in person and present your Status Card when purchasing tickets, packages or passes.

FLEXI PACKAGES: Flexi Packages are transferable. You can purchase your package online, via phone or in person. You must select screenings for all your 5, 10 or 15 tickets in your package at time of purchase online, via phone or in person at the TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office. If you do not select screenings for all tickets in your package at time of purchase, you will **LOSE ANY UNSELECTED TICKETS**. You can **ONLY** select up to 4 tickets per screening online. If you need to select more than 4 tickets per screening, you must call or come in person to the TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office.

FESTIVAL PASS: Festival Passes are NOT transferable. You can purchase your pass online, via phone or in person. Your pass gives you access to one (1) ticket per screening or event for ALL screenings and events. You **CANNOT** select your tickets online through your purchased Festival Pass. You must call or come in person to the TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office to select any tickets available to you through your pass.

Schedule at a Glance



Schedule at a Glance

Festival Greetings



It is with great pleasure that I warmly welcome you to the 18th annual imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival!

Thank you for joining us once again to celebrate the work of Indigenous media artists from Canada and around the world.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank all of our generous

partners, funders, sponsors and donors for their dedication and commitment to a relationship with imagineNATIVE filled with respect and reciprocity. We could not exist without you.

2017 has been a year in which concerns regarding Indigenous representation, cultural appropriation and authenticity of voice within the arts have been thrust in to the spotlight of Canadian mainstream media. Indigenous artists, filmmakers, writers and curators have of course been raising these concerns for decades upon decades, but this past year conversations and debates have played out in the public sphere and gained traction with non-Indigenous persons in a way we have not really seen before in this country.

imagineNATIVE was founded in 1999 as a proactive Indigenous-led response to the lack of support for, and representation of, works made by Indigenous filmmakers and media artists.



It's incredible to think we've been doing this for 18 years. Throughout this time, the Indigenous media arts industry has grown so much and it's such a pleasure to be a part of this world. It's one of the greatest gifts I've had in my life. Every year the task of programming becomes increasingly challenging and I thank all the artists who shared their work with us.

We're all aware of the times we live in and what we're facing. This year in particular has been a complex one. I hope you find the selected works to be engaging, entertaining and enlightening as always, but I also hope they offer strength, build community and enhance pride. Despite the challenges we face, there are incredible things to look ahead to in our industry. The emergence of the Indigenous Screen Office and enhanced funding opportunities for Indigenous filmmakers to tell Indigenous stories bodes well for Indigenous screen production in this country. It is important we hold the funders and decision-makers to task to ensure these opportunities remain for the long term. The stories are there. The talent is surely there. And, yes, the audiences are there as well.

imagineNATIVE sought to claim space for artists to push back against appropriation of Indigenous stories and misrepresentations of Indigenous peoples through colonial lenses.

Eighteen years later, although lack of Indigenous representation remains an ongoing struggle, there have unquestionably been positive shifts over the past few years, such as increases to Indigenous-specific funding streams at the Canada Council for the Arts and the June 2017 announcement of Canada's first Indigenous-focused Screen Office.

As a festival and an Indigenous-run arts organization we remain steadfast in our commitment to support, showcase and celebrate the work of Indigenous media artists, and are so excited to show you the fantastic programming we have in store for you this year!

Enjoy the Festival!

kinana'skomitina'wa'w

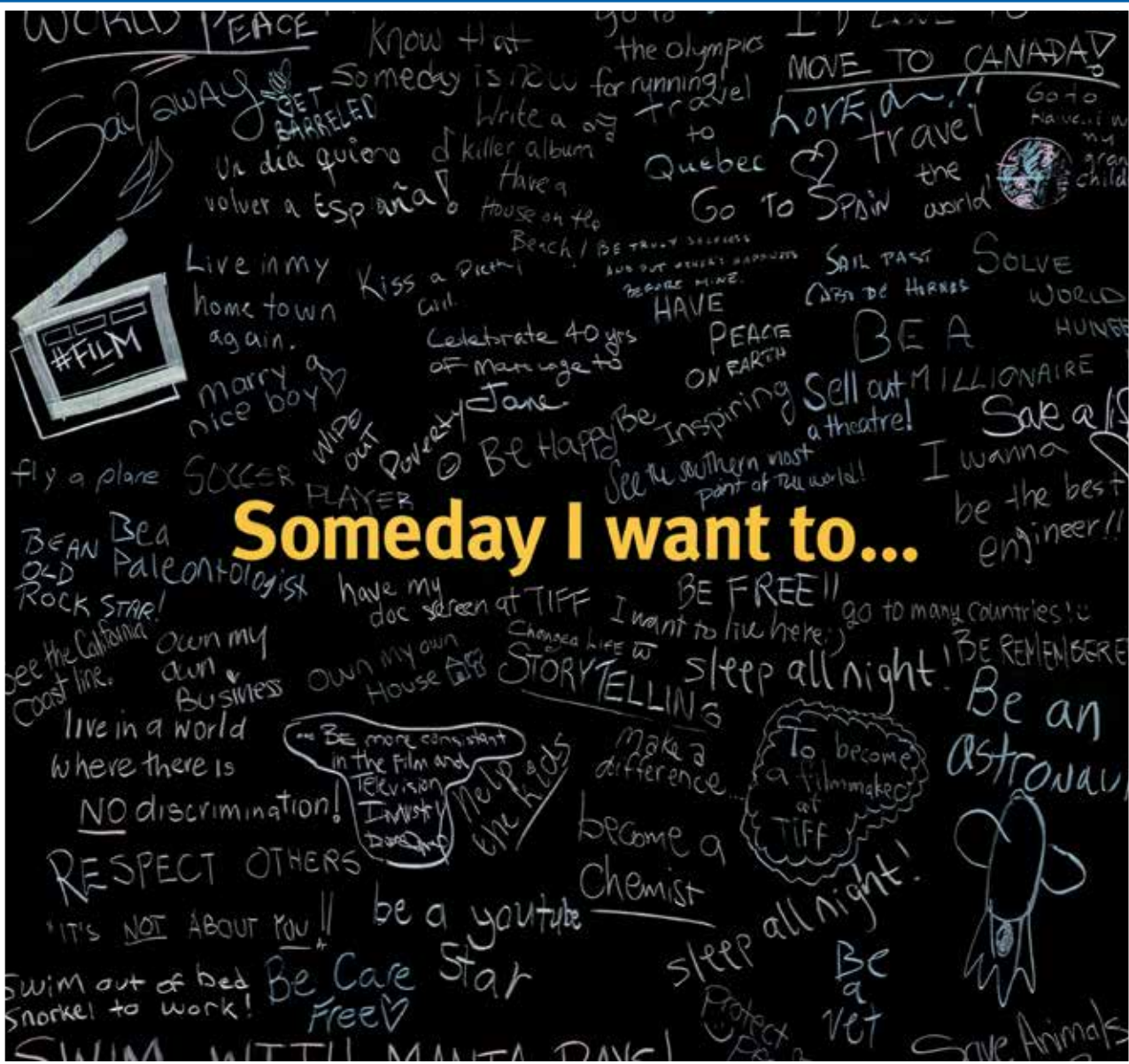
Ariel Smith
Executive Director

In addition to the film and video selections, please be sure to check out our growing roster of digital media, audio works and our exhibitions. We also have a special presentation of *A Wall Is a Screen* (one of my favourite things on the international short film festival circuit) and an exhibition and screening celebrating 30 years of Inuit video art by Isuma and Arnait.

I'm incredibly honoured to work alongside such dedicated, caring individuals and it's always such a pleasure to create a space for you to celebrate Indigenous screen culture and the artists we serve.

Enjoy and welcome to imagineNATIVE!

Jason Ryle
Artistic Director



Think about it. Dream it. Say it out loud. Write it down. Then share it. Celebrate it. Live for it. Spend every single day working towards it. And always remember we're here to help. **Let's Make Someday Happen.™**

Proud sponsor of Somedays



Greetings from Officials



On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and the AFN National Executive, I extend warm greetings to everyone attending the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival.

Every year, imagineNATIVE brings together artists and installation works for audiences who appreciate Indigenous Peoples as an indispensable part of the country's culture and society. I look forward to viewing the best films and videos made exclusively by Indigenous artists from around the world.

imagineNATIVE exemplifies the resurgence of Indigenous craft and creativity, the strength of our voices and the momentum for positive change across Turtle Island. The Festival brings us together to celebrate all that we are, and all that we can be.

I wish you all the best for an inspiring Festival!



Perry Bellegarde

Perry Bellegarde
National Chief



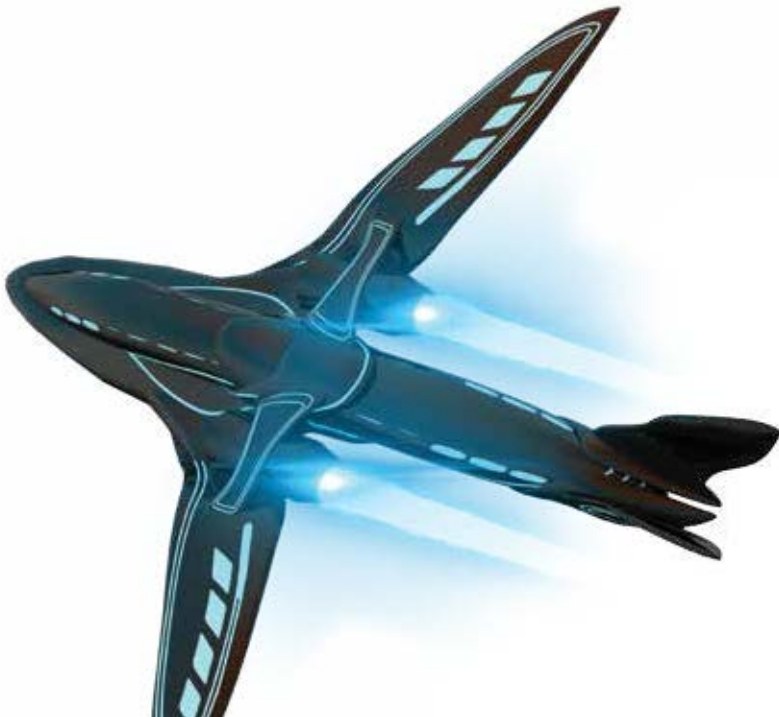
I would like to congratulate ImagineNATIVE for crafting an innovative program for the 2017 Film and Media Arts Festival.

The featured exhibition and screening, Channel 51 Igloolik: Celebrating 30 Years of Inuit Video Art, represents an important part of Inuit film history. Through Chanel 51, Inuit have used film to tell our stories for our own audiences. Congratulations to the Isuma and Arnait Video Collectives on their decades-long work in Inuit film.

Each year, the imagineNATIVE festival amplifies Inuit and Indigenous voices and I congratulate your work. I wish you all the best in the 18th year of the festival.



Natan Obed
President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami



Greetings from Officials



On behalf of the Métis National Council, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 18th Annual imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival.

The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival offers an ideal opportunity to celebrate the latest works by Indigenous peoples on the forefront of innovation in film, video, audio and digital media. It is through these initiatives that Métis, First Nations, and Inuit have kept ourselves strong. We all have much to be proud of.

The Métis National Council applauds all of the organizers and volunteers that have worked to make this festival happen again for the 18th year. I wish everyone a very memorable and successful celebration.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes from the Métis Nation. Yours for Indigenous self-determination and cultural liberation.



Clément Chartier

Clément Chartier, QC
Métis National Council



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First Nations Drum

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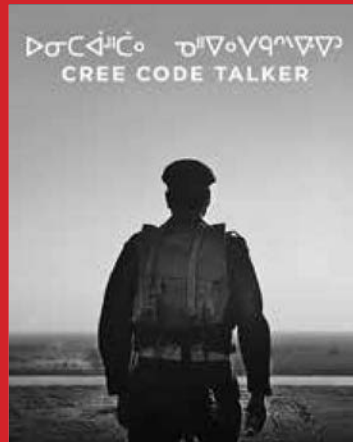
CELEBRATING 31

Images Festival

imagesfestival.com

[Expanding cinema](#)

Got a story to tell?



Last year at imagineNATIVE *Cree Code Talker* won Best Short Documentary. **Alexandra Lazarowich** and **Cowboy Smithx** told the story of Charles 'Checker Tomkins' who used the Cree language during World War II to serve the country he loved and defeat the enemy. *Cree Code Talker* was developed through **NSI IndigiDocs**.

"I don't think we could have made this film without NSI's continuous support and advice regarding all areas of the documentary process."

– Alexandra Lazarowich, director

Three **NSI IndigiDocs** stories are screening at imagineNATIVE 2017: *NDNs on the Airwaves* by Jackson 2bears and Janet Rogers *Flat Rocks* by Courtney Montour and Roxann Whitebean, and *From Up North* by Trudy Stewart and Janine Windolph.

NSI IndigiDocs is a development launch pad for filmmakers. NSI pairs producer/director teams with an industry mentor to receive training, mentorship, up to \$16K towards their production, a trip to Hot Docs* and post-production at the NFB in Montreal. The docs are broadcast on APTN, and streamed on aptn.ca and nfb.ca.

*When Alex and Cowboy were at Hot Docs as part of their training, they pitched *Cree Code Talker* and won the \$30K Hot Docs BravoFactual short pitch competition.

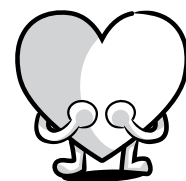
APPLY BY NOVEMBER 9

nsi-canada.ca/courses/nsi-indigidocs



nsi  **IndigiDocs**
national screen institute

**whatever
wherever**



**For the love of
Canadian short film**
nsi-canada.ca/film-festival

NSI IndigiDocs 2016-18 is funded by Program Partners APTN, Manitoba Sport, Culture & Heritage and RBC Emerging Artists Project; Indigenous Training Programs Partner Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries; Boot Camp Presenting Sponsor Manitoba Film & Music; Supporting Sponsors Directors Guild of Canada, *documentary* Channel, Entertainment One, Super Channel, Corus Entertainment, Telefilm Canada, imagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Breakthrough Entertainment and the Jim Murphy Filmmakers Bursary; Provincial Sponsors Manitoba Film & Music and Creative BC through the Daryl Duke and William Vince Scholarship Fund; Industry Partners National Film Board and Directors Guild of Canada; Tuition Sponsor Super Channel; and Service Sponsor Line 21 Media. NSI Core Funders are Manitoba Sport, Culture & Heritage and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Arts Council.

Commissioned Works

imagineNATIVE's series of commissions continue to provide unique professional development, training and exhibitive opportunities through partnerships with artist-run centres and international partners. Thank you to all our partners and funders in helping our artists hone skills and create new work.



In Moment (pg.60)

Director / Producer / Writer: Samay Arcentales Cajas (Kichwa)

Now in its 13th cycle, the LIFT/imagineNATIVE Mentorship provides production support and services to an emerging artist with their first 16mm film project.



Red Card World: The Tree (pg.89)

Director: Cara Mumford (Métis)

This exciting take on Indigenous futurism was made possible through the seventh iteration of the annual CSV/imagineNATIVE Residency that provides a mid-career artist support and skills development with new video-making technology.



A prayer for the lost (pg.59)

Director / Writer: Natasha Francis (Mi'kmaq)

Producers: Kennlin Barlow (Mi'kmaq) / Tyler Francis (Mi'kmaq/Maliceet)

A prayer for the lost was commissioned through the fifth annual partnership with the New Brunswick Filmmakers' Co-operative, training emerging artists from the region in the creation of a new film.



North of South / Norte del Sur (pg.60)

Directors: Francisco Huichaqueo (Mapuche) / Casey Koyczan (Tlicho Dene) / Alejandro Valbuena (Arawak-Kogi)

Producer: Alejandro Valbuena (Arawak-Kogi)

Writer: Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)

North of South / Norte del Sur is the visual and sonic reflections of a group of Indigenous artists coming together from Chile, Northwest Territories, Six Nations, Mexico and Colombia. Produced as part of *Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints* (pg. 33), imagineNATIVE's three-week audio art-focused collaborative exchange in Palomino, Colombia, the participating artists offer a visual and aural representation of their time together as they initiated and forged a relationship with South American territories and their own creative energies.

With support from:





A Wall Is a Screen

Friday, October 20

7:30pm

Meeting Point: AGO (southwest corner of Dundas and McCaul)

FREE



imagineNATIVE is proud to present A Wall Is a Screen as part of this year's Festival. Based in Hamburg, Germany, A Wall Is a Screen is an organization that transforms the way we look at and interact with the city around us. Part walking tour, part film screening, this exciting event projects short films onto various surfaces along a designated urban path.

For this year's Festival, A Wall Is a Screen has partnered with imagineNATIVE to present its first event to feature all Indigenous-made short films. Aside from the first meeting point, the screening locations and the films are kept secret, enhancing the excitement for the viewer. The selection of works interacts with the surrounding urban environment and will Indigenize Toronto's cityscape in unexpected ways.

The entire event takes approximately 90 minutes and will go ahead in rain or shine (or snow). Please dress appropriately for the day's weather and arrive on time as the walk will leave promptly after the first screening.

For more information on A Wall Is a Screen, visit their website: www.awallisascreen.com.



imagineNATIVE's Art Crawl

Friday, October 20, 5:00pm–10pm (approximate)

Various Galleries

FREE

Calling all art lovers! imagineNATIVE's inspiring, insightful and entertaining Art Crawl is your opportunity to hear from curators and artists featured in this year's exhibitions while appreciating great works!

This year's Art Crawl will begin at the brand new Onsite Gallery before moving to the historic 401 Richmond building. The evening will end with a special performance off-site at Wallace Studios!

For This Land: Inside Elemental & raise a flag: Works from the Indigenous Art Collection

Onsite Gallery, Ground Floor, 199 Richmond Street West

Curator & Artists Talk: 5:00pm

(See pg. 31 for full details)

At 5:45pm the Art Crawl will move to 401 Richmond Street West.

Mourning and Mayhem: The work of Adrian Stimson

A Space Gallery, Suite 110, Ground Floor,
401 Richmond Street West

Curator & Artist Talk with Performance by Adrian Stimson: 6:00pm

(See pg. 28 for full details)



Channel 51 Igloolik

Trinity Square Video, Suite 121, Ground Floor,

401 Richmond Street West

Curator Talk: 7:00pm

(See pg. 32 for full details)

Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints

Prefix ICA, Audio Art Gallery, Suite 121, Ground Floor,

401 Richmond Street West

Artists Talk: 7:30pm

(See pg. 33 for full details)

Raven Chacon: Report

YYZ Artists' Outlet, Suite 140, Ground Floor,

401 Richmond Street West

Artist Talk: 8:00pm

(See pg. 33 for full details)

Skawennati: for the ages

The Commons, Suite 450, Fourth Floor,

401 Richmond Street West

Artist Talk: 8:30pm

(See pg. 34 for full details)

Buses will depart at 9:00pm for the final event at Wallace Studios. Buses are free and on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Transmissions: Lisa Jackson

Wallace Studios, 258 Wallace Avenue

Performance & Artist Talk: 9:30pm

(See pg. 35 for full details)

Buses will return to 401 Richmond Street West following the performance, on a first-come, first-seated basis.



Partners:



imagineNATIVE, in partnership with TIFF, Pinnguaq and the Initiative for Indigenous Futures (IIF), present 2167, an innovative virtual reality and immersive media project. Five Indigenous filmmakers and artists have been commissioned to create five VR works in 2017, with each artist asked to set their work 150 years in the future.

The idea for this project was born out of a love of science fiction and alternate realities. Often Indigenous people are seen as stuck in the past; the 2167 project takes a very deliberate leap forward in time and we get to see artistic visions about Indigenous place in the future. In a year that in many ways commemorates a very complex history for Indigenous people, this project celebrates the decades to come and our role in shaping a new future for Canada.

Award-winning filmmakers **Jeff Barnaby** and **Danis Goulet**, Canadian artists **Kent Monkman** and **Scott Benesiinaabandan** and the interdisciplinary arts collective **Postcommodity** bring their own vision of the future in two- to four-minute virtual reality experiences.

Three works premiered at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in June 2017, and the two remaining during imagineNATIVE in October through December 2017 (also at TIFF Bell Lightbox), as part of TIFF's sesquicentennial initiative called *Canada on Screen*. The 2167 project in partnership with TIFF and with support of Ontario 150 and Heritage Canada will reach audiences across the country with a travelling tour until the end of 2017.

2167 is supported by the Government of Ontario, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Harbinger Foundation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Trudeau Foundation and the Concordia Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary.

Tour details can be found at imagineNATIVE.org/2167-on-tour

Artist Talk: Join us in a discussion with all the artists as part of the Industry Series (pg 100).

Experiences:



Imagining northern New Mexico 150 years in the future, where American Indian and Xicano pueblos work collaboratively to exercise communal and regional self-determination, *Each Branch Determined* echoes sci-fi conventions of an apocalyptic future that gradually reveal themselves to be a series of managed processes intended to restore and manage the land and its resources, as well as community ceremonies seeking to culturally and socially actuate past, present and future.

