MA Documentary Film: Indigenous Cinema from Native Spirit Festival

"I think we're really on the precipice of entering what might be the first true golden age of Indigenous cinema."

Jesse Wente, Anishinaabe writer, film curator

WEDNESDAY, 23.5.2018 || 17:00–20:00

SCREENING ROOM MLG06

17:00  PUTTING ON A POW WOW  Keeley Gould, 2014, Native America, USA. 4min
Director Keeley Gould documents the largest Native American get-together, which takes place in Albuquerque, New Mexico each year.

MY ONCE LIFE  Pamela J. Peters, 2016, Navajo, USA. 4min
Winner of the 2016 Button Poetry Video Contest. 12 Native women living in Los Angeles read a video poem about the continuing impact of colonization on tribal peoples. Nanabah Hill (Navajo-Oneida), Diana Terrazas (Paiute), JaNae Collins (Dakota-Crow), Xelt’tia Temryss Lane (Lummi Nation), Viki Eagle, Sicanqu (Lakota-Sioux), Cheyenne Phoenix (Northern Paiute-Navajo), Stephanie Mushrush (Washoe Tribe), Hakekta Winyan Jealous Of Him (Lakota), Chrissie Castro (Navajo), Neyom Friday (Cheyenne-Arapaho and Mskoke Creek), Vivian Garcia (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma), and Deja Jones (Eastern Shoshone).

RETURNING  Elizabeth LaPensée, 2016, Anishinaabe, Métis, Irish, USA. 4min
Stories of spacecanoes and dancing forth dimensional space/time travel unravel in this experimental stop motion to 'Trade Song' by the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

WATER IS LIFE  Joseph Erb, 2016, Cherokee, USA. 5min
An animated film that talks about the issue of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and their struggle to survive as they try to protect the water source into their small nation. Narrated by Lakȟóta Standing Rock Chairman, David Archambault II.

NO RESERVATIONS  Trevor Carroll, 2017, Ojibway, Canada. 11min
What if the moccasin was on the other foot? Political satire about Standing Rock starring Lorne Cardinal. Protests erupt as an upper-middle class neighbourhood attempts to thwart the construction of a pipeline by an Indigenous Corporation.

17:40  SKYPE Q&A  DIRECTOR TREVOR CARROLL

18:00  DEATH CHILL  Abraham Cote, 2017, Algonquin, Canada. 2min
They say you can catch a 'chill', but what happens when the 'chill' catches you?
Thirza Cuthand, 2017, Plains Cree, Scottish, Canada. 5min

The culturally appropriate dating website all single Two-Spirit people wish existed. A funny, insightful follow-up to Thirza’s video Two-Spirit Introductory Special $19.99. This work examines the forces of capitalism through envisioning a 'financially unfeasible' service for a small minority community.

Nyla Innuksuk, 2016, Inuit, Arctic Canada. 5min

“The North is the place where I feel I’m completely myself.” In this evocative Short, Inuit singer-songwriter and humanitarian Susan Aglukark weaves together stories of artistry, family, and belonging as she explores the complex cultural shifts of the last 50 years of Inuit life. Turning her lens on the turbulence of colonial transition, Nyla examines the forces that shaped Aglukark’s voice and how that voice is now being translated for a new generation of Inuit artists.

Asinnajaq, 2017, Inuk, Canada. 14min (photo credit: header image)

Inuk artist Asinnajaq plunges us into a sublime imaginary universe – luminescent, archive-inspired cinema that recasts the present, past and future of her people in a radiant new light. Diving into the NFB’s vast archive, she parses the complicated cinematic representation of the Inuit, harvesting fleeting truths and fortuitous accidents from a range of sources—newsreels, propaganda, ethnographic docs, and work by Indigenous filmmakers. Embedding historic footage into original animation, Asinnajaq conjures up a vision of hope and beautiful possibilities.

Paddy Hayes, 2015, Galeagh/Mongolia. 38min

Irish Fiddler Daire Bracken embarks on a musical pilgrimage to outer Mongolia where he discovers a nomadic tradition stemming the tide of modernity.

