

Red Nation
International Film
Festival
Announces Lineup
of 80 Films - 45
Directed by
Women, 40
Women
Screenwriters

Natives in Charge of Their Narrative Native Indigenous Film Festival Surpasses Sundance, Tribeca, TIFF, Cannes and the Oscars!

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, October 20, 2023 — Today the longest-running successful Native Women-Led Indigenous Media Arts and Cultural non-profit enterprise in the history of the entertainment industry announced the comprehensive slate of independent films selected across the feature films, Documentaries and Short for the 28th Red Nation International Film Festival.

The 2023 Festival will take place November 1-12, 2023, in person in Beverly Hills, CA the Fine Arts Theatre, along with a selection of films available online globally November 3 - 11, 2023.

Festival goers will once again return to the Fine Arts Theatre in Beverly Hills to discover this upcoming year's most impactful independent stories from a Native Indigenous perspective. In-Person Tickets and Online Tickets packages along with Event Tickets are currently on sale now.

Festival will screen 80 films, 8 Features, 16 Documentaries, 29 Doc Shorts, 13 Narrative Shorts, 8 Animation, 1 episodic, 5 student films, 47 directed by women, 40 women screenwriters, 2

In-Person Events, 7 Virtual Events. Premieres: 9 World, 13 U.S., 23 Festival, 35 Los Angeles. Countries include United States, Canada, New Zealand, Brazil, Australia, Greenland, Hungary, Mexico, Spain, United Kingdom and Peru. The competition offers audiences a first look at groundbreaking new voices from the Native Indigenous perspective in independent film.

Festival Opens with ***Four Souls of Coyote*** and ***Finality of Dusk*** and Spotlight screenings ***War Pony*** (won at Cannes Film Festival) and ***Common Ground*** (won at 2023, Tribeca Film Festival). Festival closes with ***Bones of Crows, A Boy Called Piano*** and ***A Tribute to Lily Gladstone*** (*Killers of the Flower Moon*), ***The Unknown Country, Lily Gladstone: Far Out There, The Handsome Man.***

In addition, the Festival will kick off with the inaugural **ONLY ONE WATER Virtual Summit**, November 1. Highlighting the conversation on climate justice climate action with Native Indigenous activists and allies, while raising funds for the Institute's critical year-round artist development support. Artists will include ***Joanelle Romero*** (Humanitarian/Founder/President RNCI), ***JoDe Goudy*** (Former Chairman of Yamaha Nation), ***Sharon Day*** (Executive director at Indigenous Peoples Task Force), ***Carla Marshall*** (Black Hills Clean Water Alliance), ***Roberto Mukaro Borrero*** (Human Rights Activist), ***Ed Begley Jr.*** (actor, Environmentalist).

To coincide with the **American Film Market (AFM)** in the first week of November, RNCI and the AFM are partnering to present ***Economic Development on Native Land***, a November 2 discussion session about the significance of filming on Native land.

Films will become available online streaming on Red Nation Television Network during the second half of the Festival —

beginning November 13 - 30. The online offering reinforces the Institute's commitment to accessibility by allowing audiences globally to take part in the discovery of Native Indigenous storytelling.

"The Festival theme for 2023, 'Only One Water,' underscores the urgency of uniting through Native perspective environmental social justice films due to the climate crisis," explained Joanelle Romero, founder and president of RNCI. She added, "Leonardo DiCaprio's advocacy for Native narratives in Hollywood is timely. Hollywood's journey from 'Dances with Wolves' in 1990 to 'The Revenant' in 2015 highlights the need for greater Native representation in cinema.

In the context of Hollywood's history, it's remarkable to note that despite the film industry's establishment for over half a century, a significant milestone occurred in 1977 with 'The Girl Called Hatter Fox,' where a Native actress carried a leading role in a contemporary Native woman's story. Yet, it took another 42 years for Hollywood to progress from this point to a streaming series featuring a Native actress in a contemporary leading role, as seen in Netflix's 'Chambers' in 2019, albeit for just one season.

The RNCI Board of Directors is thrilled to showcase this remarkable selection of work at this year's Festival, a celebration that honors our authentic storytellers and their invaluable contributions to the world of cinema."

Red Nation Celebration Institute created the market for Native Indigenous independent films, 28 years ago and in the last three years Hollywood has finally taken notice of the talent we have in Indian Country with **Reservation Dogs, Dark Winds, Prey, Wild Indian** and now we have **Killers of the Flower Moon**.