Postcommodity is an interdisciplinary arts collective based in the Southwestern United States and comprised of Raven Chacon, Cristóbal Martínez and Kade L. Twist. The collective operates through a shared Indigenous lens that engages the assaultive manifestations of the global market. Through Indigenous narratives of cultural self-determination, *Postcommodity* braces against the ever-increasing velocities and complex forms of violence that have colonized the 21st century.



Bringing to life a prophetic Anishinabe legend about a young boy who travels through a wormhole back to his people's place of origin, *Blueberry Pie Under the Martian Sky* also addresses concerns about the revitalization, growth and evolution of the Anishinabe language.

Scott Benesiinaabandan is an Anishinabe intermedia artist that works primarily in photography, video, audio and printmaking. He has completed international residencies at Parramatta Artist Studios in Australia, Context Gallery in Derry, North of Ireland, and University Lethbridge/ Royal Institute of Technology iAIR residency, along with international collaborative projects in both the United Kingdom and Ireland. Scott is currently based in Montreal.



The Hunt imagines a postwar North America in 2167 that lies in ruin, where the law is enforced by a fleet of automated orbs that patrol the skies. When an orb interferes with a man and his son on a goose hunt on sovereign Mohawk territory, it forces an altercation.

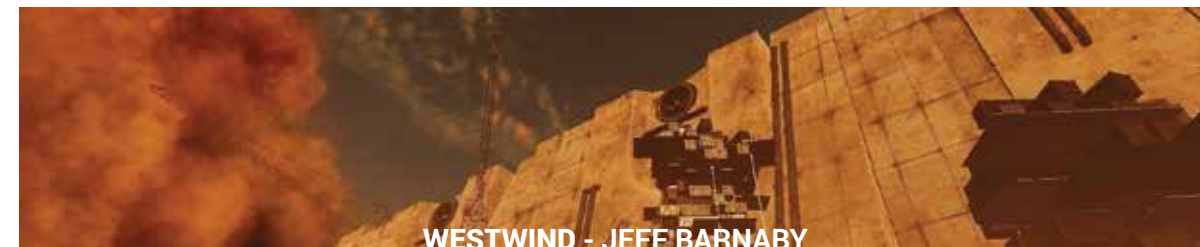
Danis Goulet is an award-winning filmmaker whose short films have screened at festivals around the world, including the Toronto International Film Festival, Sundance, Aspen Shortsfest, imagineNATIVE and Berlin International Film Festival. In 2013, her film *Barefoot* was recognized with a Special Mention from the Berlin International Film Festival Generation 14plus international jury and her film *Wakening* screened before the Opening Night Gala at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. She is an alumnus of the National Screen Institute's Drama Prize Program and TIFF Talent Lab.



Honour Dance is a virtual reality experience based on a 2008 five-channel video installation by Kent Monkman, *Dance to the Berdashe*. Set in a verdant meadow at magic hour, *Honour Dance* offers a contemporary re-interpretation of a traditional Indigenous ritual featuring the "Berdashe," a gender-bending figure whose behaviour and very existence astonished and appalled European explorers of the North America.

Virile Dandies from the four directions invigorate the Berdashe with the vitality of their honour dance. Through this reciprocal and performative rite, the Dandies and Berdashe renew each other's spirits, thereby refuting their obfuscation by colonial forces and Primitivism's reductive pillaging of Indigenous cultures.

Kent Monkman is a Canadian artist of Cree ancestry who is well known for his provocative reinterpretations of romantic North American landscapes. Themes of colonization, sexuality, loss and resilience – the complexities of historic and contemporary Indigenous experience – are explored in a variety of mediums, including painting, film/video, performance and installation.



December 24, 2167. Global warming has turned most of the planet into a desert. State surveillance is constant. The affluent have retreated into walled cities. Refugees live on the outside, hungry and desperate.

In this BETA version of the Tegs'g VR experience, step into the shoes of Sora, an expert people smuggler who is the refugees' only hope for a better life.

Jeff Barnaby is a Mi'gmaq filmmaker from Listuguj, Quebec. His short films have played in numerous festivals, including Sundance, Tribeca, Fantasia and Vancouver. His film *The Colony* (2007) was selected by the Festival as one of Canada's Top Ten shorts. His debut feature *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* (2013) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, was awarded Best Canadian Feature Film at the Vancouver International Film Festival and screened at Canada's Top Ten Film Festival.



**Mourning and Mayhem:
The work of Adrian Stimson**
Adrian Stimson (Blackfoot)
Curated by Wanda Nanibush (Anishinaabe)

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by:  

A Space Gallery & Vitrines
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 110
September 26–October 28, 2017

Reception: Friday, October 20, 5:30–8:00pm
Performance, Artist & Curator Talk: 6:00pm,
as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

With Support From:  

imagineNATIVE is proud to present this exhibition, Ontario's first solo show for one of this country's foremost artists, curated by one of Canada's foremost curators. This exhibition will feature a performance by Adrian Stimson that will be presented as part of the Art Crawl. The following extract is taken from the essay by Wanda Nanibush; to read the complete text, please visit our website or visit A Space Gallery.

Mourning and Mayhem: The work of Adrian Stimson is a solo exhibition combining two streams of Adrian Stimson's multidisciplinary practice: his experience in residential school and his commitment to the spirit of the buffalo. As Stimson points out, "one aspect of my art practice is to re-sign history and, in doing so, exorcise the negative energies that exist. I am in the process of coming to terms with my history. It is a process of personal transcendence, telling stories that expose the desperate nature of these experiences, yet demonstrate our common resilience."



In his work Stimson often will use real materials like buffalo hide or the remnants of the actual residential school that he attended in order to ground his camp aesthetic in an actual experience or material reality. This is what marks his difference from other postmodern aesthetics and why his work has to oscillate between mourning and mayhem. He constantly reminds us that we are talking about living beings, communities and spiritual realms. We cannot just make up a future without attending to the past in an honest, unwavering examination. It is in the performance of play and the creation of spaces of mourning, in the creation of fictions and the maintenance of alternative histories, in the letting go and holding on to colonial trauma, and the engagement with the sacred and sacrilegious that separates Stimson from the rest as a radical agent of change and not simply a performer of postmodern puns.

Stimson's installation, photography and performances often enact a reversal of the value system that supports colonialism and the value system that marginalized Indigenous people as uncivilized. The binary hierarchies of clean and dirty, savage and civilized, wealth and poverty, power and working class, control and excess, male and female, heterosexual and homosexual are sent spinning, calling attention to the way in which these binaries structure our current world. Through processes of mourning and mayhem, Stimson's work destabilizes these value systems with wit, irony and campy humour while at the same time creating symbols of mourning that mark the trauma of colonial history that we wear in our bodies and communities. The colonial philosophies that divide Indigenous from Settler have led to death and destruction.



Adrian Stimson is a member of the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation in southern Alberta. He is a renowned interdisciplinary artist, curator and educator with a BFA with distinction from the Alberta College of Art & Design and an MFA from the University of Saskatchewan. As an interdisciplinary artist, Adrian's work includes paintings, installations, collodion wet-plate photography, sculpture and performance. He is a regular participant at Burning Man and was featured in the summer 2007 issue of *Canadian Art* ("Buffalo Boy at Burning Man") and the spring issue of *FUSE* magazine ("Buffalo Boy Then and Now 2009"). Adrian was awarded the Blackfoot Visual Arts Award in 2009, the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003 and the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005 for his human rights and diversity activism in various communities. He is represented by the Darrell Bell Gallery in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Wanda Nanibush is an Anishinaabe-kwe image and word warrior, curator and community organizer. Currently, Wanda is the assistant curator of Canadian and Indigenous Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario. In this capacity, her recent exhibitions include *Toronto: Tributes + Tributaries, 1971–1989*, a groundbreaking exhibition featuring more than 100 works by 65 artists and collectives to highlight an innovative period in Toronto art history. She has a Master's degree in visual studies from the University of Toronto and has taught doctoral courses on Indigenous history and politics at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.



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For This Land: Inside Elemental
2Ro Media: Jackson 2bears (Mohawk), Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by:  

Onsite Gallery, OCAD University
199 Richmond Street West, Ground Floor
September 16–December 10, 2017

Artists & Curator Talk: 5:00pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

For This Land: Inside Elemental is part of a multi-project series by 2Ro Media, comprised of Jackson 2bears and Janet Rogers, both Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk) artists from Six Nations of the Grand River. The artists, who currently live outside their traditional territory, produce work collaboratively about "returning home," which typically involves creating site-specific narratives using video, sound, poetry, performance and multimedia installation.

With *Inside Elemental*, the artists engage in a series of conversations with the Kana'ta Village on traditional Haudenosaunee territory in order to create an immersive multimedia installation using sound, video, performance and digital languages. *Inside Elemental* is an exploration of the internalization of one's traditional territory, and in general about how external environments are deeply intertwined with identity, self-understanding and the interiority of personal and collective experience.

Jackson 2bears is a multimedia installation/performance artist and cultural theorist originally from Six Nations of the Grand River. He is currently based in Lethbridge, Alberta. Since 1999, 2bears has exhibited his work extensively across Canada in public galleries, museums and artist-run centres, as well as internationally in festivals and in group exhibitions.


Janet Rogers is a writer from Six Nations of the Grand River. She was born in Vancouver, B.C., and has lived in Stoney Creek, Hamilton and Toronto. She has been living as a guest on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people in Victoria, since 1994. Janet works in the genres of poetry, spoken word performance poetry, video poetry and recorded poetry with music. Janet is also a radio broadcaster, a documentary producer and a media and sound artist with numerous works in this year's Festival.



raise a flag: works from the Indigenous Art Collection (2000–2015)

Barry Ace (Anishinaabe), Sonny Assu (Ligwilda'xw Kwakwaka'wakw), Carl Beam (Ojibway), Christi Belcourt (Métis), Rebecca Belmore (Anishinaabe), Christian Chapman (Anishinaabe), Dana Claxton (Hunkpapa Lakota), Ruth Cuthand (Plains Cree/Scottish), Wally Dion (Saulteaux), David Garneau (Métis), Tanya Harnett (Nakota), Faye HeavyShield (Kainai-Blood), Greg A. Hill (Mohawk), Mark Iglooliorte (Inuk), Jimmy Iqaluq (Inuk), Elisapee Ishulutaq (Inuk), Alex Janvier (Dene/Saulteaux), Piona Keyuakjuk (Inuk), Myra Kukiiyaut (Inuk), Rachelle Lafond (Cree), Jim Logan (Métis), Kayley Mackay (Inuk), Qavavau Manumie (Inuk), Ohoatq Mikkigak (Inuk), Lisa Myers (Anishinaabe), Nadia Myre (Algonquin), Marianne Nicolson (Dzawada'enuxw), Lionel Peyachew (Cree), Tim Pitsiulak (Inuk), Annie Pootoogook (Inuk), Barry Pottle (Inuk), Pitaloosie Saila (Inuk) and Tania Willard (Secwepemc)
Curated by Ryan Rice (Mohawk)

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by: 

Onsite Gallery, OCAD University
199 Richmond Street West, Ground Floor

September 16–December 10, 2017

Artists & Curator Talk: 5:00pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

raise a flag presents selected works from a national heritage collection representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis art. Housed in Ottawa, managed by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Indigenous Art Collection is one of the most important and comprehensive art collections of contemporary Indigenous art in Canada and beyond. In light of and in tandem with Canada's 150 commemorations, *raise a flag* represents alternative discourses and uncovers missing narratives from the framework of a national identity. The works in *raise a flag* focus on recent acquisitions, obtained from 2000 to 2015, which chronicle recent significant national narratives reflecting upon Canadian heritage, diversity and collective memory.



Channel 51: Igloolik – The Filmmaking Process

Work from and Inspired by the Video Work of the Arnait and Isuma Video Collectives
Curated by Isabella Weetaluktuk (Inuk)

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by:  

Trinity Square Video
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 121
October 16–21, 2017

Curator Talk: 7:00pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

With Support From:   

After 30 years of industry-changing video production in Nunavut, Igloolik's Isuma production company is still going strong. This milestone presents an opportunity to take a look at what has been accomplished over these three decades through two special presentations at this year's imagineNATIVE: a shorts program of video works by Isuma, Arnait Video Collective and Artcirc (see pg. 49), and an exhibition of artworks that were created for and inspired by Inuit film and video productions. Isuma has contributed an incomparable body of work to contemporary Inuit visual culture. *Channel 51: Igloolik* is a year-round, national celebration of this important anniversary. For more info, visit www.isuma.tv/retrospective.

In this exhibition, *Channel 51: Igloolik – The Filmmaking Process*, it is an honour to share objects and photographs from Isuma's collection. The process of their prop and set construction has been celebrated for rejuvenating and maintaining Inuit technology and skills. The selected pieces in this exhibition are a small but significant sample of Inuit artistry and manufacturing mastery. See the fruit of countless hours of research, hunting, tanning, stitching and beading as well as, of course, filming. Hours that manifest themselves in bags, pants, jackets and films. An intricate blanket, stitched together to illustrate various stories of adoption, as well as three carvings made of powerful moments from the legendary film *Atanarjuat – The Fast Runner* are also included in this collection (in addition to false feet worn by its star Natar Ungalaaq).

After 30 years of filmmaking, the filmmaking process is more of a lifestyle for this juggernaut production company. To see a slice of this life included are behind the scenes photos of costume design, casting and set life. Filmmaking is a huge team effort, when we celebrate these years of production, we also celebrate this team. Congratulations to all those who have been involved!

Curator Isabella Weetaluktuk is an Inuk filmmaker and visual artist from Nunavik. She grew up in Montreal and attended NSCAD University in Halifax, earning a BFA in 2015. Isabella has completed her first film with the National Film Board, Three Thousand, which is screening at this year's Festival. In August 2016 she co-curated a three-evening film festival of Inuit films, games and country food with co-curator Stephen Agluvak Puskas. Isabella's work moves to honour the past and think towards the future.



Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints: North of South / Norte del Sur

María Dolores Arias Martínez (Maya), Francisco Huichaqueo (Mapuche), Casey Koyczan (Tlicho Dene), Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by: **PREFIX.**

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art
Audio Art Gallery
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124
October 5–28, 2017

Artists Talk: 7:30pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

In May and June 2017, four Indigenous audio artists converged at the new Shain Wüunu Experimental Arts Centre in northern Colombia, established by Canadian-Colombian artist Alejandro Valbuena (Arawak-Kogi). As part of imagineNATIVE's ongoing commitment to Indigenous artistic expressions in audio art, the Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints Exchange project brought together artists from nations in Canada and South America to focus on the contemplation, collaboration and creation of new sonic art. The intent was straightforward, the results have been extraordinary.

Presented in the Audio Art Gallery at the Prefix ICA is a collective work by Janet Rogers, Casey Koyczan, Alejandro Valbuena, María Dolores Arias Martínez and Francisco Huichaqueo created as part of the Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints initiative. The Audio Art Gallery at Prefix is a specialized gallery devoted to audio art, one of the first of its kind in the world. It is specifically designed and exclusively dedicated to the presentation of sound art in all of its manifestations, from experimental, electroacoustic and radiophonic works to improvised, found sound and spoken word. With soundproof walls, acoustical panels and a state-of-the-art sound system, the Audio Art Gallery provides an ideal environment for deep listening.

We invite you to take the time to visit the Audio Art Gallery and immerse yourself in the sonic artwork of Indigenous artists.

North of South / Norte del Sur, a video created by the artists, is also presented at this year's Festival (see pg 60).

The Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints project was funded with support by the Canada Council for the Arts.



Raven Chacon: Report

Raven Chacon (Diné)

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by: **YYZ**

YYZ Artist's Outlet
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 140
September 16–December 2, 2017

Artist Talk: 8:00pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

The works in *Report* consider the outmost boundaries of an important parameter of sound: dynamics and volume. The loudness of nature and of unorthodox instruments contrast against a landscape of silence, sometimes explained in a score of text, music notation or other pictographic depictions. Three places in the American Southwest, chosen for their quietness, are presented as field recordings, amplified to their maximum volume. While seemingly reduced to noise, the recordings reveal individual colours of the essence of each location. *Report* is a musical composition scored for an ensemble playing various calibre firearms. The sonic potential of revolvers, handguns, rifles and shotguns are utilized in a tuned cacophony of percussive blasts interspersed with voids of timed silence. In the piece, guns – instruments of violence, justice, defense, and power – are transformed into mechanisms for musical resistance.

Raven Chacon works across a variety of mediums, including installation, performance, video and recording. He is a composer of chamber music, a performer of experimental noise music and an installation artist. He performs regularly as a solo artist as well as with numerous ensembles, and is also a member of Postcommodity, an acclaimed arts collective who created one of the VR works as part of imagineNATIVE's 2167 project (see pg. 26). Raven has presented his work in different contexts, including at festivals and galleries such as imagineNATIVE, La Biennale di Venezia – Biennale Musica, Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal, 18th Biennale of Sydney and the Kennedy Center, among other traditional and non-traditional venues. His work with Postcommodity recently exhibited at the 2017 Whitney Biennial and documenta 14. Chacon currently lives and works in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Skawennati: for the ages

Skawennati (Mohawk)
Curated by Lisa Steele

Exhibition Premiere

Presented by: **Vtape**  **imagineNATIVE**
Original, Indigenous.

Jacob Yerex & Salah Bachir Presentation Space
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 450
September 21–October 22, 2017

Artist Talk: 8:30pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

This survey of one of Canada's premier new media artists includes photographs, projections, websites and moving image works that span time and space effortlessly. The centrepiece is Skawennati's exquisitely crafted machinima *She Falls for Ages* (2017), which reimagines Creation from a very specific Indigenous point of view. An early collaboration with Jason Lewis – *Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Technological World* (2002) – also evokes the Creator, this time to give thanks for the tools of modernity. The works in

the exhibition are on screens of all shapes and sizes, from iPads – *Imagining Indians in the 25th Century*, an interactive website from 2000 – to a funky choose-your-own-tune juke-box monitor – *80 Movies, 80 Minutes, 80s Music* (2006) – to sleek digital displays – *Words Before All Else Part I* (2017). Seamlessly passing between the past and the future, pausing in the here and now, the bodies in Skawennati's work slip into the permeable present as avatars, uncanny yet familiar, their memories and predictions filled with the joy and wonder of life itself. Curated by Lisa Steele, Artistic Director, Vtape

Born in Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Skawennati graduated with a BFA from Concordia University in Montreal, where she is based. She is co-director of Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (AbTeC), a research network of artists and academics who investigate and create Indigenous virtual environments. Her work has been included in major exhibitions, including Now? Now! at the Biennale of the Americas and Looking Forward (L'Avenir) at the Montreal Biennale. She has been honoured to win imagineNative's 2009 Best New Media Award as well as a 2011 Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship.



Installation Preview: Transmissions Part II

Lisa Jackson (Anishinaabe)
Curated / Produced by Tania Thompson
Featuring performances by Jeneen Frei Njootli (Vuntut Gwitchin), Raven Chacon (Diné) and Laura Ortman (White Mountain Apache)

Live Filming and Performance, Media Installation
Friday, October 20, 9:30pm, as part of Art Crawl (pg. 25)

Wallace Studios
258 Wallace Avenue

In June 2018, filmmaker Lisa Jackson will debut *Transmissions*, her first art exhibition, featuring three large-scale media installations that explore the power of Indigenous languages. Join us for a unique behind-the-scenes studio visit to preview Part II's shadow city as well as watching the filming of "Unearthed," a live performance that will be a centrepiece of the installation, starring Jeneen Frei Njootli and live scored by Raven Chacon and Laura Ortman.

Transmissions addresses the ways we orient ourselves in different environments – both through our sensorial experience as well as language and storytelling. *Transmissions* creates three immersive worlds that allow viewers to untether from their contemporary urban surroundings and employs elements of Indigenous Futurism to take viewers on a journey that feels past and future, familiar and foreign, concrete and magical.

Lisa Jackson's award-winning film work often crosses genres and includes documentary, animation, virtual reality and a musical. She frequently tackles challenging subjects with poetry and even humour, and aims to shift tired frameworks to reveal something fresh, visceral and worthwhile. Lisa's work has screened at festivals internationally and on many TV networks in Canada and has garnered her a Genie award (for SAVAGE, commissioned as part of imagineNATIVE's first Embargo Collective). She works in fiction and documentary and her current projects include a one-hour documentary for CBC, a large-scale media installation, a VR piece and an IMAX film.

imagineNATIVE thanks and acknowledges Lisa Jackson and her team for making this performance possible and sharing it with the Festival.



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Digital Media ART+CADE



Digital Media Art+Cade

Second Floor, TIFF Bell Lightbox
Thursday, October 19 – Saturday, October 21
10:00am – 6:00pm
FREE

While at imagineNATIVE, be sure to visit the Digital Media Art+Cade (DMAC), our venue showcasing the Festival's selection of digital media and audio works! It's here that you can play video games, view digital video essays and listen to sound art. Best of all, everything is free!

The space is open for three days (Thursday to Saturday) from 10:00am to 6:00pm, and we'll have volunteers on hand to lend support as some works require special viewing or listening instructions.

Please see pg. 38 for details on our digital media programming.

Please see pg. 42 for details on our audio programming.

Remember to also check out our special VR project, 2167, which is presented in the atrium on the ground floor of the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

DMAC also features free demos of the Cree Syllabics Virtual Reality program by Schoolū, an Aboriginal-owned VR educational company that designs and develops Canada's only school board approved VR learning programs. Participants will experience how to read and write Cree Syllabics in a VR setting. It is a unique experience that will truly amaze you!