Valentina Ippolito, 2016, Miao, China. 12min

Episodic short film exploring the gendering of Miao warrior culture throughout the circle of life.

Semillas Collective, 2016, Philippines, Europe, Africa, Mexico, USA. 11min

On September 26th 2014, 43 students from Ayotzinapa Teachers College in Guerrero, Mexico, were disappeared by the Mexican government. Three students and three civilians were killed, dozens were injured, and two students are still in critical condition. This collaboration between artists, activists, and the Mexica Indigenous Danza community is a call to end Plan Merida, a US program intended to address narcotrafficking in Mexico by supplying weapons and military support to the Mexican government.

Nadir Bouhmouch, 2017, Amazigh, Morocco. 8min

A visual poem of solidarity to the people of the Rif, from the Movement on Road ‘96 in Imider. Timnadin is a form of poetry unique to Asamr, SE Morocco. This experimental doc blends this ancient art form with cinema and is a revival of Imdiazen – the North African poets who travelled from village to village recounting injustices of Morocco’s forgotten mountain villages, using Timnadin to call for rebellion against the state. Produced collectively by the villagers of Imider.

Caroline Monnet, 2015, Algonquin, Canada. 3min

Guided expertly by those who live on the land and driven by the pulse of the natural world, Mobilize takes us on an exhilarating journey from the far north to the urban south. Over every landscape, in all conditions, everyday life flows with strength, skill and extreme competence.
Filmmakers A-Z

ASINNAJQ. www.lichenolichen.com/about
Also known as isabella rose weetaluktuk is a visual artist, filmmaker and writer. inspired by human rights and the abundant beauty of the world. she is motivated to support and promote her Inuit cultural heritage

BOUHMOUCH, NADIR. www.nadirbouhmouch.com
Born in Casablanca and raised in Rabat, Nadir is an award-winning filmmaker, photographer, human rights activist, feminist and film/global justice student at San Diego State University. In 2011, Nadir became an active member of the Moroccan pro-democracy 'February 20th movement' which has been responsible for widespread protests, the redrafting of the Moroccan constitution and the displacement of the former Moroccan government. He is also the co-founder of the Guerrilla Cinema movement, and is particularly interested in campaigning against filmmaking regulations in Morocco which he sees as a constraint on freedom of expression. Nadir directed, produced and wrote "My Makhzen & Me" (2011). Being the first film to cover a Moroccan oppositional movement, it would become a landmark in Moroccan cinema. Nadir was hailed as the 'bete noire of Moroccan directors' by SlateAfrique Magazine, as his film, directly addressed the oppressive methodology of the Makhzen against the people, revealing issues that no other Moroccan filmmaker dared touch.

CARROLL, TREVOR. www.trevorcarroll.ca/about
Trevor Carroll is an award winning Ojibway Director, Producer, Actor and Artist from Garson, Ontario. He is a graduate of Sault College and was the recipient of the Hazel McBride-Kane Memorial scholarship for excellence in English and Fine Arts. His cinematography work was featured in APTN’s The Mix, CTV’s First Story, and CBC’s presentation of the Best of Crazy8’s documentary. His passions include writing, directing, comic books and martial arts.

COTE, ABRAHAM. www.wapikoni.ca/filmmakers/abraham-cote
Abraham Cote is Algonquin from Kitigan Zibi. Carpenter and father of five by day, filmmaker by night, Abraham loves all things movies.

CUTHAND, THIRZA. www.thirzacuthand.com
Thirza Jean Cuthand was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, and grew up in Saskatoon. Since 1995 they have been making short experimental narrative videos and films about sexuality, madness, youth, love, and race, which have screened in festivals internationally, including the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City, Mix Brasil Festival of Sexual Diversity in Sao Paolo, Hot Docs in Toronto, ImagineNATIVE in Toronto, Frameline in San Francisco, Outfest in Los Angeles, and Oberhausen International Short Film Festival in Germany where their short Helpless Maiden Makes an ‘I” Statement won honourable mention.