Over the course of the last six years, RNIFF has wholeheartedly championed the screening of an impressive 162 films directed by women. This laudable initiative serves as a resounding testament to our unwavering commitment to promoting inclusivity within the film industry. In a remarkable feat, we have even surpassed prominent film festivals like TIFF, Cannes, Sundance, Tribeca, & the Oscars in terms of the sheer numbers of women-directed films featured.

The Red Nation International Film Festival is an artist program of the Red Nation Celebration Institute. Proceeds earned through Festival ticket sales go to uplifting and developing emerging artists and returning artists on a year-round basis through focused labs, direct grants, fellowships, residencies, and more.

RNIFF OFFICIAL SELECTIONS U.S. COMPETITION

Premiere numbers, the competition offers audiences a first look at groundbreaking new voices from the Native Indigenous perspective in independent film. Take a look at films that have premiered at RNIFF.

FEATURES

Bones of Crows/Feature/Canada/129 minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Marie Clements)

Removed from their family home and forced into Canada's residential school system, Cree musical prodigy Aline and her siblings are plunged into a struggle for survival. Bones of Crows is Aline's journey from child to matriarch, a moving multi-generational epic of resilience, survival and the pursuit of justice.

Café Daughter/Feature/Canada/90 minutes/English (Director: Shelley Niro; Screenwriters: Shelley Niro, Kenneth T. Williams)

Inspired by real events, *Café Daughter*, tells the story of nine year old, half-Chinese half-Cree girl, YVETTE WONG. On top of struggling to find her place in a small Saskatchewan community in the 1960s, she is also faced with the passing of her mother KATHERINE. Katherine always told her children not to let anyone know they were Native Indian. She believed they would have a better life if this information was kept hidden.

**War Pony/Feature/USA,UK/115 Minutes/English, Sioux
(Directors: Gina Gammell, Riley Keough; Screenwriters:
Franklin Sioux Bob, Bill Reddy, Gina Gammell, Riley Keough)**

The interlocking stories of two young Oglala Lakota men growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

**The Unknown Country/Feature/USA/85 minutes/English
(Director: Morrisa Maltz; Screenwriters: Lily Gladstone,
Morrisa Maltz, Lainey Bearkiller Shangreaux, Vanara Taking)**

An unexpected invitation rushes a grieving young woman into a lonely road trip through the American Midwest towards the border between Texas and Mexico.

**Four Souls of Coyote/Feature/Hungary/106 minutes/English
(Director: Aron Gauder; Screenwriters: Áron Gauder, Géza
Bereményi)**

Billed as an epic adventure based on a Native American creation myth, the film highlights the increasingly pressing need to live in harmony with the environment — before it is too late.

Set in the present day, Native Americans confront the crew of an oil pipeline project, just down the hill from the land of their ancestors. The grandfather evokes the ancient tale of their Creation myth, reminding all of us that the challenges facing humanity are universal, and we need to find our place in the great circle of creatures. Through adventures filled with animals, magic, hunger, greed and the sacred circle of all creations, the story gives us hope that humans can correct our course and preserve our species' existence on Earth.

Finality of Dusk/Feature/97 minutes/Canada/American Sign Language, English, Other (Director: Madison Thomas; Screenwriters: Madison Thomas, Katarina Ziervogel)

In the year 2045, amidst environmental devastation, Ishkode and her unlikely companion Niife join forces on what is left of the land to save themselves by protecting each other.

The Son Rises/Feature/USA/47 minutes/English, Spanish (Director & Screenwriter: Alexander G. Seyum)

Manny, a rebellious biker, must fight for justice when his younger brother is killed in a senseless police shooting. Harassed by those who have sworn to protect him, he finds parallels between his story and that of Jesus Christ, as he's slowly nailed to a cross of his own.

Gift of Fear/Feature/USA/106 minutes/English (Directors: Katy Dore, Jack Kohler; Screenwriters: Carly Kohler, Jack Kohler)-Mili watched in horror as her mother was murdered 11

years ago, becoming another Missing and Murdered Indigenous statistic. Now 17, Mili's former crew kidnaps her girlfriend after Mili chooses her MMA team over the gang. Tribal cops and an agent from the Federal Missing and Murdered Unit are on the case, but Mili waited for the authorities once...she won't wait this time.