Thank you to Jason Lewis and IIF for their guidance.

Digital Media Art+Cade

Second Floor, TIFF Bell Lightbox
Thursday, October 19 – Saturday, October 21
10:00am - 6:00pm
FREE

Engage with this year's digital media selections in the Digital Media Art+Cade, imagineNATIVE's space dedicated to our digital and audio programming. Try out VR, play a video game or be immersed in a digital essay! All programming is free.

Any attending artists programmed in this section will take part in the Digital Media Artist Showcase on Friday, October 20, 1:00pm. See pg. 41 for details. (Note: Event based on attendance of artists, which will be determined closer to the Festival dates.)

Remember to also check out our special VR project, 2167, which is presented in the atrium on the ground floor of the TIFF Bell Lightbox.



Coyote's Crazy Smart Science Show

Director: Loretta Todd (Cree/Métis)
Producers: Loretta Todd (Cree/Métis) / Victoria Angell / Phillip Djwa
Writers: Elizabeth LaPensee (Métis/Anishinaabe) / Kamala Todd (Cree/Métis) / Lucas Johnson
Canada | 2017 | Game
<http://coyotescience.com/en/home/>

Think you're as smart as Coyote? Try your hand and test your mental might at this fun, entertaining and highly enlightening video game based on the leading-edge Indigenous science series *Coyote's Crazy Smart Science Show*. This game – like the series – takes viewers on a culturally-rich adventure into the fun and wonder of Indigenous science and encourages Indigenous young people – and people of all ages – to find out about the science of the world from Indigenous perspectives. You've never seen anything like this before!

Loretta Todd is one of this country's and the Indigenous screen world's foremost creators. She is a writer, director and producer with numerous credits and accolades (including a Lifetime Achievement Award from imagineNATIVE), and one of the true trailblazers of Indigenous-made screen content. A tireless force, Loretta's revolutionary children's series Coyote's Crazy Smart Science Show will soon go into production on its second season.



Purity & Decay

Directors: Meagan Byrne (Métis/Swampy Cree) / Tara Miller (Maliseet)
Producer: Meagan Byrne (Métis/Swampy Cree)
Writers: Meagan Byrne (Métis/Swampy Cree) / Tara Miller (Maliseet) / Rachel Gorman
Canada | 2017 | Game (Work-in-Progress)

Life for a hard-up detective is never easy, especially when you're from the Ground, the lowest level of society. But life takes an unexpected twist when an Upper District dame hires you to solve the mystery of her murdered sister. An innovative combination of old school detective noir and cyberpunk, the "cybernoir" *Purity & Decay* is set seven generations in the future and imagines an Indigenous world where colonial violence has ended. Utilizing the popular Telltale adventure game style, *Purity & Decay* is a new kind of Indigenous gaming experience. Due to be completed in 2019, its first chapter is presented here.

Meagan Byrne is a Hamilton-based game designer currently working freelance. She sees games as another part of passing on traditional knowledge while creating new knowledge as she believes that games are how we naturally and safely interact with a world that is scary and strange.

Tara Miller was born in Ottawa and is trained in multiple art forms including painting, printmaking and sculpture. She enjoys telling stories through her art, no matter what the medium. Currently, Tara is studying animation at Sheridan College with the goal of furthering herself as an animator and storyteller.



Thunderbird Strike

Director / Producer: Elizabeth LaPensée (Anishinaabe/Métis)
Canada | 2017 | Game

In this 2D sidescroller game, fly from the Tar Sands to the Great Lakes as a thunderbird protecting Turtle Island with powerful lightning against the snake that threatens to swallow the lands and waters whole. This game is a companion work to the animation of the same name which is also in this year's Festival.

Elizabeth LaPensée, Ph.D., is an award-winning writer, designer, and artist of games, comics, transmedia, and animation. She is Anishinaabe, Métis, and Irish, living near the Great Lakes as an Assistant Professor of Media & Information and Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures at Michigan State University.



The Cache

Directors: Bonnie Ammaaq (Inuk) / Michelline Ammaaq (Inuk)
Producer: Alicia Smith
Canada | 2017 | Digital Photo Essay
<https://www.nfb.ca/legacies150/cache>

For the Ammaaq family, living north of the Arctic Circle, there's only one place to call home: out on the land, far from the government-sponsored outpost. Award-winning filmmaker Bonnie Ammaaq and her mother, Michelline, share with us their family's story of leaving town and returning to the land in 1986, where they lived for 11 years. This engaging digital photo essay is a tender and intimate portrait of a family's love.

Bonnie Ammaaq lives in Igloodik, Nunavut. Bonnie has made two films with the NFB: Family Making Sleds (2012) and Nowhere Land (2015), which won the Best Short Documentary Prize at imagineNATIVE in 2015.

Michelline Ammaaq lives in Igloodik, Nunavut, and works at Kingulliit Productions as an administrator, seamstress and actor.



What Brings Us Here

Director / Writer: Katherena Vermette (Métis)
Producer: Alicia Smith
Canada | 2017 | Instagram Essay
<https://www.instagram.com/whatbringsushere/>

Stories of Indigenous-led activism on the streets and waterways of Winnipeg are brought to the fore in this innovative photo essay told using Instagram. Katherena Vermette's insightful lens takes us alongside grassroots community activists from the Bear Clan Patrol, who offer protection to women and children, and Drag the Red, a group that dredges the Red River and its banks in search of missing members of their community, and together offer a means of action, engagement, awareness, and hope.

NOTE: Begin the experience with the account's first posted photo, which will appear as the very last image on the page (scroll down if using a mobile; hit Load More then scroll down if using a desktop).

Katherena Vermette is a filmmaker and writer of poetry, fiction and children's literature. Her first book, North End Love Songs, won the 2013 Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry, and her acclaimed novel, The Break, was part of Canada Reads 2017. Her film this river screened at last year's imagineNATIVE and at festivals internationally.



Impossible to Contain

Director: Zoe Hopkins (Heiltsuk/Mohawk)
 Producer: Daniel Bekerman
 Canada | 2017 | 360 Video
<https://youtu.be/7RLRnQtQT80>

With its immersive quality, this 360 documentary brings the viewer to Bella Bella to experience the aftermath of a diesel spill in pristine, beloved waters. Filmmaker Zoe Hopkins takes us to her homeland to experience a family dinner of seafood, harvested from waters where a tug boat ran aground spilling over 100,000 litres of diesel into Gale Creek, threatening a main source of food for the Heiltsuk people and their way of life.

Zoe Hopkins was born in Bella Bella, a Heiltsuk fishing village on the coast of B.C., home to her mother and maternal family, in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. She now lives in her father's community of Six Nations, where she is raising her son, and where she teaches the Mohawk language online to students across Turtle Island. Zoe also has her first feature film in this year's Festival (see pg. 61).



TETEPISKAT

Director: Natasha Kanapé Fontaine (Innu)
 Producer: Denis McCready
 Canada | 2017 | Digital Photo Essay
<https://www.nfb.ca/legacies150/tetepiskat>

In the summer of 2016, Innu poet Natasha Kanapé Fontaine travelled to her family's ancestral land for the first time. With her father by her side, Natasha sends a powerful message across time and generations in this moving digital photo essay.

Natasha Kanapé Fontaine is originally from Pessamit (north shore of the St. Lawrence River). Now living in Montreal, she uses art and writing to bring together divergent peoples through dialogue, cultural exchange, and an exploration of shared values. She's also a Quebec spokesperson for Idle No More.



XINONA

Director: Walter Kaheró:ton Scott (Mohawk)
 Producer: Jelena Popovic
 Canada | 2017 | Digital Animation Essay
<https://www.nfb.ca/legacies150/xinona>

It's the year 2018 in an alternative universe where planets are made of kale, kombucha and beer. On the kombucha planet, a struggling artist receives a lucrative commission offer from the government 'weird heads' located on the beer planet. This awesome digital animation is an entertaining commentary on artistic integrity and post-colonial oppression.

Walter Kaheró:ton Scott is an interdisciplinary artist working in the fields of writing, illustration, performance and sculpture. His famous comic book series Wendy explores the narrative of a fictional young woman in an urban centre who aspires to global success and art stardom but whose dreams are perpetually derailed.



He Ao Kotahi – Pai in Palestine

Director: Paula Whetu Jones (Te Aitanga a Māhaki)
 Aotearoa New Zealand | Web Series | 2017

He Ao Kotahi shows how our Indigenous cousins' art and culture changes and the lengths they go to ensure their art survives. In this illuminating web series, prominent Māori artists venture into worlds that are foreign but familiar and reveal - through fellowship - the power of storytelling. It's a silent consciousness, it's a "knowing" and it's an understanding of why things are the way they are. The web series' first artist, Paitangi, works with wood, bone, fibre and paint but whose preferred medium is ink on skin. One of the few female Ta

Moko artists of Aotearoa, she brings her own dimensions to this Māori art form. Paitangi works from her studio in Paihia, New Zealand and also travels internationally by request to share her skills with those on a journey of spiritual & cultural awakening and self expression.

Paula Whetu Jones (Te Aitanga a Māhaki) is a mother and filmmaker based in Aotearoa New Zealand. She has been working in television production for 20 years specializing in directing, research and writing, mainly in the field of documentary. Paula is also one of the directors and writers of this year's opening night film, Waru.

Digital Media Artists Showcase

FREE and open to the public!

Join a selection of attending digital media artists as they present and discuss their programmed works.

Friday, October 20, 2017, 1:00 pm
 Digital Media Art +Cade
 (TIFF Bell Lightbox, Greenroom)

Digital Media Art+Cade

Second Floor, TIFF Bell Lightbox
Thursday, October 19 – Saturday, October 21
10:00am – 6:00pm
FREE

Take some time to listen to this year's audio selections, which are accessible in the Digital Media Art+Cade, imagineNATIVE's space dedicated to our digital and audio programming. Listen to radio documentaries and immerse yourself in soundscapes created by leading Indigenous audio artists. All programming is free!

Any attending artists programmed in this section will take part in the Audio Artist Showcase on Saturday, October 21, 11:30am. See pg. 43 for details. (Note: Event based on attendance of artists, which will be determined closer to the Festival dates.)



Broken English

Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)
Canada | 4 mins | 2017 | Soundscape

A reading from a Spanish language graphic novel was recorded and then each word was cut in half, portraying how language is only capable of expressing aspects of what we really mean. This sound art piece exemplifies the awkwardness of language limitations while illustrating how a seeming absence of rhythm can actually create its own cadence.

Janet Rogers is a poet, media and sound artist from Six Nations territory living as a visitor on traditional Coast Salish territory, a.k.a. Victoria, British Columbia. As a media artist she is one-half of the 2Ro Media Collective and she works independently as a sound and radio artist. Janet was part of Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints, imagineNATIVE's first collaborative project focused on Indigenous audio artists, which took place in Colombia earlier this year.

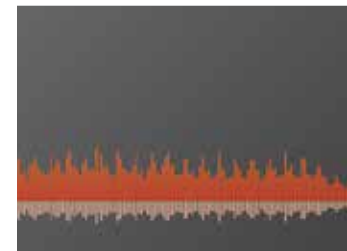


Dark Angel

Crystal Favel (Cree/Métis)
Canada | 6 mins | 2016 | Audio Story

Dark Angel is an imaginary story about the most famous Aboriginal blues guitarist in the world, a title gained after he sold his soul to the devil. Although his soul is no longer his, he remains connected to his family and traditions and uses his special power for good, looking for ways to redeem his soul.

Crystal DJ Kwe Favel is an awarding-winning multidisciplinary sound artist who has won two consecutive First Peoples' Cultural Council Aboriginal Arts Development Awards for her motivational digital audio storytelling. She also won Best Audio Work at imagineNATIVE in 2015 and is committed to Indigenous solidarity by carbon dating her music through sound ecology, audio anthropology and vinyl sovereignty.



Elcrys

Michael Wilson (Anishinaabe)
United States | 7 mins | Soundscape

In the far future, human beings are attempting to coerce what they believe to be the last remaining herd of elk out of the mountains with bio-engineered synthetic elk. The attempt fails, and the biological elk become more vocal as the synthetic elk are packed up for maintenance and recharging. This soundscape is a futurist re-imagining of elk bugles using synthesizers and samples of actual elk vocalizations recorded in Yellowstone Park.

Michael Wilson is an avid proponent of getting more bass into more music. Footnotes of his wasted youth include a great many piano lessons, comic books, spitting on microphones in short-lived post-punk hardcore bands and an informal internship with Mind's Eye Media that would result in an immersion in electronic music and DJ culture.



Frozen in the Heat

Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)
Canada | 6 mins | 2017 | Soundscape

Inspired by heavy bass tones and notes, prolific artist Janet Rogers offers a sonic narrative that speaks of space/place, time and emptiness. It is a soundtrack for deep dreaming of oceans.

Janet Rogers is a poet, media and sound artist from Six Nations territory living as a visitor on traditional Coast Salish territory, a.k.a. Victoria, British Columbia. As a media artist she is one-half of the 2Ro Media Collective and she works independently as a sound and radio artist. Janet was part of Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints, imagineNATIVE's first collaborative project focused on Indigenous audio artists, which took place in Colombia earlier this year.



Standing Rock: People and Pride

Kim Wheeler (Anishinaabe/Mohawk)
Canada | 54 mins | 2016 | Audio Documentary

This engaging documentary shares the stories of those who chose to take a stand at Standing Rock and follows these water protectors as they prepare camp for the winter. Produced for CBC's *Unreserved*, hosted by Rosanna Deerchild.

Kim Wheeler has brought positive Indigenous stories to both the mainstream and Indigenous media for over 23 years. She joined CBC Radio One in 2008 and has produced several Indigenous-focused radio shows including ReVision Quest and Indian Summer. She is currently the producer for Unreserved on CBC Radio One.

Audio Artists Showcase

FREE and open to the public!

Join a selection of attending digital media artists as they present and discuss their programmed works.

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 11:30am
Digital Media Art +Cade
(TIFF Bell Lightbox, Greenroom)



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Opening Day Celebration



Welcome Gathering

FREE and open to the public

Wednesday, Oct 18 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
16 Spadina Road

Welcome to the 18th annual imagineNATIVE as our cultural advisor commences with an opening prayer. Enjoy traditional singing, dance performances and a community feast before going to the Festival's Opening Night Gala.

Sponsored by: 




Opening Night Party

\$6 or FREE to Opening Night Gala Ticket Holders and Pass Holders (19+)

Wednesday, Oct 18 | 9:00pm – 1:00am
Orchid
82 Peter Street

Celebrate the 18th annual Festival launch following the Opening Night Screening with music and dancing at Orchid. Come early and savour some culinary delights, as the house DJ spins us into the night.

Sponsored by: 

Free Shuttle Service

Hilton Garden Inn > Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema | 5:30pm
Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema > Orchid Nightclub | 9:35pm, 9:40pm, 9:45pm

Please give priority to Elders or those with mobility needs. Please Note: Unfortunately the shuttle buses are not wheelchair accessible. If accessible transportation is required please contact guestservices@imaginenative.org.

Welcome Gathering and the Opening Night Party feature new paintings by Jay Soule, aka Chippewar.





Holy Angels

Director: Jay Cardinal Villeneuve (Cree/Métis)
 Canada | 2017 | 13 min
 English | Short Documentary
 World Premiere

On the outskirts of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, stands the Holy Angels Residential School, an ominous brick building where hundreds of children were imprisoned. Elder Lena Wandering Spirit recounts her time at Holy Angels, her story taking us on a healing journey that echoes in the dance of Phoenix, a young girl who is the same age now that Lena was during her captivity. Their lives bridge the distance of time and affirm the power that lies within us.

Jay Cardinal Villeneuve is a filmmaker and actor from Slave Lake, Alberta, currently living in Vancouver. Over the last decade, he has independently produced his own films, had acting roles in *The Revenant* (2015) and the APTN series *Coyote's Crazy Smart Science Show*, and recorded the private statements of residential school survivors for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which served as the impetus for *Holy Angels*.



Waru

Directors/Writers: Chelsea Cohen (Ngāti Ranginui) / Ainsley Gardiner (Ngāti Awa / Ngāti Pikiao \ Te-Whānau-A-Apanui) / Briar Grace-Smith (Ngāti Hau / Ngāpuhi) / Paula Jones (Te Aitanga a Māhaki / Whakatōhea / Ngāti Porou) / Casey Kaa (Ngāpuhi / Tainui) / Renae Maihi (Ngāpuhi / Te Arawa / Ngāti Whakaue) / Awanui Simich-Pene (Ngāpuhi / Ngāti Hāua / Tūwharetoa / Ngāti Apakura) / Katie Wolfe (Ngāti Mutunga / Ngāti Tama)
 Writer: Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu (Ngāpuhi)
 Producers: Kerry Warkia (Raluana Tolai, Papua New Guinea) / Kiel McNaughton (Ngāti Mahanga / Ngāti Apa - Ngā Rauru / Tainui)
 Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 86 min
 English | Dramatic Feature

A sisterhood of Māori filmmakers join forces to tell the story of a young boy who dies at the hands of his caregiver. Deeply emotional, challenging and tender, the story of *Waru's* death is reflected in the lives of eight Māori women during the same 10 minutes on the morning of his funeral. Their individual stories – at times seemingly disparate – beautifully weave together to illustrate a community mourning a tragic death while revealing the unrelenting strength that lies deep in the hearts and minds of Indigenous women. This remarkable feature is brave, ambitious filmmaking and is one that resonates with the full complexities of grief, love and survival. Each of the eight 10-minute segments – told in real time – is directed and written by a different artist and each is filmed in a single shot, creating a visual tapestry unlike any seen in Indigenous Cinema.

Chelsea Cohen is a filmmaker with over 10 years' experience. A mother of three, she has directed and produced award-winning work, including *Saving Grace* and *What We Do in the Shadows*.

Ainsley Gardiner is a producer of such award-winning works as the Oscar-nominated *Two Cars, One Night* and the international hit *BOY*. In addition to *Waru*, she has written and directed *Mokopuna*, her first short film.

Briar Grace-Smith is an award-winning writer and director. She is a Sundance alumna and the writer of the feature films *The Strength of Water* and the horror comedy *Fresh Meat*.

Paula Jones has been working in television production for 20 years specializing in directing, research and writing, mainly in the field of documentary.

Casey Kaa's passion for children and her Indigenous language naturally led her to producing children's television and web content in *Te Reo Māori* and English over the past decade. *Kia Mau*, which was Casey's first solo series, led her to start her own production company in 2015.

Renae Maihi is an award-winning and critically-acclaimed writer and director in theatre and film, many of whose work have been presented at *ImagineNATIVE*. She is also the co-director of *Ka Puta Ko Au*, which is in this year's Festival.

Awanui Simich-Pene has directed for television and film, and has served as a script supervisor on numerous projects, including *Power Rangers* and *This Is Piki*. For Awanui, directing is an extremely rewarding outlet for creativity, exploration, connection and heart.

Katie Wolfe (Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama) works across acting, directing, producing, writing and development in the theatre and screen industries. Her first two short films, *This Is Her* and *Redemption*, both premiered at Sundance, went on to screen in the Berlinale and won her the Emerging Filmmaker Award and Best Film Award at *ImagineNATIVE* 2010.

Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu is an Auckland-based writer and actor who also works as a casting assistant. She is a graduate of Unitec's Screen and Performing Arts degree and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Auckland University in film, television and media.

Birth of a Family

Sponsored by: **re:zolution**
SCHOOLU

OCT 19
THUR 11:00AM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3



Birth of a Family

Director: Tasha Hubbard (Cree)
Producer: Bonnie Thompson
Writers: Betty Ann Adam (Dene) /
Tasha Hubbard (Cree)
Canada | 2017 | 79 min
English | Documentary Feature

Removed from their young Dene mother's care as part of Canada's Sixties Scoop, Betty Ann, Esther, Rosalie and Ben were four of the 20,000 Indigenous children taken from their families between 1955 and 1985. Veritable strangers, each has had a very different life journey. Bonded by blood and now all middle age, they come together for the very first time in the resort town of Banff, Alberta. As their weekend unfolds – and the stories of their mother and Dene family are shared – the siblings are challenged by the sadness and comforted by the joys of learning about their full history. Despite the heartache of separation, their love uplifts them all as they move towards the birth of a new family.

Tasha Hubbard (Cree) is an award-winning filmmaker and an assistant professor in the University of Saskatchewan's Department of English. Her solo writing/directing project Two Worlds Colliding won a Gemini and a Golden Sheaf Award in 2005.



From Up North

Director: Trudy Stewart (Cree)
Producer: Janine Windolph (Cree)
Canada | 2017 | 13 min
English | Short Documentary | Toronto Premiere

During the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, filmmaker Trudy Stewart documented elders' stories. In this touching short, Noel Starblanket shares his experiences of attending Lebreton Residential School. As Trudy listens to his story, she offers a poetic reflection of her own life and the impact of their stories.

Trudy Stewart is a Cree storyteller hailing from Flying Dust First Nation, Saskatchewan, and based in Regina. Trudy works in documentary, dramatic narrative and comedy as a writer, director and producer. She also works in communities as a youth workshop facilitator and is festival director for the mispon: Indigenous Film Festival in Regina.