ERB, JOSEPH. www.josepherb.com/about
Computer animator, film producer, educator, language technologist and artist enrolled in the Cherokee Nation. Erb created the first Cherokee animation in the Cherokee language, “The Beginning They Told”. He used his artistic skills to teach Muscogee Creek and Cherokee students how to animate traditional stories. Most of this work is created in the Cherokee Language. He has spent many years working on projects that will expand the use of Cherokee language in technology and the Arts. Erb teaches at University of Missouri teaching Digital Storytelling and Animation.

GOULD, KEELEY. www.keeleygould.com
British Director and Producer based in New York

HAYES, PADDY. www.magamedia.net/about.aspx
Director/Producer/Writer. We are a small tribe of independent award-winning filmmakers based in the West of Ireland. Magamedia has carved out a reputational niche for itself as a hungry, up-and-coming drama and doc producer that is prepared to get its hands dirty in the subject matters it will tackle. Our editorial line is simple: we worship at the feet of the great God Story.
INNUKSUK, NYLA. www.nylainnuksuk.com
Inuk artist Nyla Innuksuk makes films, media art and VR content. In 2017, Nyla started NKSK, her own VR production company, and became the first artist to be awarded the imagineNATIVE Indigenous VR/AR Residency, where she worked with A Tribe Called Red on their Indian City 360 VR experience as part of the Canada 150 SESQUI project.

INSIGHTSHARE. www.insightshare.org
UK-based collective. Works with communities around the world to address key issues through Participatory Video.

IPPOLITO, VALENTINA. www.valentinaippolito.com
Valentina’s main area of interest is the representation of social identities and minorities. Her documentary work discusses the representation of otherness including, gender roles; men as warriors in Basha Miao Village (China); women and babies behind bars; women’s self-representation of sexuality; and the migrant identity.

LAPENSÉE, ELIZABETH. www.elizabethlapensee.com
Award-winning designer, writer, artist, and researcher who creates and studies Indigenous-led media such as games and comics. She is Anishinaabe from Bay Mills Indian Community, Métis named for Elizabeth Morris, and settler-Irish. She is an Assistant Professor of Media & Information and Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures at Michigan State University.

MONNET, CAROLINE. www.carolinemonnet.ca
Caroline Monnet is a multidisciplinary artist from Outaouais, Quebec. She studied in both Sociology and Communication at the University of Ottawa (Canada) and the University of Granada (Spain) before pursuing a career in visual arts and films. Her work has been programmed in exhibitions and festivals internationally, including the Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), TIFF, Sundance, Aesthetica (UK), Palm Springs (USA), Cannes Film Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art (Montréal), Arsenal Contemporary NY, Axenéo7 (Gatineau), Walter Phillips Gallery (Banff) and the National Art Gallery (Ottawa). In 2016, she was selected for the prestigious Cinéfondation residency in Paris. She is based in Montréal.

PETERS, PAMELA J. www.pamelajpeters.com www.tachiiniphotography.com
Multimedia documentarian from the Navajo Reservation, her Diné 1st clan is Táchii’nii (Red Running Into the Water People clan) which she uses to identify her work. Pamela’s multimedia work, which she calls “Indigenous Realism” explores the lives and diversities of real American Indians, not ethnographic ephemera. Pamela’s work pushes viewers to critically analyze the psychological and historical structures of Native Americans in mass media. Her work stems from what she has witnessed and can identify as a Navajo living in the city - the social impact of the negative, inaccurate, insulting images of stereotypical portrayal of American Indians still seen in film and television, and the portraits seen through a non-indigenous lens, which draws her to change how we see American Indians today. Her images give a truthful narrative and understanding of Indians in Los Angeles today.

SEMILLAS COLLECTIVE. twitter.com/semillas_rise
Mexican art & activism collective based in New York City. Surging in 2014 in response to the forced disappearance of 43 Ayotzinapa students, the group raises awareness about Mexico’s turmoil through media kits, documentary showings and cultural events. Semillas often holds political and cultural events that raise awareness for Mexico’s current human rights crisis throughout Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn, with links to social movements in Mexico as well. The collective is known for developing narrative based documentaries, infographics, and dance films that often serve as protests against the Mexican government’s gross violation of human rights. The collective also is committed to proving psychological healing for communities marked by conflict linked trauma.