DOCUMENTARIES

The Bears on Pine Ridge/Documentary/USA 115 minutes/ English (Director: Noel Octavio Bass)

The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has declared a "State of Emergency", after an outbreak of youth suicides has devastated the community. Due to a lack of Federal assistance, residents have taken prevention efforts into their own hands. A tenacious Oglala Lakota elder takes charge, rallying the community to get involved, while empowering a resilient young group of suicide survivors to band together to help raise awareness.

Finding Peace/Documentary/Canada/45 minutes/English (Directors: Lancelot Burton, Agnieszka Pajor; Screenwriters: Lancelot Burton, Agnieszka Pajor)

The Final Report of the National Inquiry reveals that persistent and deliberate violations and abuses of human and Indigenous rights are the primary cause of Canada's alarming rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQ people. Change is needed, and it is needed now. Interwoven with the artistic process of creating a bronze statue, this film is a journey from the distant past, when indigenous women were the leaders of their communities, to the present day, in 2020, when, for the first time in history, First Nation, municipal, territorial, and federal governments came together to make change. Yukon has

taken the leading role within Canada with the monumental task of implementing the MMIWG2S+ Strategy. It was determined that commemoration is a small but crucial step in building a better future.

**The Genízaro Experience - Shadows In Light/Documentary/
USA/57 minutes/English, Spanish (Director & Screenwriter:
Gary Medina Cook)**

Descendants of Native American slaves share their inspiring story of captivity and redemption.

Long before African Slaves were brought to America European ships that traversed the Atlantic were already stained with the blood of Indigenous people.

**True Story/Documentary/Canada/ 88 minutes/English
(Director: Dinae Robinson; Screenwriters: Dinae Robinson,
Jessica Landry)**

TRUE STORY faces the truth of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and settler Canadians.

Starting with the creation stories of many nations, TRUE STORY shares the history of Indigenous peoples prior to contact. It covers the period of our shared history when collaboration between Indigenous people and settlers was, in many cases, mutually beneficial. Especially for the Europeans, who would have died without it. Indigenous people taught newcomer Europeans how to survive in sub-zero temperature climates in foreign lands, providing them with knowledge of how to hunt, trap, cook, and preserve food, natural medicines of the land and even how to

bathe! But it wasn't long before "collaborate" would be traded for a different "c" word — "conquer".

**Aitamaako'tamisskapi Natosi: Before The Sun/Documentary/
Canada/89 minutes/English (Director: Banchi Hanuse;
Screenwriters: Banchi Hanuse, Tanya Maryniak)**

A thrilling portrait of a young Siksika woman and the deep bonds between her father and family in the golden plains of Blackfoot Territory as she prepares for one of the most dangerous horse races in the world... on bareback.

A sport for the truly brave, Logan Red Crow is an Indian Relay rider who vaults from horse to horse in short, exhilarating races. She is a champion in the making -besides her skill and sheer grit, Logan has a loving family, an elite group of horses, and a home on her ancestral lands. Those are invaluable, but this rider will need more for victory.

**Giiwe: Returning Home/Documentary/Canada/44 minutes/
English (Director: Taye Alvis)**

Following filmmaker Taye Alvis as he looks to reconnect to his community of Walpole Island First Nation. Taye will explore his relationship to Walpole Island, and how one can reconnect to their traditions and culture by way of conversation, arts, and recreation.

**Guadalupe/Documentary/Mexico/91 minutes/Spanish
(Director: Jesús Manuel Munoz; Screenwriters: Jesús Manuel
Munoz, Rafael Casañ)**

A fascinating journey through Mexican culture and spirituality in search of the origins of the Virgin of Guadalupe, an icon that

emerged after the shocking clash between Europe and the Mesoamerican peoples. With all its lights and shadows, this 'brown skinned' virgin is the first and most important sign of Mexican identity.

Blue Bear Woman/Documentary/Canada/76 minutes/French (Director & Screenwriter: Claude Hamel)

This feature-length documentary is based on the work of Virginia Pesemapeo Bordeleau, an incredibly talented native author, painter, poet, sculptor and storyteller.