Co-Presented by:

Native Child & Family Services Centres

OCT 19
THUR 1:30 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3

Sponsored by: **Inuit Art** **Channel 51 Igloolik**

In commemoration and celebration of 30 years of Inuit video art production by the Isuma and Arnait Video Collectives, imagineNATIVE is proud to present this shorts programme guest-curated by Isabella Weetaluktuk, featuring retrospective works and the world premiere of the latest work by Zacharias Kunuk. This programme is a companion to the exhibition of the same name (pg. 32).



Qulliq (Oil Lamp)

Director: Susan Avingaq (Inuk) / Madeline Ivalu (Inuk) /
Marie-Hélène Cousineau
Producer: Arnait Video Collective
Canada | 1993 | 10 min
Inuktitut with English Subtitles | Short Drama

The qulliq is the seal oil lamp and stove of the old days and the only source of light and warmth in the cold months. The women of Arnait tell its story in words and songs as they install the qulliq in their igloo.

Susan Avingaq has been a regular contributor to Arnait since 1991. A renowned seamstress/artist in the Baffin region, she is also active locally in teaching sewing traditions to younger Inuit women.

Madeline Ivalu is one of Arnait's founders, and has been a key contributor since 1991. She co-directed the award-winning Before Tomorrow (2008) and Uvanga (2013), the first and second Arnait feature-length films.

Marie-Hélène Cousineau moved to Igloolik in 1991 and, with Madeline Ivalu and Mary Kunuk, established Arnait Video Productions to teach filmmaking to women in Igloolik. She is co-producer and co-director of Arnait's groundbreaking features Before Tomorrow, Uvanga and SOL.



Aqtuqsi (My Nightmare)

Director: Mary Kunuk (Inuk)
Producer: Arnait Video Collective
Canada | 1996 | 6 min
Inuktitut with English Subtitles | Animation

An aqtuqsi is a dream from which one must wake up ... a terrifying nightmare that can paralyze you when sleeping.

Mary Kunuk is a founding member of Arnait Video Productions. An artist, printmaker and video maker, Mary has produced several experimental videos using computer animation that have screened at festivals and galleries around the world.



Unikausiq (Stories)

Director: Mary Kunuk (Inuk)
Producer: Arnait Video Collective
Canada | 1996 | 6 min
Inuktitut with English Subtitles | Short Drama

In this computer-animated work, Mary Kunuk explores stories and songs recalled from her own childhood. As she has said, "Recording them on video is my way of keeping them alive."



Issaituq (Waterproof)

Director: Bruce Haulli (Inuk)
Producers: Bruce Haulli (Inuk) / Guillaume Saladin
Canada | 2007 | 45 min
Inuktitut with English Subtitles | Short Drama

After losing his love, a young Inuk turns to the bottle. One day, as he struggles to forget his pain, he commits a violent act that results in his exile to an outpost camp, where a hunter is waiting for him.

Bruce Haulli is a director, writer, story consultant, video technician, actor and musician. He has also been a member of the internationally celebrated Arctiq, the Inuit circus, since 2005.



Bowhead Whale Hunting with my Ancestors

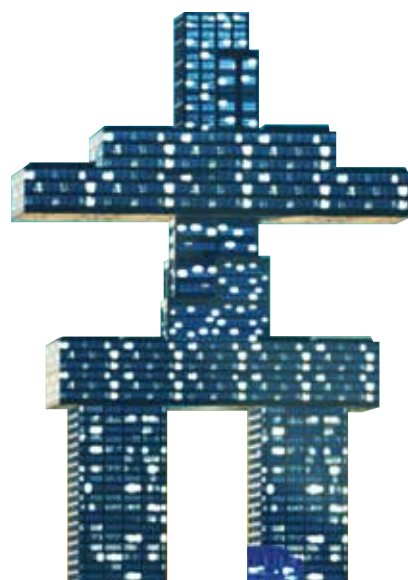
Directors: Carol Kunnuk (Inuk) / Zacharias Kunuk (Inuk)
Producer: Zacharias Kunuk (Inuk)
Canada | 2017 | 40 min
Inuktitut with English Subtitles | Documentary Feature
World Premiere

Inuit have hunted bowhead whales for thousands of years, using stone tools to hunt these 25-ton mammals. In 2016, Igloolik received a tag to harvest a bowhead; the filmmakers document this hunt, shedding light on this rich history and culture of Inuit whale hunting.

Carol Kunnuk is an actress and director, known for Anaana (2001), The Journals of Knud Rasmussen (2006) and Uvanga (2013).

Zacharias Kunuk is a renowned filmmaker whose dramatic feature films include Atanarjuat The Fast Runner, which won the Camera d'Or at Cannes. Zach is the winner of a National Arts Award, the National Aboriginal Achievement Award and was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2005.

Co-Presented by:
Toronto Inuit Association



From woven baskets to carvings to railways, the men in our lives can be a creative lot. This tender collection of short films speak to the legacies left behind and the beauty created by our fathers and brothers.



Inuk Hunter

Director / Producer: George Annanack (Kuujjuaq)
Canada | 2017 | 4 min
Without Dialogue | Short Documentary
Ontario Premiere

This poetic film draws you into an Inuk man's preparations for a very different kind of hunt.

George Annanack was born in Kangiqsualujjuaq and moved to Kuujjuaq in 2006. He is passionate about photography and loves taking pictures of the natural beauties that surround him.



My Father's Tools

Director / Producer: Heather Condo (Mi'gmaq)
Canada | 2016 | 6 min
Without Dialogue | Short Documentary
Ontario Premiere

Stephen goes about weaving a traditional basket with the knowledge his father gave him. As he weaves the basket, there is a sense of peace and connection to all his father taught him.

Heather Condo was adopted out but moved back to homelands in Gesgapegiag to reconnect with her family. Her son encouraged her to make this film, which had its premiere at Sundance 2017.



Carry the Flag

Director: Danielle Maclean (Luritja / Warumumgu)
Producers: Danielle Maclean (Luritja / Warumumgu) / Bernard Namok (Torres Strait Islander) / Anna Grieve
Australia | 2017 | 28 min
English | Short Documentary
International Premiere

In 2017, Torres Strait Islanders celebrate the 25th anniversary of their flag. For Bernard Namok Junior the flag is a poignant reminder of home, family and the father he hardly knew. Bernard Namok Senior won the flag design competition in 1992 but a year later, at just 31 years, he died, leaving behind his wife and four young children. Bernard the younger takes us on a journey across the Torres Straits to honour the legacy of his father and carry forward the stories of his people to the next generation.

Danielle Maclean is a Luritja/Warumumgu woman and began her career at CAAMA (Central Australian Media Association) in Alice Springs. She has been working in the last few years predominantly as a writer for TV shows like Double Trouble, Redfern Now, 8MMM and Little J & Big Cuz.



The Riiji Carver

Director: Kimberley West (Noongar)
Producer: Jodie Bell (Butchella)
Australia | 2017 | 26 min
Kriol with English Subtitles | Short Documentary
International Premiere

Aubrey Tigan is a renowned pearl shell carver whose work is informed from his homelands, the islands of the Buccaneer archipelago, a place the missionaries removed him from as a young boy. Aubrey takes his grandchildren on his last journey to their country to try and imprint the stories of the country and his art to the young grandchildren before it is too late.

Kimberley West, from Broome, has worked for a number of years as a director and editor with leading Indigenous media production house Goolarri Media.



Empire State

Directors: Terry Jones (Seneca) / Govind Deecce
Producer: Terry Jones (Seneca)
United States | 2016 | 5 min
English | Experimental
International Premiere

As an elder goes about preparing wild onions and corn, the outside world infiltrates through the TV: the fall of the Twin Towers, the hit on Baghdad and the first death of a Native American soldier overseas. A subtly poignant film that simply told gives strength to the old man and to those who bear witness.

Terry Jones is of the Seneca Nation and has a passion for sharing his Haudenosaunee history and culture through his film works. He strives to find a balance between entertaining and educating his audiences.



Metal Road

Director: Sarah Del Seronde (Navajo)
Producers: Sarah Del Seronde (Navajo) / Leighton Peterson
United States | 2017 | 26 min
Navajo/English with English Subtitles | Short Documentary
Canadian Premiere

The 9001 Heavy Steel Gang has been around for decades and thousands of Navajos have worked the line, maintaining the transcontinental railway network. *Metal Road* explores the dynamics of livelihood, family and the railroads through the lens of a Diné trackman. As tracks are laid over 64,000 miles, we uncover the history of this tireless group of workers who are striving to earn recognition and benefits for the immense contributions they and their predecessors have made to America.

Sarah Del Seronde is from the Bennett Freeze area of the Navajo Reservation. This is Sarah's second film since finishing her MA degree in American Indian Studies from University of Arizona.

Co-Presented by:

Mayworks Festival of Working People & the Arts

Sponsored by:



Out of State

Director: Ciara Lacy (Native Hawaiian)
Producers: Beau Bassett (Native Hawaiian) / Jeff Consiglio / Terry Leonard
United States | 2017 | 79 min
English | Documentary Feature
Canadian Premiere

Exiled three thousand miles from their tropical home due to overcrowding, Hawaiian men are placed in a private prison purpose built for them in the deserts of Arizona. With a predominantly Indigenous Hawaiian population, one of the prison's lifers, Kalani, teaches the men parts of their cultural heritage to help change their fate upon their return to the islands. This riveting documentary follows two inmates, David and Hale, as they are granted probation and return home eager to prove to themselves and to their families they have changed. However, life is anything but easy as they wrestle with inner demons and outside pressures as they strive to utilize the lessons of their culture to hold on to their future.

Ciara Lacy is a Native Hawaiian filmmaker whose interest lies in crafting films that use strong characters and investigative journalism to challenge the creative and political status quo. Ciara was the inaugural Sundance Institute Merata Mita Fellow and a current Princess Grace Awards Special Project grantee.



Kéwku

Director / Producer: Sean Stiller (Shuswap/Secwepemc)
Canada | 2017 | 10 min
English | Short Documentary |
Toronto Premiere

As Shuswap elder Ralph Phillips walks through his territory picking sage, he reveals the sometimes difficult stories of his life that have impacted his journey, beginning with his time at residential school. As he prepares the medicine and cleanses himself, he reveals the ways he came out of abuse and trauma to stand strong in his community.

Sean Stiller is an emerging Secwepemc filmmaker based in Toronto. His work largely centres on Indigenous and social justice issues in Canada, as well as on experimental and transmedia documentary practice.

Co-Presented by:

Regent Park Film Festival



Sweet Country

Director: Warwick Thornton (Kaytetye)
 Producers: David Jowsey / Greer Simpkin
 Writers: Steven McGregor (Indigenous) / David Tranter (Alyawarra)
 Australia | 2017 | 113 min
 English/Arnernte with English Subtitles | Dramatic Feature

Set in Australia's vast inner countries, *Sweet Country* is a visceral, muscular story of an Aboriginal stockman fleeing the law after the murder of a white station owner. Based on actual events, this stirring film is a visual treat and a deeply emotional story of justice - and injustice - in early 20th century Australia. Acclaimed auteur Warwick Thornton's highly anticipated feature is tour-de-force, enhanced by remarkable performances by Hamilton Morris and a cast that includes Sam Neill and Bryan Brown.

Sweet Country had its world premiere at this September's Venice Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Prize and the Premio Bisato d'Oro (the Venice critics award for Best Film). And at TIFF (2017), *Sweet Country* won the Toronto Platform Prize - that festival's top juried award.

Warwick Thornton is an internationally-renowned director, screenwriter and cinematographer who was born and raised in Alice Springs. His short films Nana and Greenbush premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival (with Nana winning the Crystal Bear for Best Short Film) and his landmark first feature, Samson and Delilah, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2009, winning the prestigious Caméra d'Or. Warwick has had numerous works at imagineNATIVE over the years and was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.



Resurgent and strong, youth return to traditional and cultural knowledge to lead the way into the future and remind us of the power of their voice and spirit.



Twilight Dancers

Directors / Producers: Theola Ross (Cree) / Paola Marino
 Canada | 2017 | 16 min
 English/Cree with English Subtitles | Short Documentary |
 Canadian Premiere

Youthful leadership shines brightly in Pimicikamak Cree Nation, where a group of young people committed to overcoming the trauma from a recent suicide epidemic use square dancing to help heal the wounds left by the loss of their community members.

Theola Ross (Cree) is pursuing a Bachelor's of Social Work degree at Ryerson University. Through many years in social work, Theola's work focuses on real life topics, issues or events and is witness to individuals' daily struggles and triumphs.



Mikinakay: Trail of the Turtle

Director: Erica Daniels (Cree/Ojibway)
 Producer: Cam Bennett
 Writer: Erica Daniels (Cree/Ojibway) / Paul James / Addison Sandy
 Canada | 2016 | 30 min
 English | Short Documentary
 World Premiere

Empowering themselves with the knowledge of their culture and traditions, two youth guided by Dave Courchene Jr., a spiritual leader and founder of the Turtle Lodge in Manitoba, enter a rites of passage ceremony to heal from the effects of intergenerational trauma.

Erica Daniels is a young filmmaker and entrepreneur specializing in video production, photography and graphic design. She is a graduate from the National Screen Institute's New Voices Program and has been recognized and awarded for her work in the visual arts and leadership. Mikinakay: Trail of the Turtle is her first documentary.



Keeping the Legends at Heart

Directors: Tasharra Moore (Haida) / Tyra Parker (Haida) / Jacey Pollard (Haida)
Producer: Lisa Nielsen
Canada | 2016 | 4 min
English | Short Documentary
Ontario Premiere

Three pre-teen filmmakers explore the connections and knowledge their generation has to important Haida legends that remain at the heart of their community.

Tyra Parker, Jacey Pollard and Tasharra Moore are youth from Haida Gwaii who took part in the Our World filmmaking workshop. Our World has travelled to First Nation communities in B.C. and Yukon conducting filmmaking workshops.

Co-Presented by:

Canadian Roots Exchange/Échanges Racines Canadiennes
SKETCH



Glwa: Resurgence of the Ocean-Going Canoe

Directors: Vina Brown (Heiltsuk/Nuu-chah-nulth) / Hillary Beattie
Producers: Frank Brown (Heiltsuk) / Ian Mauro
Canada | 2017 | 46 min
English/Heiltsuk | Documentary Feature
World Premiere

The Tribal Canoe Journeys – known as Qatuwas – is a cultural gathering that takes places along the Northwest Pacific Coast every summer. This stunning, intimate documentary follows Heiltsuk youth on their oceanic journey to the gathering, as they connect with other nations, develop confidence and gain a deep understanding of what it means to revitalize their culture.

Vina Brown is the Indigenous Programs and Research Coordinator at the Cooperative Extension at Northwest Indian College (NWIC) and part-time faculty at the Coast Salish Institute, teaching cultural sovereignty. She has participated in Qatuwas her whole life and was raised within Heiltsuk territory, learning traditional food harvesting methods and the resurgence of her own Heiltsuk culture. This is her directorial debut with co-director Hillary Beattie.



Río Verde. El tiempo de los Yakurunas (Green River. The Time of the Yakurunas)

Directors: Alvaro Sarmiento (Quechua) / Diego Sarmiento (Quechua)
Producer: Alvaro Sarmiento (Quechua)
Peru | 2017 | 69 min
Quechua/Spanish with English Subtitles | Documentary Feature
Canadian Premiere

This gorgeous, poetic documentary takes us on a hypnotic journey into the depths of the jungle and through three small villages connected by the Amazon River. A man paddles his canoe along the flowing waters of the mighty river under which the Yakurunas are said to live in cities that mirror our own. Sounds of ayahuasca chants accompany his voyage, on which he encounters powerful elders who evoke the ghosts of the rubber industry that facilitated colonialism at the end of 19th century. *Río Verde* is a remarkable film that confronts the tendrils of global capitalism through a deeply intimate portrait of life in the Amazon.

*Brothers Alvaro and Diego Sarmiento are two of Peru's fastest-rising filmmakers. Together they have alternated duties as director and producer on a number of celebrated projects that have screened at festivals the world over. Alvaro is a visual artist, screenwriter and producer who wrote and directed the award-winning short *Kay Pacha* (2014) and wrote and produced *Sonia's Dream* (2015), both of which screened at imagineNATIVE. In addition to producing, Diego has directed several short films, including *Earth's Children* (2014) which premiered at the Berlinale and *Sonia's Dream* (2015). *Río Verde*, which premiered at the 2017 Berlinale, is their first feature film.*



Kat Waj

Director: Teresa Jiménez (Ladino)
Producer: Verónica Sacalxot (Maya - Q'iche')
Guatemala | 2017 | 18 min
Maya with English Subtitles | Short Drama
North American Premiere

Ixmucané is a 12-year-old girl with a fascination for life and literature. Her life changes drastically and unexpectedly when her father makes a decision that sparks her to rebel against the destiny he wishes to impose.

*Teresa Jiménez is a director, photographer and graphic designer based in Guatemala City. Teresa is the founder and director of *Hacer Cine en Guatemala*, a news site dedicated to creating space and increasing interest in Guatemalan film production. She is a member of the Guatemalan Association of Audiovisual and Cinematography (AGAcine), and a member of Guatemalan women's filmmaking collective *Colectivo Lemow*.*

Co-Presented by:

OPIRG Toronto
Scarborough Arts Worldwide Film Festival

Storytelling takes on many mediums to transmit messages in this collection of works. From the spirit world, dance, oral storytelling or radio waves, artists and characters dive deep into themselves as they transcend forms of communication to convey their most poignant truths and histories.



Tsanizid (Wake Up)

Director / Producer: Beric Manywounds (Tsuut'ina/Anishnaabe)
Canada | 2017 | 6 min
Without Dialogue | Experimental
World Premiere

Director, performer and storyteller Beric Manywounds mesmerizes viewers as he leads us, through dance, on a Two-Spirit transformation journey.

Beric Manywounds (Tsuut'ina/Anishnaabe) is a Two-Spirit filmmaker, performer and storyteller.



Thirza Cuthand Is an Indian Within the Meaning of the Indian Act

Director / Producer / Writer: Thirza Cuthand (Plains Cree/Scottish)
Canada | 2017 | 8 min
English | Experimental
Ontario Premiere

As a light-skinned Cree woman, Thirza Cuthand takes us on a deeply personal journey through images of blood ties and land ties. She contemplates her interactions with racism, mixed-race identity and the threat of rejection from other Indigenous people, while making a searing commentary on historical trauma and ongoing survival.

Thirza Jean Cuthand is an award-winning filmmaker who has been making short experimental narrative videos and films about sexuality, madness, youth, love and race since 1995. Her works have screened at festivals nationally and internationally, including Tribeca, Hot Docs and Oberhausen. She has two works in this year's Festival.



NDNs on the Airwaves

Director: Jackson 2Bears (Mohawk)
Producer / Writer: Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)
Canada | 2016 | 11 min
English | Short Documentary
Ontario Premiere

Pushing the form of documentary, 2Bears uses poetry, soundscapes and voice in this mash-up style of storytelling. He follows the extraordinary soundscapes and work of Janet Rogers as she journeys back home to Six Nations, over the airwaves, as she finds her own voice and that of her people.

Jackson 2Bears (Mohawk) is multimedia installation/performance artist and cultural theorist from Six Nations who is currently based in Lethbridge, Alberta. He has exhibited his work extensively across Canada in public galleries, museums and artist-run centres, as well as internationally in festivals and group exhibitions.

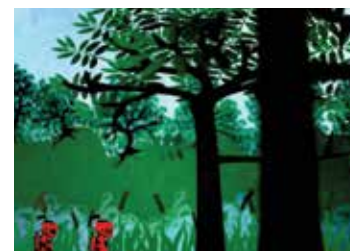


ôtênaw

Director / Producer: Conor McNally (Métis/Otipemisiwak)
Canada | 2017 | 40 min
English/Cree with English Subtitles | Short Documentary
Ontario Premiere

A meditative and captivating work that follows the oral storytelling of Dwayne Donald, an educator from Edmonton, as he draws from Nêhiyawak philosophies speaking about the multilayered histories of Indigenous peoples' presence both within and around Amiskwaciwâskahikan, now known as the City of Edmonton. This captivating work reveals the buried stories that lay beneath our cityscapes.

Conor McNally is a filmmaker based in Edmonton. He creates works through a combination of instinct and hands-on trial and error. Conor is also a proud father and a garlic grower.



ᐅᐃᐅᐅ ᐃᐅ ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ (Uktena and Thunder)

Director / Producer: Joseph Erb (Cherokee)
United States | 2017 | 8 min
Cherokee with English Subtitles | Animation
International Premiere

Long ago two young boys encounter a starving snake, who they agree to feed. In return the uktena offers them friendship. As time passes the now enormous creature enters battle with Thunder, who asks the boys to make a difficult decision between loyalty and obligation.

Joseph Lewis Erb is a computer animator, film producer, educator, language technologist and artist who created the first Cherokee animation in the Cherokee language, The Beginning They Told. Most of his work is created in the Cherokee language. Joseph teaches digital storytelling at the University of Missouri.



A prayer for the lost

Director / Writer: Natasha Francis (Mi'kmaq)
Producers: Kennlin Barlow (Mi'kmaq) / Tyler Francis (Mi'kmaq/Maliceet)
Canada | 2017 | 7 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

Two spirits – a young woman and a child – communicate to one another about the stories of their demise. Confused and lost, they long for the family they left behind.

Natasha Francis is a from Indian Island First Nation and began her career in theatre at the University of Cape Breton. While in Sydney she played in numerous productions such as The Vagina Monologues and The Merchant of Venice, and she is now also pursuing a career in film. A prayer for the lost was commissioned through imagineNATIVE's annual partnership with the New Brunswick Filmmakers' Co-operative.



In Moment

Director / Producer / Writer: Samay Arcentales Cajas (Kichwa)
Canada | 2017 | 6 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

As the world suffocates in its own self-destruction, the Spirit Callers pray to the Four Directions for help. The struggle of generations past, present and future are about to come to a close, but are our minds, hearts and spirits open enough to hear the call?

Samay Arcentales Cajas (Kichwa) is a digital media and community artist. In her creative practice she explores the sense of being uprooted, the migration experience and the meaning of urban Indigeneity. Her first short stop-motion film, Rimanakuna, premiered at imagineNATIVE in 2014. In Moment was commissioned as part of imagineNATIVE's annual partnership with the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto.



North of South / Norte del Sur

Directors: Francisco Huichaqueo (Mapuche) / Casey Koyozan (Tlicho Dene) / Alejandro Valbuena (Arawak-Kogi)
Producer: Alejandro Valbuena (Arawak-Kogi)
Writer: Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora)
Canada / Chile / Colombia | 2017 | 16 min
English | Experimental
World Premiere

North of South / Norte del Sur is the visual and sonic reflections of a group of Indigenous artists coming together from Chile, Northwest Territories, Six Nations, Mexico and Colombia. Produced as part of TerritAur(i)al Imprints, imagineNATIVE's three-week audio-art focused collaborative exchange in Palomino, Colombia, the participating artists offer a visual and aural representation of their time together as they initiated and forged a relationship with South American territories and their own creative energies.

Francisco Huichaqueo is a visual artist and filmmaker whose work approaches the social landscape, history, culture and cosmovision of his Mapuche people. He is also an academic who teaches at the Universidad de Concepción, Chile.

Inspired by history, culture and their interactions with the human world and technology, Casey Koyozan's art seeks to bridge the gap between visual and audio, while subtly recognizing Indigenous values and politics.

Alejandro Valbuena was born in Colombia and moved to Canada at the end of the 20th century. His short work has screened at imagineNATIVE, and he has worked on two seasons of the Netflix series Narcos. He recently established and launched the Shain Wüunu Experimental Arts Centre in Palomino, Colombia.



Creatura Dada

Director / Producer: Caroline Monnet (Algonquin)
Canada | 2017 | 4 min
Without Dialogue | Experimental

Six powerful Native women gather to celebrate a new beginning and the end of the world as we know it.

Caroline Monnet is a multidisciplinary artist from Outaouais, Quebec, currently based in Montreal. She is an alumnus of the Berlinale Talent Campus and TIFF Talent Lab 2016. Her short films have screened at prominent festivals worldwide, including TIFF, Sundance and the Berlinale. She was twice nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for her short films Roberta (commissioned by imagineNATIVE) and Tshiué. She is currently developing her first feature film, entitled Bootlegger.

Co-Presented by:

Images Festival
Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto
NB Film Co-op
New Adventures in Sound Art

Sponsored by:



Kayak to Klemtu

Director / Writer: Zoe Hopkins (Mohawk/Heiltsuk)
Producer: Daniel Bekerman
Canada | 2017 | 90 min
English | Dramatic Feature
World Premiere

When Dave Ellis (Evan Adams), a prominent Kitasoo/Xai'Xais activist, passes away, his 14-year-old niece Ella (Ta'Kaiya Blaney) makes it her mission to take his ashes home to Klemtu and stand in his place at a community gathering against a proposed pipeline that would bring oil tankers through their beloved homeland waters. Strengthened by her determination and her youthful spirit, Ella embarks on the kayak journey she planned to take with her Uncle Dave through the Inside Passage along the beautiful shores of the Great Bear Rainforest. Along for the journey are her aunt, cousin and her cranky Uncle Don (Lorne Cardinal). It's a race against the clock, as the four paddle to make the community gathering in time for Ella to give the speech of her life. Zoe Hopkins's first feature film is a delightful family adventure that speaks to our heart and minds about the importance of protecting our lands for the generations to come.

Zoe Hopkins was born in Bella Bella, a Heiltsuk fishing village on the coast of B.C., home to her mother and maternal family, in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. She now lives in her father's community of Six Nations, where she is raising her son, and where she teaches the Mohawk language online to students across Turtle Island. Zoe is an alumna of the Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program. She was a member of both iterations of imagineNATIVE's groundbreaking Embargo Collective in 2009 and 2014 and she also has her first virtual reality work in imagineNATIVE this year (see Impossible to Contain on p. 40).



Our Protection for Our Future Generations

Directors: Bella Brown (Heiltsuk) / Trinity Hunt (Heiltsuk) / Nathaniel Mason-Brown (Heiltsuk)
Producer: Lisa Nielsen
Canada | 2016 | 5 min
English | Short Documentary
Ontario Premiere

Community members share their views about oil tankers in Bella Bella and the threat they pose to the Heiltsuk way of life.

Bella Brown, Nathaniel Mason-Brown and Trinity Hunt are students from the Bella Bella Community School. This is the first film for these young students, produced during an Our World filmmaking workshop at their school.

Juliana & The Medicine Fish

Sponsored by: 

OCT 20
FRI 9:15 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2



Juliana & the Medicine Fish

Director / Producer: Jeremy Torrie (Ojibwe)
Writers: Jeremy Torrie (Ojibwe) / Jake MacDonald
Canada | 2017 | 111 min
English | Dramatic Feature
World Premiere

At 12 years old, Juliana's mother dies suddenly and she is left to repair her complicated relationship with her father. But as bankruptcy looms over their family-owned resort, her father's mind is elsewhere as he tries to organize a high-stakes fishing derby, hoping to save their home and livelihood. Haunted by dreams that her mother is trapped within the murky waters surrounding their lodge – and feeling powerless to help her father – Juliana seeks the counsel of an elder and fishing guide who shares the story of the legendary musky, an ancient and massive medicine fish with a spirit-essence crucial to the survival of the lake. Believing in the power of the medicine fish to free her mother and win the derby's \$1 million prize, Juliana hopes to capture the fish but in doing so, she discovers she must face an even greater challenge that lies deep within her. Featuring fantastic performances from Emma Tremblay, Adam Beach and Roseanne Supernault!

Jeremy Torrie has produced, written, directed and edited network programming and is known for films such as Cowboys & Indians: The Killing of JJ Harper, Mr. Soul and A Flesh Offering. He is committed to the Indigenous community through the production of both dramatic and documentary stories.

Co-Presented by:
ReelWorld Film Festival

OCT 20
FRI 11:59 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2



Slincraze – Stállu

Director / Producer / Writer: Egil Pedersen (Sámi)
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 3 min
Sámi with English Subtitles | Music Video
International Premiere

For the Sámi, the Stállu is a monster, the kind that brings nightmares. In this track, Slincraze raps about how he feels like being a stállu, an outcast in society.

Egil Pedersen is a Sámi director from northern Norway. He likes to push the barrier and do eye-catching storytelling using absurd humour, disturbing moods, majestic looks and twisted ideas.



Believer

Director / Writer: Migizi Pensoneau (Ojibwe/Ponca)
Producer: Brooke Swaney (Blackfeet)
United States | 2017 | 4 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

Prior to heading to work, a bodyguard engages in an imaginary lightsabre battle with son. When he gets caught in an ambush and left with no ammo, he remembers the advice he gave to his son: all you have to do is believe.

Migizi Pensoneau comes from Minnesota. He has worked for several Hollywood studios as a writer and producer. He is the co-founder and writer for the popular comic group 1491s.



CALVING

Director: Nathan Adler (Anishinabe/Jewish)
Canada | 2017 | 2 min
English | Experimental
Toronto Premiere

As the earth warms, an ancient creature thaws out and emerges into an unfamiliar world.

Nathan Adler is a writer and an artist and a member of the Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation.



The End of the World

Director / Producer: Clayton Windatt (Métis)
Canada | 2016 | 6 min
Without dialogue | Experimental
Toronto Premiere

A faceless horde invades and begins to destroy another way of life.

Clayton Windatt is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in northeastern Ontario. After working as director of the White Water Gallery Artist-Run Centre for seven years, he now works as executive director of the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and as an independent curator.

The Witching Hour

OCT 20
FRI 11:59 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2



Demons

Director / Writer: Morningstar Derosier (Ojibwe/Plains Cree)
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

Haunted by a menacing shadow in his dreams, a young man begins to lose his grip on reality and his well-being.

Morningstar Derosier is a young aspiring filmmaker from Migisi Sahgaigan, Ontario.



This Wild Season

Director / Writer: Jonathan Elliott (Tuscarora)
Producers: Jonathan Elliott (Tuscarora) / Steven Czikk / Aaron DiMaria / Erica Orofino
Canada | 2017 | 12 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

Deep in the woods, a seemingly innocuous family camping trip takes a dark turn when the tension between father and daughter builds as the full moon begins to rise.

Jonathan Elliott is from Six Nations and graduated from York University's film production program. He is a co-founder, producer and creative director of Paper Frame Pictures.



MÅSØ – Gos leat don?

Director / Producer / Writer: Egil Pedersen (Sámi)
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 8 min
Sámi | Music Video
North American Premiere

A young girl finds her own way to deal with disturbing secrets she discovers in her family.

Egil Pedersen is a Sámi director from northern Norway. He likes to push the barrier and do eye-catching storytelling using absurd humour, disturbing moods, majestic looks and twisted ideas.



Versaearcolonion

Directors/Writers: Chandra Melting Tallow (Blackfoot) / Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (Blackfoot/Sámi)
Producer: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (Blackfoot/Sámi)
Canada | 2016 | 14 min
English | Short Drama
Ontario Premiere

Versaearcolonion: "Con(versa)tional Strategies B(ear)ing Witness to the Dialectics of De(colon)ial Interpersonal Reconciliat(ion)."

Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers is a filmmaker, writer and actor. She is Blackfoot from the Kainai First Nation (Blood Reserve) as well as Sámi from northern Norway.

Chandra Melting Tallow is a musician/visual artist/filmmaker and semi-professional lipsyncher of mixed ancestry from the Siksika Nation. She works primarily in installation and performance.

OCT 20
FRI 11:59 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2

The Witching Hour



Snaglines

Director / Producer / Writer: Howard Adler (Anishinabe/Jewish)
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
English | Short Documentary
Toronto Premiere

"Snagging" is slang for hooking up. In this short film, "What's your best snagline?" is the question that's posed to the local Indigenous community in Ottawa, resulting in fun and tantalizing responses.

Howard Adler is currently the workshop coordinator at SAW Video Media Art Centre and is the co-director and programmer for the Asinabka Festival in Ottawa.



Captivity Narrative

Director / Writer: Jason Asenap (Comanche/Creek)
Producer: Blackhorse Lowe (Navajo)
United States | 2017 | 11 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

When an ordinary dude keeps getting funny responses from others, he soon realizes he has an extraordinary doppelganger.

Jason Asenap is a Comanche/Muscogee Creek writer/filmmaker based in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



No Reservations

Director / Writer: Trevor Carroll (Ojibway)
Producer: Ben Mallin
Canada | 2017 | 11 min
English | Short Drama

The dynamics of the pipeline debate take a comedic twist in this clever political satire. Featuring Lorne Cardinal!

Trevor Carroll is an award-winning director, producer, actor and artist. He is currently the producer and director of Western Canada's premiere mixed martial arts organization, Battlefield Fight League.



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OCT 21
SAT 10:00 AM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3

Sponsored by:



First Step

For every journey a first step must be taken and within that first step exists the powerful act of transformative change. This collection of works begins with that initial footstep, whether it is moving forward, letting go, truth-telling, transcending into a new space or just existing in one's present.



KEEWAYDAH (Let's Go Home)

Director / Writer: Terril Calder (Métis)
Producers: Jason Ryle (Anishinabe) / Geeta Sondhi
Canada | 2017 | 9 min
English/Ojibwe | Animation
World Premiere

The moth's powerful transformational gifts can bring us from one world to the next. In this stunning work, the moth brings home 12-year-old Chanie Wenjack and serves for metaphor and call for change in the often fraught relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canada.

Terril Calder is from Fort Frances, Ontario, and currently resides in Toronto. Her animations have screened at festivals internationally, including Sundance, Oberhausen and Rotterdam. Her last film, SNIP, premiered at TIFF, was named as one of Canada's Top Ten Shorts (2016) and won a prize at the 2017 Berlinale (Generation, 14plus).



Morit Elena Morit

Directors: Inga-Wiktoria Pâve (Sámi) / Anders Sunna (Sámi)
Producers: Anders Sunna (Sámi) / Inga-Wiktoria Pâve (Sámi)
Sápmi - Sweden | 2017 | 4 min
Sámi | Animation
International Premiere

A haunting tale that follows a young girl and her reindeer as they try to escape the menacing darkness of the colonial oppression in Sápmi. Guided by a spirit, she is reminded to listen to her inner voice and trust her instincts.

Inga-Wiktoria Pâve is from a small village called Lannavaara in Sweden. Born into a reindeer herding family, she lets her inspiration flow freely from her Sámi heritage into her creations. This is her first film.

Anders Sunna (Sámi) was raised in a reindeer herding family in Kieksiäisvaara, now operating in Jokkmokk. An active artist since 1998, his visual art works are a mix between collage, painting and street art.



Braids

Director / Producer: Cole Stevens-Goulais (Anishinaabe)
Canada | 2016 | 2 min
English | Experimental
Toronto Premiere

Through spoken word, the life and death of a young Indigenous man is recounted.

Cole Stevens-Goulais is an artist and spoken-word poet based out of Nipissing First Nation. He has trained at the "Big Medicine Studio" and has written, directed and acted in several student short films and theatre.

OCT 21
SAT 10:00 AM
 TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3



STACK

Director / Producer: Dana Claxton (Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux)
 Canada | 2017 | 4 min
 Without dialogue | Experimental
 World Premiere

Shot in one take on an iPad, images of moccasins evoke those who walked in them.

Dana Claxton is a critically acclaimed exhibiting artist, film and video maker. She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory with the University of British Columbia.



Kchi-Nendizan (Big Pride)

Directors: Lena Recollet (Wikwemikong - Anishnaabe) /
 Miles Turner (Mohawk)
 Producer: Miles Turner (Mohawk)
 Writer: Lena Recollet (Wikwemikong - Anishnaabe)
 Canada | 2016 | 2 min
 Anishinaabe | Experimental
 Toronto Premiere

Kchi-Nendizan ("big pride") is about feeling the rhythm of the language and being proud. This is Lena's first poem fully in Anishnaabemowin.

Lena Recollet is an educator, comedian, mother and multidisciplinary artist working in various art, including poetry.

Miles Turner is a multimedia artist from Six Nations and runs a production company called maizeMEDIA.



Walk in Dreams

Director / Producer: Jonathan Thunder (Red Lake Band of Ojibwe)
 United States | 2016 | 3 min
 Without dialogue | Animation
 International Premiere

Based on the director's personal, intuitive paintings, *Walk in Dreams* takes us through a fantastical world with the creatures that live there.

Jonathan Thunder is a painter and digital media artist currently residing in Duluth, Minnesota. Jonathan has won several first-place awards in SWAIA's annual Class 'X' Moving Images competition for animation and experimental film.

OCT 21
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 TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3



Cry Wolf

Director / Producer: Dianne Ouellette (Métis)
 Canada | 2017 | 2 min
 English | Experimental
 World Premiere

In this tender short, a young girl fondly remembers her beautiful farm dog and that fateful day when she cries wolf in hopes of saving his life.

Dianne Ouellette is an award-winning independent film/video maker who is currently pursuing her MFA in media production. Her works have been screened internationally and she just completed her first feature documentary.



Experiments in Light

Director / Producer / Writer: Jaene Castrillon (Indigenous Colombian/Hong Kong Chinese)
 Canada | 2016 | 2 min
 Without dialogue | Experimental

Light is used to evoke a meditative state that invites us to live in – and contemplate – the present.

Jaene Castrillon is a film-based interdisciplinary artist who explores her relationship to the world through various spiritual teachings and the wisdom of the land. She is also a queer woman of colour living with disabilities that inspire her arts practice, opening a dialogue on preconceived notions of wellness and illness.



Keepers for the Old People

Director / Producer: Michael Keshane (Saulteaux)
 Canada | 2017 | 18 min
 English | Experimental
 World Premiere

A personal, honest examination of a young man's challenging life as he walks into the role of being a carrier and keeper of his family's stories.

Michael Roderick Keshane grew up in north-central Regina. His videos Giving Up the Ghost (2013) and For When Dying Is a Gift (2015) screened at imagineNATIVE.



The Importance of Dreaming

Director / Producer / Writer: Tara Audibert (Maliseet)
Canada | 2017 | 10 min
English | Animation
Ontario Premiere

When a lonely owl meets a beautiful fox, his dreams take flight. A touching story of impossible love and the (bittersweet) power of memory.

Tara Audibert is a New Brunswick artist with almost 20 years' experience working in the animation industry as a producer, director and animator. This is her first independent short film.



Zaasaakwe (Shout With Joy)

Director: Madison Thomas (Ojibwe/Saulteaux)
Producer: Darcy Waite (Cree)
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
English | Short Documentary
World Premiere

In this uplifting celebration of life, a young woman calls upon Indigenous people to embrace their history while coming together to strengthen their ties within the community.

Madison Thomas is a filmmaker from Winnipeg. She has created numerous shorts for both festival and television, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in filmmaking from the University of Winnipeg.



Bzindan (Harmony)

Director: Nadia McLaren (Anishinaabe)
Canada | 2017 | 4 min
English/Anishinaabe | Music Video
World Premiere

In this uplifting music video, seven elders collaborated with 12 urban Indigenous youth in Peterborough to create a song. Their creation, *Bzindan*, speaks of a flowing river where a boat and the water sing together, and knowledge of the ancestors is remembered.

Nadia McLaren hails from northern Ontario. She is a visual artist, writer and graduate from the Ontario College of Art and Design. Her film Muffins for Granny (2006) won an Honourable Mention at imagineNATIVE.

Co-Presented by:
Toronto Animated Image Society

Sponsored by:



MANKILLER

Director: Valerie Red-Horse Mohl (Cherokee)
Producers: Gale Anne Hurd / Valerie Red-Horse Mohl (Cherokee) / Dawn Jackson (Saginaw Chippewa) / Kristina Kiehl / Stacy Mahoney / Felicia Olaya (Cherokee) / Gina Olaya (Cherokee) / Charlie Soap (Cherokee)
United States | 2017 | 73 min
English | Documentary Feature
International Premiere

MANKILLER powerfully portrays the impact and determination of the formidable Wilma Mankiller, who defied all odds to emerge as the Cherokee Nation's first female principal chief in 1985. Through the weaving of archives and interviews of the people closest to her, we witness her extraordinary life and passion, including the many challenges she had to face both personally and for her nation. One of Native America's greatest leaders, Mankiller left a deep legacy that is still felt within the community – and the country – today. At once both a stirring profile of a legendary leader and an engaging portrait of a phenomenal woman, *MANKILLER* is a remarkable tribute to an unforgettable force of nature.

Valerie Red-Horse Mohl's body of work spans over three decades of film and television content creation and production. A graduate of UCLA's Theater/Film Program, she has produced, directed and written over a dozen award-winning films and television programs. Valerie is a member of the Directors Guild and the Screen Actors Guild and was inducted into the NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) Hall of Fame in 2008. In addition to her entertainment expertise, she is an investment banker serving as owner/founder of Red-Horse Financial Group, Inc.; she has raised/structured over \$3 billion in capital for American Indian Tribal Nations.



Nuuca (Take)

Director / Producer: Michelle Latimer (Métis/Algonquin)
Canada | 2017 | 12 min
English | Short Documentary

The oil boom in North Dakota has brought thousands of new people to the region and with them an influx of drugs, crime and sex trafficking. This beautiful work is an evocative meditation on Indigenous women's integral connection to land and the ways in which the extractive industry's rape of the Earth is directly linked to the violence perpetrated against Indigenous women and girls.

Michelle Latimer is the showrunner, director and writer of the Viceland breakout series RISE, which premiered at the 2017 Sundance Festival. A Toronto-based filmmaker, showrunner/producer, actor and activist, she has two films in this year's imagineNATIVE.

Co-Presented by:
Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
Rebels With A Cause Film Festival



OCT 21
SAT 1:00 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3

This year brought an unprecedented number of short films that explore the relationship between a mother and her child. In honour of the role of motherhood, this powerful collection of films touches on the bonds, complexities, struggles and strengths that so many mothers face as they raise their little ones.



Ka Puta Ko Au

Directors: Amie Batalibasi (Solomon Islands) / Renae Maihi (Te Arawa) / Kelton Stepanowich (Sayisi Dene)
Producer: Libby Hakaraia (Ngati Raukawa Ki Te Tonga)
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 11 min
Māori with English Subtitles | Short Drama
International Premiere

Set in pre-colonial Aotearoa this gorgeous film tells the story of a young Māori woman who risks her life to travel to another tribe. There she must give herself to the Chief in order to stop her bloodline from dying out altogether. Created in 72 hours for \$800 as part of the second iteration of the Native Slam at the Māoriland Film Festival.

Amie Batalibasi is a writer, director and producer based in Melbourne. She is the 2017 recipient of the Sundance Institute's Merata Mita Fellowship to develop the feature version of her short Blackbird, which won a prize at last year's imagineNATIVE.

Renae Maihi is an acclaimed writer and director with a long history at imagineNATIVE. She is one of the directors and writers of this year's Opening Night film, Waru.

Kelton Stepanowich is from Fort Chipewyan and is best known for writing, directing and producing the short film Gods Acre, which premiered at TIFF and won Best Short at imagineNATIVE 2016.



Raven

Director / Producer / Writer: Razelle Benally (Oglala Lakota/Diné)
United States | 2017 | 10 min
English | Short Drama
International Premiere

A young woman, overcome by grief, contemplates a dark path after the painful loss of her little girl. But a dreamlike encounter deep in the woods shows her that life is worth living after all.

Razelle Benally is an award-winning director and writer and an alumna of the 2012 Sundance Film Institute Native Filmmakers Lab. Her last film, I Am Thy Weapon (2016), screened at imagineNATIVE.



Natalie

Director / Writer: Qianna Titore (Nga Puhi)
Producer: Eloise Veber
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2016 | 8 min
English | Short Drama
Toronto Premiere

As 14-year-old Natalie and her mother sit side-by-side on the powerful Opononi sand dunes, her mother gives her a precious song composed by her deceased grandfather. As they journey home, an unexpected event occurs, leaving both their paths forever changed.

Qianna Titore is a year 12 student at Northland College, Kaikohe. She lives on her whānau land in Omanaia, South Hokianga, with her sister and mother. Her passions are filmmaking, art and fashion design, and her film Natalie was developed after winning a pitch prize at her high school.

OCT 21
SAT 1:00 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3



Maria

Director: Jeremiah Tauamiti (Samoan)
Producer: Karin Williams (Cook Islands Māori)
Writer: Tapfia Pelesasa (Samoan/Tokelau)
Aotearoa New Zealand/Western Samoa | 2016 | 14 min
English/Samoan with English Subtitles | Short Drama
Canadian Premiere

After a long illness, Polynesian matriarch Nan Maria falls into a prolonged silence, leaving her unable or unwilling to speak. As her family falls into a tragic crisis, they become desperate for her guidance, but their pleas for her to re-emerge are all but futile until Nan Maria gets some unexpected help.

Jeremiah Tauamiti is a freelance award-winning film and television director and actor in Aotearoa New Zealand with a focus on Pacific Islands stories. His work includes The Legend of Kava and 'Ahoaitu, Ra'stat'ste, which screened at imagineNATIVE 2016.



Nieiddaš ja guollečikŋa (Girl with a Fish Necklace)

Director / Writer: Egil Pedersen (Sámi)
Producer: Mathis Ståle Mathisen
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 12 min
Sámi with English Subtitles | Short Drama
World Premiere

A young girl adores and longs for her late father, but an accidental meeting in a market brings to light that all was not as it seemed. As the buried and painful truths of her mother unravel, they contend with the difference in their memories and together they must let go of the past to remember there is always something to be happy about.

Egil Pedersen is a director from a small village in northern Norway. Egil has three films in imagineNATIVE this year and his work has screened at past Festivals.



RAE

Director: Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs (Mohawk)
Producers: Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs (Mohawk) / John Christou
Canada | 2017 | 12 min
English/Mohawk | Short Drama
World Premiere

Seven-year-old Rae looks forward to the birthday party her mother promised, but as the day continues, Rae watches as the voices in her mother's head begin to overtake her and Rae must confront her mother's mental illness as the responsibilities of parenting get reversed.

Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs is an award-winning film and television actress and director. Her roles include the lead in Rhymes for Young Ghouls (2013) and The Sun at Midnight (2016). She made her directorial debut with STOLEN (2016), which screened at imagineNATIVE.

Mother + Child

OCT 21
SAT 1:00 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3



Sunday Fun Day
Director / Producer / Writer: Dianna Fuemana (Mutalau-Niue/Pago Pago/
Samoa)
Niue-Aotearoa New Zealand | 2016 | 14 min
English | Short Drama
Ontario Premiere

Sunday proves to be a fun day when a fa’afafine teenager and her single mother hit the town. But after a booty call and a beating, they find themselves unexpectedly brought closer together as they navigate a system that does not allow them to fit in.

Dianna Fuemana began her career as an actress in theatre, however she learned very quickly that the only way to create roles for Pasifika characters was to write, direct and produce them herself. Since then, her works have been internationally recognized.



Unintentional Mother
Director / Writer: Mary Galloway (Cowichan)
Producers: Mary Galloway (Cowichan) / Jaykaybie Brown
/ Annette Reilly
Canada | 2017 | 11 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

A nanny, Anna, and Lucas, the six-year old she cares for, form a deep and loving bond as they find themselves in similar abusive situations. As the cruelty in their lives escalates, Anna makes a hasty and difficult decision that will change their lives forever.

Mary Galloway is a writer, director and actress whose first role was in the award-winning Fire Song (2015). She makes her directorial debut with this short.



Amásání (The Grandmother)
Director / Producer / Writer: Stacy Howard (Navajo)
United States | 2017 | 13 min
Navajo with English Subtitles | Short Drama
World Premiere

When Riley gets suspended from school, her mother sends her to spend a day with her grandmother. Although Riley is resistant at first, the loving and strong nature of her grandmother opens Riley’s world as she learns more of her Diné culture and language.

Stacy Howard was born and raised on the Navajo Nation in Mexican Water, Arizona. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in film and television from the University of Arizona. This is her second short film.

Co-Presented by:
Women in Film & Television - Toronto

OCT 21
SAT 3:00 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2

Our People Will Be Healed

Sponsored by: 



Our People Will Be Healed
Director / Producer: Alanis Obomsawin (Abenaki)
Canada | 2017 | 97 min
Cree/English with English Subtitles | Documentary Feature

The indefatigable Alanis Obomsawin returns to imagineNATIVE with another landmark in her storied and inspirational career. *Our People Will Be Healed* – Alanis’s 50th film in 50 years – is an uplifting story of the Norway House Cree Nation and the incredible innovations they have instituted in their educational system. Based in northern Manitoba, Norway House’s school has become a leading role model for Indigenous primary and secondary education in Canada, blending Cree and Western pedagogies into a system that puts the children’s well-being at its core. A long-time advocate for the rights of Indigenous children, Alanis crafts another stirring documentary that informs as it delights while reminding us of the power and beauty of young people.

Alanis Obomsawin is one of the world’s leading documentarists and a living legend of Indigenous cinema. Her astounding body of work has left an indelible impact on the Canadian psyche, and she remains a leading force in film production in this country. An activist filmmaker, Alanis has always been driven by a desire to give Indigenous peoples a voice. Her list of accomplishments is profound and include memberships in the Order of Canada and the Canadian Film & Television Hall of Fame. A tireless force, Alanis continues to develop and direct new projects.

Co-Presented by:
Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

Isn't love the best? Except when it isn't. But then again doesn't love cure all? This lovely collection of shorts gets down to the heart of the matter and explores L-O-V-E in all its beautiful, complicated, simple incarnations.



2 Spirit Dreamcatcher Dot Com

Director / Producer / Writer: Thirza Cuthand (Plains Cree/Scottish)
Canada | 2017 | 4 min
English | Short Drama
Ontario Premiere

A sultry, butch NDN woman seduces the Two-Spirit audience into signing up for a specialized dating website. A funny and insightful follow-up to her video *2 Spirit Introductory Special* \$19.99.

Thirza Jean Cuthand is an award-winning filmmaker who has been making short experimental narrative videos and films about sexuality, madness, youth, love and race since 1995. Her works have screened at festivals nationally and internationally, including Tribeca, Hot Docs and Oberhausen. She has two works in this year's Festival.



I Like Girls

Director / Writer: Diane Obomsawin (Abenaki)
Producer: Marc Bertrand
Canada | 2017 | 8 min
English | Animation

First love is an intoxicating experience, but with it can come excruciating awkwardness, unrequited emotions and confusing issues of identity. In her trademark playful style, cartoonist and animator Diane Obomsawin adapts her graphic novel for the screen, using endearing anthropomorphic figures to tell poignant real-life stories of love.

Diane Obomsawin is a cartoonist and animator who calls Montreal home. She grew up mainly in France, where she began her career as a graphic artist. A mainstay of Quebec's underground comic book scene, Diane became better known under the pseudonym "Obom." In 1992, she created her first animated short, L'abominable microbe.



Dear Hatetts

Director / Producer: Kerry Barber (Tr'ondek Hwech'in)
Canada | 2017 | 6 min
English | Short Documentary

Kerry Barber shares a deeply personal account of a love torn apart after being accused of telling a lie. Simply but powerfully told, Kerry's film is a letter to her accusers and a testimony of a woman not believed for telling the truth about her body.

Kerry Barber is an award-winning filmmaker originally from Yukon and now based in Vancouver. She holds a BFA in film, video + integrated media from Emily Carr.

OCT 21

SAT 5:45 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2

OCT 21

SAT 5:45 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2



Juuret On (Under Two Skies)

Directors: Suvi West (Sámi) / Anssi Kömi
Producer: Janne Niskala
Sápmi - Finland | 2017 | 12 min
Finnish/Sámi with English Subtitles | Short Documentary
North American Premiere

Pregnant with her first child, Helsinki-based director Suvi West shares her longing to return north to her ancestral lands to ensure her child has a northern Sámi identity. While her Finnish partner, Anssi, does not feel at home up north, his love for her makes him contemplate a change in lifestyle and a move to Sápmi. This personal documentary is a portrait of a couple at a crossroads in their lives and a testament to one's deep love for their land.

Suvi West has worked as a freelance director, script writer and editor. Her first feature documentary, Me and My Little Sister (2016), screened at last year's imagineNATIVE. Juuret On is her first collaboration with her partner and co-director, Anssi Kömi.



Anna Marina

Director / Producer: Trevor Mack (Tsilhqot'in)
Canada | 2017 | 10 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

Channelling the spirit of Richard Linklater, two young people meet on the dreamy streets of Barcelona and share a deep and immediate connection. Will their love endure the night or will it only last until sunrise?

Trevor Mack is an award-winning filmmaker from the interior of British Columbia. Raised by his mother and family, his culture and upbringing provided a strong foundation for storytelling expressed through his current film work.



I Will Always Love You Kingen

Director: Amanda Kernell (Sámi)
Producer: Theo Tsappos
Sápmi - Sweden | 2017 | 30 min
Sámi with English Subtitles | Short Drama
Canadian Premiere

In the dead of winter in northern Sweden, a young man panics when his girlfriend is about to give birth. Confronted with the realities of fatherhood, he must overcome his betrayal – and the community's anger – to reconnect with a love he chose to leave behind.

Filmmaker Amanda Kernell is one of the bright stars of contemporary Swedish cinema. Her first feature film, Sámi Blood, was a milestone in Scandinavian filmmaking and received rave reviews and numerous awards, including the Göteborg Film Festival's Dragon Prize (2017), the largest film cash prize in the world.



Last Drinks at Frida's
Director: Bjorn Stewart (Kuku Yalanji)
Producer: Kodie Bedford (Jaru/Gija) / Lois Randall
Australia | 2017 | 12 min
English | Short Drama
International Premiere

It's the 1940s and a soldier returning home from the war finds himself wandering the city's alleyways after Aboriginal curfew. While at a speakeasy he's instantly seduced by the voice of jazz singer Tilly De Frida, and is immediately reminded of his first love from back home. Will he find his true love or will circumstances tear them apart?

Bjorn Stewart is a theatre and film director and a graduate of the University of Wollongong. He directed his own online comedic videos that shed light on current social realities.



Brown Lips
Director / Writer: Nakkiah Lui (Gamilaroi/Torres Strait Islander)
Producer: Majhid Heath (Gumbaynggirr/Dunghutti)
Australia | 2017 | 12 min
English | Short Drama
International Premiere

Two cousins must make a difficult life-changing decision that could tear their family apart.

Nakkiah Lui wears many hats including director, writer, actor and broadcaster. She is a co-writer/associate producer and star of Black Comedy, one of Australia's highest-profile comedy series, and is a monthly columnist for the Australian Women's Weekly Online.



Laundry
Director / Writer: Becs Arahanga (Kai Tahu/Ngati Raukawa)
Producer: Kath Akuhata-Brown (Ngati Porou) / Julian Arahanga (Ngati Rangi/Ngati Raukawa)
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 11 min
English | Short Drama
International Premiere

When a happily married woman struggles to find intimacy due to the demands of raising a family, orgasmic pleasure is found in the most unlikely of places. A feel-good comedy about how your sex life can change after the kids come along.

Becs Arahanga has been in and out of the film industry for 15 years in different roles; Laundry is her first work as director. She is a proud mother to five tamariki and grandmother to two mokopuna and is based in Auckland.

Co-Presented by:
Shorts That Are Not Pants



[untitled & unlabeled]
Director / Producer / Writer: Terry Jones (Seneca)
United States | 2016 | 3 min
English | Short Documentary
International Premiere

In this very personal experimental work, director Terry Jones reflects upon the moment he was told he was "different" and how that left an imprint on the narrative of his life.

Terry Jones has a passion for sharing his Haudenosaunee history and culture through his film works. His short Soup for My Brother (2015) screened at last year's imagineNATIVE and his Empire State (2016) is also presented at this year's Festival.



Occupation of Memory
Director / Producer: Jade Baxter (Nlaka'pamux)
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
Without dialogue | Short Documentary
World Premiere

The scars of colonial memory are written into Indigenous lands. Here poetic images offer a powerful and quiet narrative to question the viewer's relationship to the occupied landscape, specifically in the Nlaka'pamux Nation.

Jade Baxter uses both documentary and fiction in her work, focusing on the importance of Indigenous narratives, identity and representation. Her short Beyond Hope (2016) screened at last year's imagineNATIVE.



Dislocation Blues
Director / Producer: Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk)
United States | 2017 | 19 min
English | Short Documentary

In one of the first films to come out of Standing Rock, Hopinka offers a quiet but potent contemplation that he describes as both an incomplete and imperfect portrait of reflections from the camp. Told through the memories and impressions of Terry Running Wild and Cleo Keahna, who look back as they hope for what will become.

Sky Hopinka's work centres around personal positions of homeland and landscape, designs of language and facets of culture contained within, and the play between the accessibility of the known and the unknowable. Some of his works include Visions of an Island (2016) and Jáaji Approx. (2015), which both screened at imagineNATIVE.

Co-Presented by:
Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival
Toronto True Crime Film Festival



Indictment: The Crimes of Shelly Chartier

Directors: Shane Belcourt (Métis) / Lisa Jackson (Anishinaabe)
Producers: Chris McIvor / Jeff Peeler
Canada | 2017 | 44 min
English | Short Documentary
World Premiere

A riveting true story about the crimes of Shelly Chartier, a reclusive young woman from a small Manitoba First Nation who captivated the press and made international headlines. Sensationalized in the media as a high-profile catfishing case involving an NBA superstar and an aspiring model, Shelly was portrayed as a master manipulator who used social media as her weapon. Through the sensitive and intelligent lens of directors Lisa Jackson and Shane Belcourt, the sensationalism is swept aside to reveal a much more compelling – and complex – story of a young woman caught in historical circumstances beyond her control and how she struggles to rebuild her life after incarceration. With in-depth access to Shelly, *Indictment* unpacks the crime and raises important questions about our justice system.

Shane Belcourt (Métis) is an award-winning and CSA-nominated director, writer and cinematographer whose work explores the Indigenous experience. He was a TIFF Talent Lab participant, an IFC Mentorship Award Winner and in 2010 a Filmmaker-in-Residence at the Winnipeg Film Group. His works include Tkarronto and Kaha:wi - The Cycle of Life.

Lisa Jackson (Anishinaabe) is an award-winning filmmaker in both narrative and documentary for film and television. Her works have screened internationally, including Berlinale, Hot Docs and SXSW, and she is a veteran filmmaker to imagineNATIVE. In 2012, Playback Magazine named her one of 10 filmmakers to watch. Her works include Suckerfish, Reservation Soldiers, How a People Live, Savage and 1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus.

imagineNATIVE and Revolutions Per Minute (RPM) Present:

The BEAT

Saturday, October 21 | 9:00PM
Featuring Mob Bounce, Kayla Briët, Ziibiwan and DJ Kookum
Hosted by Jarrett Martineau of RPM and CBC's Reclaimed
Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen Street West

FACTOR

We acknowledge the financial support
of Canada's private radio broadcasters



A high energy, dynamic showcase of Indigenous musical talent, imagineNATIVE's The Beat returns for its 13th year. This year The Beat is a co-presentation between imagineNATIVE and Revolutions Per Minute and will take place at the legendary Horseshoe Tavern.

The evening will include live performances, a screening of music videos by Indigenous artists (pg. 82), as well as the announcement of the winner of the iN Bullseye contest, a national talent search for emerging music talent in partnership with Slaughter Music.

MOB BOUNCE is a northwest coast Native hip-hop duo comprised of The Northwest Kid (Gitksan) and Heebz the Earthchild (Cree/Metis) who deliver passionate and soulful music that blends Indigenous-influenced hip-hop and electronic dance music with traditional and contemporary elements. Their first album, *Mob Medicine*, was released in late 2015. They are currently at work on their debut LP for RPM Records.

KAYLA BRIËT is a multi-instrumentalist drawing from elements of electronic, a-cappella, folk, and alternative pop. Her Prairie Band Potawatomi/Neshnabe, Chinese, and Dutch-Indonesian roots deeply inspire her music.

Jarrett Martineau is the co-founder and Creative Producer of Revolutions Per Minute, and the host of "Reclaimed", a new music series on CBC Radio that explores the sounds of the Indigenous Next Wave.

Revolutions Per Minute is a global new music platform, record label, artist collective, and boutique agency for Indigenous music culture. RPM's mission is to build a visionary community of Indigenous artists and to introduce Indigenous music to new audiences across Turtle Island.



DJ KOOKUM is a veteran of the west coast Indigenous music scene, Vancouver-based Dene/Cree turntablist, DJ, and remixer (Cold Lake First Nations and Alexis Dakota Sioux Nation). She is known for lighting up dance floors with her original blend of EDM, trap, moombahton, hip-hop and bass music.

ZIIBIWAN is an emerging Anishinaabe, electronic artist/producer from Toronto. His ethereal, sonic landscape opens into deeply hypnotic spaces where land, sky, and deep sea meet. His debut EP, *Time Limits*, was released in 2016. He is currently working on his debut LP for RPM Records and a collaborative project with labelmate Exquisite Ghost.

Music Videos at the BEAT

OCT 21
SAT 9:15 PM
HORSESHOE TAVERN

Before you dance the night away at The Beat, enjoy a selection of this year’s music videos, which will screen before the musical performances.



Under Your Always Light
Director / Producer: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (Blackfoot/Sámi)
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
English | Music Video
World Premiere

Both a love song and a battle cry of defiance against colonialism, *Under Your Always Light* is a whispered declaration of love for land set to a hypnotic rhythm of sinuous sounds of Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. Featuring B.C. boxing champ Ivy Richardson (Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuxalk).

Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers is a filmmaker, writer and actor. She is Blackfoot from the Kainai First Nation (Blood Reserve) as well as Sámi from northern Norway.



Each Other
Director: Shane Powless (Mohawk) / Lacey Hill (Oneida/Mohawk)
Producer: Lacey Hill (Six Nations)
Canada | 2017 | 3 min
Without dialogue | Music Video
World Premiere

The love, loss and acceptance of losing a loved one is felt in this music video that reveals the healing forces of nature.

Lacey Hill (Oneida/Mohawk) is a soulful musician, singer, and songwriter. She composes her music on the Six Nations of the Grand River.



MY SOUL REMAINER
Director / Producer: Nanobah Becker (Diné)
United States | 2017 | 5 min
Without dialogue | Music Video
Canadian Premiere

Laura Ortman's passionate and soulful *MY SOUL REMAINER* roars from the mountain tops with earth, water, air and fire accompanying. Featuring ballet legend Jock Soto.

Award-winning writer/director Nanobah Becker is a member of the Navajo Nation. She earned her MFA in directing from Columbia University and was a dialogue director on the Navajo language dubbing of Disney Pixar's Finding Nemo.



Atte munnje sáni saji (Just Give Me the Word)
Director / Producer: Sara Margrethe Oskal (Sámi)
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 4 min
Sámi | Music Video
Toronto Premiere

Emerging Sámi singer Emma Elliane raps in her mother tongue about the greed that threatens nature and humanity. Shot in Guovdageaidnu, a Sámi community that has been fighting against multinational mining companies for years.

Sara Margrethe Oskal is from Guovdageaidnu, Norway. She works with films, directing and scriptwriting and holds a doctoral degree in acting from the Oslo National Academy of Art Norway. She is currently working on her first feature film script.

OCT 21
SAT 9:15 PM
HORSESHOE TAVERN

Music Videos at the BEAT



People of the Pines
Directors / Producers / Writers: Shane Ghostkeeper (Métis) / Joshua Whitford
Canada | 2017 | 3 min
English | Music Video
World Premiere

A moody commentary on the mistreatment and disrespect of Indigenous territory. Featuring the music of Ghostkeeper.

Shane Ghostkeeper is a filmmaker and is the lead vocalist and guitarist for Ghostkeeper, who have been a fixture of Calgary's indie scene for years.



Slincraze – Stállu
Director / Producer / Writer: Egil Pedersen (Sámi)
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 3 min
Sámi with English Subtitles | Music Video
International Premiere

For the Sámi, the Stállu is a monster, the kind that brings nightmares. In this track, Slincraze raps about how he feels like being a stállu, an outcast in the society.

Egil Pedersen is a director from northern Norway. He likes to push the barrier and do eye-catching storytelling using absurd humour, disturbing moods, majestic looks and twisted ideas. He has three films in this year's Festival.



MÅSØ – Gos leat don?
Director / Producer / Writer: Egil Pedersen (Sámi)
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 8 min
Sámi | Music Video
North American Premiere

A young girl finds her own way to deal with disturbing secrets she discovers in her family. Featuring the music of MÅSØ.

Egil Pedersen is a director from northern Norway. He likes to push the barrier and do eye-catching storytelling using absurd humour, disturbing moods, majestic looks and twisted ideas. He has three films in this year's Festival.



Ravggon – Goaikkanasat
Director: Henry Kestilä
Writer: Milla Elmiina Pulska (Sámi)
Sápmi - Finland | 2016 | 4 min
Sámi | Music Video
World Premiere

Shot during the Márkomeannu Festival in Norway, this video gives a behind the scenes look at Ravggon as they prepare for their gig.

Henry Kestilä works as a freelancer cinematographer and wedding photographer while making short films and music videos.

With sure footing and a beautiful gaze on sometimes difficult terrain, this collection of shorts illustrates our connection to land and how this speaks to the inner landscapes that shape our being.



Atte munnje sáni saji (Just Give Me the Word)

Director / Producer: Sara Margrethe Oskal (Sámi)
Sápmi - Norway | 2017 | 4 min
Sámi with English Subtitles | Music Video | Toronto Premiere

Emerging Sámi singer Emma Elliane raps in her mother tongue about the greed that threatens nature and humanity. Shot in Guovdageaidnu, a Sámi community that has been fighting against multinational mining companies for years.

Sara Margrethe Oskal is from Guovdageaidnu, Norway. She works with films, directing and scriptwriting and holds a doctoral degree in acting from the Oslo National Academy of Art Norway. She is currently working on her first feature film script.



Thunderbird Strike

Director / Producer: Elizabeth LaPensée (Anishinaabe/Métis)
United States | 2017 | 1 min
English | Animation | World Premiere

As a snake threatens to tighten its deadly grip on our lands and waters, the ones who come as lightning arrive to answer our calls of help.

Elizabeth LaPensée, PhD, is an award-winning writer, designer and artist of games, comics, transmedia and animation. She is Anishinaabe, Métis and Irish, living near the Great Lakes as an assistant professor of media & information and writing, rhetoric & American cultures at Michigan State University.



Nutag-Homeland

Director / Producer: Alisi Telengut (Telengut)
Canada | 2016 | 6 min
Without Dialogue | Animation

A visual poem and surrealist requiem for the Kalmyk people who were forcibly removed from their homeland by the USSR between 1943–1957. With frame-by-frame hand-painted imagery, the film contemplates a displaced diaspora and the significance of home.

Alisi Telengut is a visual artist, filmmaker and animator currently based in Montreal. She is interested in the notions of visual poetry, lyrical representations of memory and experimental ethnography.



The Fire

Director: Liselotte Wajstedt (Sámi)
Producers: Liselotte Wajstedt (Sámi) / Stefan Hencz
Sápmi - Sweden | 2017 | 10 min
Swedish with English Subtitles | Short Documentary | International Premiere

A heart-stopping document of the day a fire began deep in a mine where the filmmaker's partner is trapped. Glued to her computer, filmmaker Liselotte Wajstedt can only sit and wait for the smallest update on the news. *The Fire* is a remarkably emotional film and part of Liselotte's continued body of work addressing her hometown of Kiruna and its physical relocation due to overmining.

Born in Kiruna, Liselotte Wajstedt works full-time as an artist and filmmaker. With a background in painting and arts, her experimental films have screened internationally.



TRENCH

Director / Producer / Writer: Trevor Solway (Blackfoot)
Canada | 2017 | 10 min
English | Short Documentary | World Premiere

Michael Mountain Horse was a Blackfoot veteran who fought at Vimy Ridge in World War I. Upon coming home, he created a winter count with pictographs to depict his experience, including a squared "U", a Blackfoot war symbol. One hundred years later, Blackfoot performance artist Adrian Stimson sets out to dig a trench in the shape of that legendary pictograph.

Trevor Solway comes from a long line of ranchers and grew up on his grandparents' ranch. At an early age, Trevor knew storytelling was his passion and chosen career path. In his seven years of post-secondary education, Trevor has studied broadcasting, journalism and filmmaking.



Flat Rocks

Director: Courtney Montour (Mohawk)
Producer: Roxann Whitebean (Mohawk)
Writers: Courtney Montour (Mohawk) / Roxann Whitebean (Mohawk)
Canada | 2017 | 10 min
Mohawk/English with English Subtitles | Short Documentary | World Premiere

Flat Rocks takes an intimate and never-before-seen look at 79-year-old farmer Louis Diabo's relentless battle against the construction of Canada's St. Lawrence Seaway, which tore through his land and the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory in the 1950s, forever changing the landscape and the livelihood of the community.

Courtney Montour is from Kahnawake and works in the documentary film and digital media fields exploring issues of Indigenous identity. Her first feature documentary, Sex Spirit Strength (2015), premiered on APTN and won the Best of Festival and Emerging Filmmaker awards at the 2016 Yorkton Film Festival.



Bayline

Director / Writer: JJ Neepin (Cree)
Producer: Justina Neepin (Cree)
Canada | 2017 | 15 min
English | Short Documentary | Toronto Premiere

The "Bayline" was the nickname given to the Hudson Bay Railway running between The Pas and Churchill in Manitoba. George Neepin accompanies his wife, Maria, and their daughters to the spot where he grew up along the Bayline. As the family shares stories and goes hunting, their tender connection to this rarely visited spot reveals the beautiful connections between this family and this special second home.

Jenna (JJ) Neepin is a filmmaker living in Winnipeg. Bayline is her second short documentary and was created for MTS Stories from Home in Manitoba. Festival and Emerging Filmmaker awards at the 2016 Yorkton Film Festival.

The Land Within

OCT 22
SUN 11:00 AM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 3



Lelum' (Home)

Director / Producer: Asia Youngman (Cree/Iroquois/Carrier/Métis)
Canada | 2017 | 9 min
English | Short Documentary
World Premiere

Lelum' (the Hul'qumi'num word for "home") portrays the strength and beauty of the land from the perspectives of Indigenous youth. Stunning aerial shots of British Columbia landscapes are complemented with messages that speak to our inherent responsibility to protect and show respect for our home.

Asia Youngman is an emerging filmmaker from Vancouver. A self-taught videographer and video editor, Asia developed a passion for both cinematography and visual effects while at the Vancouver Film School. Lelum' is her first short film.



ROTO (The Lake Within)

Director / Producer: Louise Potiki Bryant (Māori)
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 8 min
Without Dialogue | Experimental
International Premiere

Inspired by Lake Wanaka in the South Island of Aotearoa, acclaimed artist Louise Potiki Bryant presents a striking dance film that explores our consciousness and emotional state, embodied in the Māori word "roto" meaning both "lake" and "within" – the lake being a metaphor for our consciousness, and the surface of the lake being likened to our emotional state.

Louise Potiki Bryant is an accomplished and celebrated choreographer, dancer and video artist. She has a strong body of solo and collaborative works, which draw upon her interdisciplinary and whakaahua practice.



The Mountain of SGAana

Director / Writer: Christopher Auchter (Haida)
Producer: Shirley Vercruysse (Haida)
Canada | 2017 | 10 min
Without Dialogue | Animation
Toronto Premiere

A wondrous tale of a young man stolen away to the spirit world by a SGAana (the Haida word for "orca") and the young woman who rescues him. Will the lovers manage to escape the SGAana's undersea mountain, or will they forever become part of the spirit world? This dream-like gem brilliantly entwines traditional animation with formal elements of Haida art, which are brought to life by a rich, evocative palette and stylized effects.

Christopher Auchter grew up roaming the beaches and forests of the Haida Gwaii and his art is rooted in the land and stories of the Haida people. In addition to his film practice, Christopher has worked in video game animation and has illustrated three children's books and a graphic novel.

OCT 22
SUN 12:45 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2

From the Fox to the Possum

This kaleidoscopic collection of shorts takes us on a journey of self-discovery that reminds us that we are never truly alone.

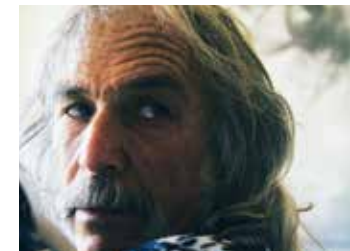


Fox in the Box

Director / Writer: Travis Shilling (Ojibway)
Producer: K. Douglas (Ojibway)
Canada | 2017 | 3 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

A fox mundanely recounts his final day as a fox.

In addition to being a writer, filmmaker and producer, Travis Shilling is known as a painter. His work has been exhibited across Canada, the United States and Europe.



PāPā

Director: Ryan Alexander Lloyd (Ngai Tahu)
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 7 min
English | Experimental
World Premiere

With beautiful cinematography, a tender portrait of a seemingly elusive father is told through the memories of his daughters.

Ryan Alexander Lloyd is a director of photography of whose work has won a number of Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) awards. Born and raised in Aotearoa, Ryan now lives in Melbourne.



Meke

Director / Writer: Tim Worrall (Ngai Tuhoe/Te Arawa)
Producers: Piripi Curtis (Te Arawa) / Lara Northcroft (Te Arawa/ Tuwharetoa/Tainui)
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 8 min
English | Short Drama
World Premiere

The arrival of a trainer's daughter into the midst of backstage preparations before an important boxing match threatens to destroy the precious relationship between fighter and coach. Featuring screen legend Temuera Morrison (Once Were Warriors, Star Wars).

Tim Worrall has worked as an artist, designer, tohunga ta moko, director, screenwriter and consultant. His primary inspiration has been his Tuhoe heritage, having moved back to his tribal territory in 1990. Tim directed The Road to Whakarae, which screened at imagineNATIVE in 2014.

From the Fox to the Possum

OCT 22
SUN 12:45 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2



Kia Tau

Director: Michelle Latimer (Métis/ Algonquin) / Chris Malloy
(Ngati Manawa/Tuhoe) / Yamin Tun (Karen)
Producer: Libby Hakaraia (Ngati Raukawa)
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2017 | 10 min
English | Short Drama | International Premiere

The spirit of the departed lingers long after death, leading a young woman to strike up an unusual friendship with a Māori man. Created in 72 hours for \$800 as part of the second iteration of the Native Slam at the Maoriland Film Festival.

Michelle Latimer is the showrunner, director and writer of the Viceland breakout series RISE, which premiered at the 2017 Sundance Festival. A Toronto-based filmmaker, showrunner/producer, actor and activist, she has two films in this year's imagineNATIVE.

Chris Molloy has worked consistently in film, television and theatre for the past decade. He is an educator, producer, director and writer for film, TV and theatre, with a strong focus on developing and supporting independent arts.

Yamin Tun's experiences as a child migrant have been reflected in her award-winning short film Wait, which took the Jury Prize for the Best New Zealand Short Film at the 2016 New Zealand International Film Festival and screened at last year's imagineNATIVE.



Just One Word

Director / Producer / Writer: Jani Lauzon (Métis)
Canada | 2017 | 11 min
English | Short Drama | World Premiere

A seemingly friendly card game between friends takes an emotional turn as two sisters' past and present demons are brought to the fore and an intervention becomes inescapable.

Jani Lauzon is a seven-time Dora Mavor Moore–nominated actress, a three-time Juno–nominated singer/songwriter, a Gemini Award–winning puppeteer and an award-winning screen actress. She is based in Toronto and made her short film "eu-tha-na-sia" as part of imagineNATIVE's partnership with the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto.



Blight

Director / Writer: Perun Bonser (Ngarlamba/Bunuba)
Producer: Ryan Hodgson / Melissa Kelly
Australia | 2017 | 12 min
English | Short Drama | International Premiere

Set in the early 20th century on Australia's western frontier, a police constable hunts down a band of supposed criminals aided by a young, Indigenous female tracker. When the constable is severely injured, the tracker must use all of her skills to outwit and defeat a seemingly unstoppable foe.

Perun Bonser is from Broome, Northern Western Australia, and trained as a professional dancer. Since ending his dancing career, Perun has written and directed a number of short documentaries. Blight is his first narrative drama.

OCT 22
SUN 12:45 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX - CINEMA 2

From the Fox to the Possum



Water

Director / Writer: John Harvey (Torres Strait Islander)
Producer: Belinda Mravicic
Australia | 2017 | 12 min
English | Short Drama | World Premiere

In 2047, severe water shortages have resulted in strict population control measures, including the termination of any unauthorized pregnancies. Fearing for her unborn child, heavily pregnant Layla flees persecution, crossing a vast dry salt lake on her makeshift motorcycle. When she suffers engine problems, she's left stranded alone, with little water. Layla's fears intensify when she learns that she is not alone.

John Harvey is a filmmaker who collaborates with bold creative teams to tell Indigenous stories. He works as a producer, director and writer in film and theatre. He has directed several documentaries for Australian TV and produced the award-winning feature film Spear. Water is his directorial debut in drama.



Red Card World: The Tree

Director: Cara Mumford (Métis)
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
English | Short Drama | World Premiere

In the year 2167, Migizikwe learns of a new threat to the sovereign Michi Saagiig Territory and an ancient tree offers protection. Created as part of imagineNATIVE's partnership with Charles Street Video (CSV).

Living in Peterborough, Cara Mumford is a freelance director, cinematographer and editor, as well as a dramaturg and instructor of Indigenous dance at Trent University. She first worked with imagineNATIVE in 2014 when the Festival commissioned her to create the short When It Rains for their Stolen Sisters Digital Initiative.



Guolli

Director: Jouni West (Sámi)
Producer: Joni Sajjets (Sámi)
Sápmi - Finland | 2017 | 5 min
Without dialogue | Animation | International Premiere

Two young boys catch their first fish in this bittersweet tale of brotherly love.

Jouni West is an emerging animator who created Such an Ugly Frog, which has screened at imagineNATIVE and festivals internationally. He is based in Finland, where he continues to study.



Possum

Director / Writer: Dave Whitehead (Māori)
Producer: Dave Whitehead (Māori) / Paul Murphy / Sadie Wilson
Aotearoa New Zealand | 2016 | 15 min
English | Short Drama | North American Premiere

Possum is a tale of two young brothers who accompany their lumberjack father to a forest campsite. At odds with each other, their relationship meets the ultimate test when they venture into the woods, hunting a notorious possum named Scar.

Writer and director Dave Whitehead has spent over 20 years in the film industry as an award-winning sound designer and composer. Possum is his directorial debut and marks a turn in his career towards writing and directing. Dave is developing several of his original feature film scripts and looks forward to bringing those stories to life. He is also giving this year's Masterclass, in which he will discuss his brilliant career in sound working on some of Hollywood's biggest productions (see pg. 101).

Co-Presented by:
Charles Street Video

Circumpolar stories take centre stage in this program of works north of 60.



Shaman

Director / Writer: Echo Henoche (Nunatsiavut Inuk)
Producer: Kat Baulu / Annette Clarke
Canada | 2017 | 5 min
Without dialogue | Animation | Toronto Premiere

Based on a polar bear legend, Shaman recounts the story of a polar bear that's transformed into an iconic mountain in the community of Nain, Labrador.

Echo Henoche grew up in Nain and is the granddaughter of accomplished stone sculptor Gilbert Hays. Intent on becoming an artist from a young age, she sold her first piece of art when she was eight years old. This is Echo's first animated short.



Vulkan

Director: Ann Holmgren (Sámi)
Producer: Sara Sjöo
Sápmi - Sweden | 2017 | 19 min
Swedish with English Subtitles | Short Drama | International Premiere

A young woman goes out searching for the answers she cannot find within herself. A humorous and thought-provoking stroll through a community in northern Sweden, based on real-life conversations.

Ann Holmgren is a filmmaker, writer and photographer born in northern Sweden. Her films have screened internationally, including at imagineNATIVE and the Göteborg Film Festival.



Snow

Director / Producer: Nivi Pedersen (Inuit)
Greenland | 2017 | 7 min
Greenlandic/Danish with English Subtitles | Short Documentary | North American Premiere

Shovelling snow in the capital of Greenland is a big part of everyday winter life. Three Nuuk residents share their reflections – and frustrations – about this seemingly never-ending task. The Tao of Snow Shovelling!

Nivi Pedersen is a Greenlandic documentary filmmaker who recently graduated from the European Film College in Denmark. Her work portrays different aspects of Greenlandic culture for both a national and international audience. She is currently continuing to study Greenlandic language, literature and media at the University of Greenland.



Three Thousand

Director: Asinnajaq (Inuk)
Producer: Kat Baulu
Canada | 2017 | 14 min
Without Dialogue | Short Documentary | World Premiere

Artist Asinnajaq throws a creative net into the National Film Board of Canada's audiovisual archive, weaving historic footage of the Inuit into a stunningly original animation. In 14 minutes of luminescent cinema, she recasts the past, present and future of the Inuit in a surprising new light.

This is the first film by Asinnajaq – a.k.a. Isabella Weetaluktuk – who has also guest curated Channel 51: Igloodik, this year's spotlight on 30 years of Inuit video art (see pgs. 32 + 49).



The Last Walk

Canada / Greenland / United States | 2017 | 42 min
English | Short Drama | World Premiere

In 2015, Indigenous filmmakers from the circumpolar region met at imagineNATIVE to develop an unprecedented project whose purpose was to create a bridge between Arctic filmmakers. With representatives from Alaska to Sápmi, The Arctic Film Circle was born and *The Last Walk* took its first step. Funded by the International Sámi Film Institute, with partners that include the Nunavut Film Development Corporation, *The Last Walk* is a series of three short films created by Indigenous filmmakers from different Arctic regions, each telling their own interpretation of a story of two sisters dealing with personal tragedy. While sharing a common thread, each film stands apart and speaks to the immense talent that lays north.

The Last Walk (Alaska)

Director: Anna Hoover (Unangax)
Producer: Laura J. Milliken (Ojibway)

Anna Hoover produces video art, documentary and fiction films from her home state of Alaska. A private pilot and commercial salmon fisher, Anna lives for a challenge and does not shy away from adventure.

The Last Walk (Greenland)

Directors / Producers: Pipaluk K. Jørgensen (Inuk) / Mikisoq H. Lynge (Inuk)

Pipaluk K. Jørgensen is a central figure in Greenlandic cinema and works as a producer and director of shorts, features and documentaries. She is based in Nuuk and chairs the board of the Greenlandic Film Association, Film.GL.

In addition to directing, writing and editing, Mikisoq H. Lynge produced the award-winning Nuumioq (2009), the first feature film entirely produced in Greenland. He is a father based in Denmark.

The Last Walk (Canada)

Director: Jerri Thrasher (Inuvialuit)
Producer: Pablo Saravanja/Jay Bulckaert/Artless Collective Inc.

Originally from Paulatuk, NWT, Jerri Thrasher has made a name for herself as a television producer for the Inuvialuit Communications Society based out of Inuvik. For her segment of The Last Walk, Jerri drew all her cast and crew from the Northwest Territories.

Co-Presented by:
Luminato

Awards Presentation

OCT 22
SUN 4:30 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX CINEMA 2

Congratulations to this year's winners!

Join Co-Hosts Andre Morriseau (Ojibway) of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and Melanie Nepinak Hadley (Ojibway) of the CBC, as we announce the Juries' picks for this year's prizes!

Our 18th Annual Awards Presentation is an afternoon to celebrate and recognize Indigenous achievement in film and media arts.



Andre Morriseau

Andre Morriseau (Ojibway) is an enthusiastic advocate and ambassador for Aboriginal arts, culture and public affairs. A member of the Fort William First Nation (Thunder Bay) where he maintains a home, Mr. Morriseau is based in Toronto. Over the past 15 years Andre has served on numerous boards of directors including the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival and the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA). He works as the Director of Awards and Stakeholder Relations for the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.



Melanie Nepinak Hadley

Melanie Nepinak Hadley is Executive in Charge of Production for CBC Drama where she oversees Heartland, Pure, The Secret Path and When Calls the Heart. Prior to her role at CBC, she was the Manager of Programming for Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). She has over 15 years of experience working in independent production and for national broadcasters. She currently sits on the boards of imagineNATIVE and the National Screen Institute.

Awards Winners Screening



Sunday 9:00pm | Oct 22, Cinema 3 TIFF Bell Lightbox

imagineNATIVE showcases a selection of shorts recognized with Awards during Sunday afternoon's Awards Presentation. This Screening is FREE and the selected works being shown will be announced Sunday immediately following the Awards Presentation through imagineNATIVE's website and social media.

OCT 22
SUN 4:30 PM
TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX CINEMA 2

Awards Presentation

Web Series Pitch Prize
Presented by Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN)



Supported by: William F. White, Innovate by Day, Technicolor, Toronto International Film Festival, WIFT Toronto

The Kent Monkman Award
for Best Experimental Work
Presented by imagineNATIVE & Kent Monkman



\$1,000 cash award

The Cynthia Lickers-Sage Award
for Best Short Work
Presented by VTape



\$500 cash award

Best Documentary Short
Presented by CBC Docs



\$1,000 cash award

Best Audio Work
Presented by imagineNATIVE



\$500 cash award

Best Digital Media Work
Presented by imagineNATIVE



\$500 cash award

The Jane Glassco Award
for Emerging Talent
Presented by The CJ Foundation



\$2,000 cash award

Best Indigenous
Language Production
Presented by Indigenous Media Initiatives



\$1,000 cash award

The Ellen Monaque Award
for Best Youth Work
Presented by imagineNATIVE



\$500 cash award

Best Dramatic Feature
Presented by Bell Media



\$2,000 cash award

The Alanis Obomsawin Award
for Best Documentary Work
(Long-Form)
Presented by TVO



\$2,000 cash award

The Audience Choice Award
Presented by Air Canada



\$1,000 cash award
(Audience Choice Award to be announced post Festival via press release and social media)

The August Schellenberg Award
of Excellence
Presented by ACTRA National, ACTRA Performers' Rights Society, and generous individual donations. Special thanks to Joan Karasevich and family



\$1,500 cash award

Awards Jury

SUN JURY



Juhani Alanen

Juhani Alanen is the Executive Director of Tampere Film Festival, one of the highest profile festivals in Europe. He studied at the University of Tampere and graduated with an M.Sc. in marketing. He has worked at the Tampere Film Festival (TFF) for more than 30 years and has been a member of its selection committee for 20 years. He is a curator for short film programs at TFF and a curator of Finnish short films for various film festivals around the world. Currently he is also developing a freshly founded short film agency whose aim is to distribute Finnish short films.



Anusha Duray

Anusha Duray is the acquisitions manager for National Indigenous Television Australia (NITV). She is also an award-winning producer for her short film *Bourke Boy*, which had its international premiere at imagineNATIVE in 2009. She has worked on various feature films and television series with over a decade's experience working in Indigenous community and business development. She has been a board member of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network since 2010. Anusha was born and raised within the Bundjalung Nation.



Jessica Lea Fleming

Jessica Lea Fleming is of Métis (Wendat, Anishinaabe and French) and Scottish descent from Penetanguishene, Ontario. She is a writer, producer and programmer based in Hamilton. Jessica currently works as the operations manager for the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts and as a community liaison for the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance. She is co-founder of the Sweetgrass Sisters Collective, which aims to connect and strengthen the local Indigenous community through traditional and contemporary programming. Jessica recently completed post-production on her first short film, *scales*.

MOON JURY



Rhéanne Chartrand

Rhéanne Chartrand is a Métis curator and creative producer based in Toronto. She has spent the past six years creating interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary exhibitions, showcases and festivals for organizations such as Harbourfront Centre, OCAD University, the Art Gallery of Mississauga, the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance, the Aboriginal Pavilion at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre and the National Museum of the American Indian (Washington, DC). Currently, Rhéanne serves as the curator of Indigenous art at McMaster Museum of Art located in Hamilton.



Sinara Rozo-Perdomo

Sinara Rozo-Perdomo is a Toronto-based arts administrator, curator and educator. She is the director of the annual aluCine Latin Film+Media Arts Festival, Canada's longest-running and largest showcase dedicated to contemporary Latin cinema and media arts. Her curatorial work has been featured at several festivals in Mexico, Peru, Hungary, USA, Colombia, Brazil, Germany and Canada. Sinara has been working in artist-run environments for over 18 years and has many years' experience in management capacities.



Fallon Simard

Fallon Simard is an Anishinaabe artist and scholar from Couchiching First Nation from the Grand Council of Treaty #3 Territory. Fallon's work interrogates state violence and mental health in so far as it is perpetuated on to Indigenous bodies, with a practice comprised of video, sound and animation. They hold a Masters of Art from the Interdisciplinary Masters in Art, Media, and Design Program from OCAD University.

August Schellenberg Award of Excellence

This year, we are thrilled to honour actor, producer and member of the Norway House Cree Nation Tina Keeper with the 2017 August Schellenberg Award of Excellence.

Tina was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has been an active member of the Canadian film and television industry for over thirty years. She is well known for her iconic and Gemini Award-winning performance as RCMP officer Michelle Kenidi on the hit CBC series *North of 60*.

Tina holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre from the University of Winnipeg and also trained at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre, the Banff Centre and the Sundance Film Institute. Tina was recognized with a National Aboriginal Achievement Award (now the Indspire Awards) for her work in the arts, and has also won three American Indian Film Festival awards for her acting and producing credits. She was named to the Order of Manitoba in 2001.

As well as being an award-winning actor, Tina is a successful producer and the president of Kistikan Pictures (a partner company of Buffalo Gal Pictures). Her recent productions include the feature film *Road of Iniquity*, the critically-acclaimed Royal Winnipeg Ballet *Going Home Star*, The REDress Project and the APTN drama series *Cashing In*. Tina's upcoming feature film *Through Black Spruce*, in co-production with Serendipity Point Films, is currently in production.

Outside of her decades-long career in film and television, Tina has long been involved in advocacy and education initiatives to better the lives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada, and from 2006 to 2008 was the elected Member of Parliament for Manitoba's Churchill riding under the Liberal Party of Canada. She went on to serve as the Official Opposition's Critic for Public Health and Canadian Heritage.



TINA KEEPER - 2017 Recipient

Photo courtesy of ACTRA/G. Pimental Photography

The August Schellenberg Award of Excellence was launched in partnership with Joan Karasevich Schellenberg to honor her late husband, the legendary actor August (Augie) Schellenberg, and the spirit of his work. This annual award is presented to gifted Indigenous actors from Turtle Island based on the longevity and impact of their careers, as well as their professionalism and involvement in mentorship and community work.

Award supported by ACTRA National, ACTRA Performers' Rights Society and individual donations.



This year’s Festival delegate bags feature a beautiful original work created by Toronto-based artists Chief Lady Bird (Potawatomi/Chippewa) and Monique Bedard aka Aura (Oneida). This delegate-bag artwork commission is a collaboration between imagineNATIVE and Setsuné Indigenous Fashion Incubator, and is made possible through sponsorship by from Miziwe-Biik Aboriginal Employment & Training with additional support from Sourcing Central.



Monique Bedard (Aura) is a Haudenosaunee (Oneida) artist who grew up in a small town in Southern Ontario. In 2006, she began a formal study of visual arts at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. After three years of studies in London, she moved to Lethbridge, Alberta, to complete an undergraduate degree at the University of Lethbridge. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Studio Art) degree in 2010. Monique currently resides in Tkaronto as an artist, muralist and workshop facilitator. She is also a Diploma Toronto Art Therapy candidate working on the completion of a major project titled “Our Stories Our Truths: An Art-Based Storytelling Project,” with an emphasis on art as healing.

Chief Lady Bird is an Anishinaabe (Potawatomi and Chippewa) artist from Rama First Nation, with paternal ties to Moose Deer Point First Nation. She grew up on reserve and is currently based in Toronto. Chief Lady Bird's work exists at the crux of her experience as an Indigenous womyn wherein critiques of nationalism and Indigenous identity reclamation meet, resulting in imagery that empowers Indigenous peoples and challenges the lens through which Indigenous people are often viewed. She often creates collaborative murals that allow viewers to step into our worldviews for brief moments to create dialogue that is imperative to reclaiming our cultural identities in a country that never saw our worth.



The Road Forward
Director: Marie Clements (Métis/Dene)
Canada | 2017 | 101 min
English | Documentary Feature

You’ve never seen anything like this before. Marie Clements’ remarkable, stunning musical documentary takes us on a journey through time to tell the story of contemporary Indigenous civil rights in Canada. Using the talents of some of our greatest singers and musicians, this feature brings forward the story of *The Native Voice*, the country’s first Indigenous newspaper, and how this revolutionary publication helped nurture generations of activists and give birth to a movement. Fuelled by legendary leaders such as Shuswap Grand Chief George Manuel, the Constitution Express – an unprecedented grassroots activist movement born on the West Coast and a literal train journey from Vancouver to Ottawa – changed Canada forever and enshrined Indigenous rights in the Canadian constitution. Marie Clements beautifully connects stories of activism with the lives of Indigenous musicians to tell an inspirational story of legacy, pride, and strength. *The Road Forward* delivers a perfect message for our times: build on the achievements of our shared past to create a better tomorrow.

Marie Clements is an award-winning visionary writer, director and producer of film, television, radio, new media and live performance. Her work as a filmmaker includes the award-winning 2015 docudrama Number 14 and the 2013 short drama Pilgrims, which screened at imagineNATIVE, TIFF and Telefilm Canada’s Not Short on Talent program at the Cannes Market. Her short documentary The Language of Love was an official selection at imagineNATIVE and Hot Docs in 2012. The film production of Clements’s screenplay Unnatural and Accidental premiered at the MoMA Film Festival in New York and also screened at TIFF. She is currently at work on a dramatic feature film.



imagineNATIVE's FREE Industry Series brings together leading industry professionals from across Canada and around the world in discourse and discussion on topics relevant to Indigenous media creators. Taking place in various locations including imagineNATIVE's new public spaces at the 401 Richmond Building, we aim to strike a balance between art, commerce and critical thinking in a welcoming environment for the most novice or experienced media creator. Come learn from and engage with respected and talented professionals working in the industry today.

Visit imagineNATIVE.org for the most updated panel presenters and speakers.



The imagineNATIVE iNstitute: Launch + BreakFEAST

October 19, 9:00am–9:45am

imagineNATIVE, 401 Richmond Building, Suite 446

With a warm welcome of food and drink, we kick-off the Industry Series with the launch of the imagineNATIVE iNstitute, a new year-round home for Indigenous professional development in media arts in our newly renovated space at the 401 Richmond Building. An overview of the long-term vision, programming enhancements and activations will detail a bright future and new chapter for the organization and community.

With support from



Insiders and Outsiders: Developing New Collaboration Models

October 19, 10:00am–11:15am

imagineNATIVE, 401 Richmond Building, Suite 446

2017 has been a flashpoint for growing awareness and action of issues regarding ownership, practice and protocols in working with Indigenous stories and storytellers, and a call for film and media productions involving Indigenous peoples to be created by Indigenous people. Is Indigenous storytelling sovereignty absolute, and if not, how can impactful and practical rebalancing take place? Is this a practical or possible reality for future media production?

In a roundtable discussion that will be included in a forthcoming book by Dana Claxton and Ezra Winton called *Insiders/Outsiders*, Indigenous artists take time to reflect on the impact of current practices within Canada's cultural media industries, leading to ways in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies are responding to historical inequities for authentic and collaborative content creation with Indigenous peoples in Canada.

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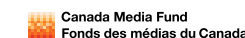
Protocols in Process and Practice

October 19, 11:15am–12:15pm

imagineNATIVE, 401 Richmond Building, Suite 446

This discussion dovetails from the previous panel, as we take considerations and challenges of implementing a new production guide for Canada. imagineNATIVE sits down with Penny Smallacombe of Screen Australia to understand the practicalities and benefits that have come from nearly a decade of Protocols and Pathways implementation, and we learn of case studies in Canada that will inform our own guide for content creators both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

With support from



APTN/imagineNATIVE Web Series Live Pitch Competition

October 19, 12:45pm–2:00pm

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 4

New for 2017, three Indigenous creative teams in Canada – given a robust pitch training program – passionately present their web series to a jury of Industry leaders and audiences in a live, staged event. Prior to the pitch, one-on-ones with the jury offer insights and opportunities for web series development for creatives. With over \$30,000 in production cash and in-kind support at stake, this is the highest pitch offering in imagineNATIVE's history. Don't miss it!

Presented by



With support from



VICE Connects

October 19, 2:15pm–3:30pm

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 4

VICE Canada is the world's leading youth media company. With it's production of critically-acclaimed Indigenous content (*RISE*, *CUT:OFF* to name a few) they provide perhaps the biggest opportunity for youth-engaged storytelling by Indigenous creators to reach, and to potentially reach a massive global audience. VICE content leads and associate producers will be engaging with imagineNATIVE delegates on their content vision, as well as how, where and what both Canadian and International Indigenous creatives can approach with. A section of the session will be dedicated to assessing on-the-fly pitch evaluations from attendees by VICE to understand how to make your formal idea submissions succeed.

Presented by





Breaking the Mould: Developing Indigenous Narrative Models

October 20, 9:30am–10:30am
TIFF Bell Lightbox, Learning Studios A&B

With the mainstream media outlets built upon Western storytelling structures, Indigenous narratives and cosmologies don't often fit into these prescribed formats. From Willie Dunn to Shelley Niro, Warwick Thornton to Jeff Barnaby, other narrative forms have emerged in recent years that challenge on-screen conventions. Lead by producer Gregory Coyes and artist Sean Stiller, this panel examines the development and future of Indigenous narratives – sub-themes, cyclical narratives and the use of symbolism and traditional story structure – to stimulate discussion and contemplate future casting of Indigenous on-screen artforms.

Presented by

R & M LANG
FOUNDATION



2167: Indigenous Storytelling in VR

October 20, 11:00am–12:30pm
TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 2

The art of story creation in virtual reality offers a point of view and presence of place, space and environment that may be closest comparison yet to Indigenous oral storytelling practice. How are Indigenous artists bringing their world view and concepts of time and narrative to this medium in conjunction with the Indigenous futurism movement, and what are they learning through their first forays in VR?

This engaging discussion brings the creative, cultural, practical considerations and reflections of the five Indigenous filmmakers and artists of the 2167 initiative – Jeff Barnaby, Kent Monkman, Danis Goulet, Scott Benesiinaabandan and Postcommodity – who were commissioned to create VR projects envisioning Indigenous life 150 years in the future.

Presented by

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HIGHER LEARNING



Micro Meetings Networking Event

October 20, 1:00pm–3:00pm
TIFF Bell Lightbox, Learning Studios A&B

Exclusive to Delegate Pass Holders, imagineNATIVE's Micro Meetings connect you one-on-one with industry decision-makers by giving you valuable face-to-face time to discuss your project for acquisition, sale or development potential. Delegates who have missed the deadline for applications are welcome to apply during the Festival starting October 19 at the first Industry Series panel, and at the event, pending availability. Apply early to ensure your spot; spaces are limited!

An up-to-date list of attending decision-makers is available at www.imagineNATIVE.org.

With Support From

Ontario
Ontario Media Development
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BreakFEAST with NBC's Talent Development & Inclusion Division

October 21, 9:30am–11:00am
BrainStation, 460 King Street West (Entrance on Spadina Avenue)
For Delegate Pass Holders Only, Limited Space Available

imagineNATIVE's popular morning industry session continues! NBC Entertainment is at the forefront of discovering emerging talent, both in front of and behind the camera. The Talent Development & Inclusion team oversees over 20 programs to identify diverse storytellers, groom them for success and provide a platform to showcase their work. NBC's Grace Moss provides an overview of these programs and tips for success for Indigenous content creators.

Presented by

NBCUniversal
tips
Talent Inclusion Programs



Maximizing Opportunity for Online Short + Feature Film Exhibition

October 21, 11:30am–1:00pm
TIFF Bell Lightbox, Learning Studios A&B

Where has the digital space provided new opportunities for niche markets and audiences that Indigenous content producers can take advantage of? What are the leading channels, where does your content fit, and how you speak the language to get it in hand to decisionmakers and online?

This panel offers two distinct perspectives from Industry mavens: The Criterion Collection and Short of the Week programmer Penelope Bartlett offer insights and strategies for short filmmakers; Stadium Media's Mitch Mallon and his direct connections to all the feature film digital gatekeepers, including Google Play, Amazon, iTunes and Hulu, offers contrasting and comparative insights for activating online content distribution for producers.

Presented by

TELEFILM
CANADA



Sound Design Masterclass with Dave Whitehead

October 21, 1:30pm–3:00pm
TIFF Bell Lightbox, Learning Studios A&B

Maori artist Dave Whitehead has spent over twenty-four years in the film industry as an award-winning sound designer and composer with credits on major motion pictures and shows including *District 9*, *The Hobbit*, *Arrival* and Netflix's *Okja*.

This masterclass presentation starts from the basics of sound design to the fine tuning of the artform through his career, and how his heritage and Indigenous forms of sound expression have influenced his approach and practice in his work. Join us in this special and rare opportunity to learn about the art of sound design.

Presented by

YORK
UNIVERSITY

Industry Labs



imagineNATIVE's Industry Labs continue to grow Indigenous key creatives' skills from development to delivery in each creative discipline with more impactful development supporting artists before, during and after the Festival.

The **imagineNATIVE/DGC Ontario Lab for Indigenous Directors from Canada** invites four emerging Canadian Indigenous directors – with credits on professionally presented short film work – to participate in a three-day lab with returning, established and award-winning director Tracey Deer, whose breadth of quality work and leadership role in the sector and community will bring valuable perspective and insight for the participants.

Sponsored by



The **imagineNATIVE/CMPA Lab for Indigenous Producers from Canada** is designed to hone the skills and knowledge base of emerging Indigenous producers through dedicated one-on-one engagement with an established Indigenous creative industry leader moderating and guiding a series of Industry discussions and practical workshops. Ojibway producer Laura Milliken (*Fire Song*, 2015) will lead the initiative for 2017.

Sponsored by



Redesigned for the 2017 Festival, the **imagineNATIVE/HGF Screenwriting Intensive** brings together the success of imagineNATIVE's Screenwriter Lab initiative in 2014 and story editing mentorships aimed to bring Indigenous perspectives to the evaluation process of feature film screenplays, completed with the Harold Greenberg Fund in 2016 and 2017.

Through an application process imagineNATIVE will support feature film scripts by Indigenous screenwriters through a year-long development program of their work from treatment through draft and final writing stages to packaging and polishing for optioning.

HGF- and imagineNATIVE-supported Indigenous story editors will support the writers throughout the process, and artists will financial support to dedicate themselves to the stages of script development.

Full details will be announced at the Festival and available on the imagineNATIVE website.

Sponsored by



May 24 –
June 3, 2018
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Submissions now open for Canada's largest LGBTQ Film Festival.



Toronto LGBT
Film Festival

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WALKING WITH Our SISTERS

A commemorative art installation to honour missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirit people

October 15-29, 2017

Aboriginal Education Centre
16 Phin Avenue (Donlands & Danforth)
Toronto, ON

For information and group bookings
Visit "Walking with our Sisters Toronto" on Facebook
or email wwostoronto@gmail.com

All are welcome
Free to attend

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Lauren Howes (Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre)

Kevin Humphrey (Ontario Trillium Foundation)

Monica Ille, Jean La Rose, Bonnie Rockthunder, Lisa Squire (and the entire team at APTN)

Terry Jaffy (Native Child & Family Services of Toronto)

Gwen Joy, Chris Lee, Taha Muharuma, Andrea Nemtin, Jay Pitter, Sanjeev Timana (Inspirit Foundation)

Nadin Kara (Orchid)

Chris Kennedy, Renata Mohamed (LIFT)

Sandra Kleinfeld (CBC)

Anastasiia Kozhina (Best Western Premier Toronto Airport Carlingview Hotel)

Michael Kronish (VICE Canada)

Sara Krynitzki (Toronto Foundation)

Terry Lau, Uyen Nguyen-Cwinn, Dylan North (Beehive Design)

Éric Lauzon, Anne McGrenaghan (Air Canada)

Cat Leblanc. Tony Merzetti (NBFC)

Eyan Logan

Andre Lucas (TD Bank Group)

Jarrett Martineau (RPM.fm)

Mike McConnell, Kate Wisman (Technicolor)

Rebecca McGowan, Victoria Moufawad-Paul (A Space Gallery)

Tim McLaughlin (Steam Whistle Brewing)

Laura Milliken (Big Soul Productions)

James Monkman (James Monkman Design)

Grace Moss (NBC Entertainment)

Marguerite Pigott (Canadian Media Producers Association)

Alysa Procida (Inuit Art Foundation)

Derrick Ross, Ali Slaughter, Gary Slaughter (Slaughter Music)

Johnny Saga

Rob Samulewitsch (Sourcing Central)

Bill Skolnik, Anne-Marie Stuart (Directors Guild of Canada - Ontario)

Josh Smoke (Smoke Trail Group)

Rosary Spence

Rebeka Tabobondung (Muskrat Magazine)

Julian Taylor

Indu Vashist (SAVAC)

Emilee Waymann (BMO)

Elizabeth Weatherford (Indigenous Media Initiatives)

Henry White (Bell Mobility)

Greg Woodbury (CSV)

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