Virginia is a québécois artist of mixed parentage whose mother was from the Cri nation. She is the recipient of the Médaille de l'Assemblée Nationale of Quebec and has received considerable recognition in the artistic world. The film counterbalances the lack of importance accorded to women artists and, in general, to women who are past their so-called prime, a period when they are longer biologically fertile, yet remain fertile with the expression of great beauty and strength.

A documentary consisting solely of excerpts of her books read by very well renown native artists, illuminated by more then 250 of her canvases and sculptures.

ᏍᏏᏉᏍᏔᏅ (We Will Speak)/Documentary/USA/94 Minutes/ Cherokee, English (Directors: Schon Duncan, Michael McDermit)

With fewer than 1,500 fluent speakers left, a small group of Cherokee activists race to save their language from extinction.

Synopsis: The Cherokee language is deeply tied to Cherokee identity; yet generations of assimilation efforts by the U.S. government and anti-Indigenous stigmas have forced the Tri-

Council of Cherokee tribes to declare a State of Emergency for the language in 2019. While there are 430,000 Cherokee citizens in the three federally recognized tribes, fewer than an estimated 2,000 fluent speakers remain—the majority of whom are elderly. The covid pandemic has unfortunately hastened the course. Language activists, artists, and the youth must now lead the charge of urgent radical revitalization efforts to help save the language from the brink of extinction.

**Common Ground/Feature/USA/105 minutes/English
(Directors: Joshua Tickell, Rebecca Harrell Tickell;
Screenwriters: Jenny O’Hara, Johnny O’Hara, Joshua Tickell,
Rebecca Harrell Tickell)**

The solution of Regenerative farmers to bring soil health across the continent and beyond.

**NAVAJO NATION USA/DOCUMENTARY/USA/82 minutes/
English (Director: Deren Paul Abram; Screenwriters: Deren
Paul Abram, Kim Thiboldeaux, Guillermo Escolar Roques)**

“In our way of life, they call them monsters. As Indigenous People, these are monsters that are beating us up every day. These modern day monsters are alcoholism, drug addiction, poverty, ... and cancer.” ~Jonathan Nez President, Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation USA is the collective story of four main characters within the native lands of the Navajo set against the backdrop of cancer-causing uranium left unchecked by the US government.

**A Boy Called Piano - The Story Of Fa'amoana John Luafutu/
Documentary/New Zealand/57 minutes/English (Director:
Nina Nawalowalo; Screenwriters: Fa'amoana John Luafutu,
Tom McCrory)**

Arriving to New Zealand from Samoa as a young child in the 1950s, Fa'amoana was taken from his family and placed in state care, suffering terrible abuse alongside thousands of other Pacific and Maori children. This documentary explores his journey through state care, prison, gang membership, as well as the intergenerational impacts of these experiences; and ultimately, healing for Fa'amoana and his Family through harnessing the power of his voice as a storyteller.

***Custodians - A Story of Ancient Echoes/Documentary/
Canada/75 minutes/English (Director: Brad Langendoen)***

The documentary *Custodians – A Story of Ancient Echoes* follows the journey of a local community in Herschel, Saskatchewan during the summer of 2021 as they work to preserve and protect the pastureland, native grasslands, and important Indigenous artifacts found near the village. Upon discoveries of dinosaurs, marine fossils and significant Indigenous sites and petroglyphs on nearby farmland, an aging population of community volunteers come together to preserve the land and its stories including the Indigenous history, paleontology, and local ecology. “We have found a living library” says Metis Artist Jo Cooper who has spent the past 20 years in Herschel working alongside locals. The stories of the land and the echoes of the past form new friendships, unravel mysteries and model a potential for deep justice, reconciliation and healing between people and the land.

**This River Is Our Relative/Documentary/USA/57 minutes/
English (Directors: Dawn Neptune Adams, Meredith
DeFrancesco, Kathy Paul, Joanna Weaver: Screenwriters:
Dawn Neptune Adams, Meredith DeFrancesco, Maria
Girouard, Lokotah Sanborn, Joanna Weaver)**

“This River is Our Relative” celebrates Penobscot Nation’s intrinsic kinship connection to and tireless environmental advocacy of the Penobscot River. The story is told through the voices of 24 Penobscot people, who share their experience of historical, physical, and spiritual connection to place; of cultural identity and survival. Their narratives are interwoven with a traditional Wabanaki story about how The People and Glouskap defeated a greedy monster frog, Aklebemu, who was hoarding all the water.

**The Nature of Healing/Documentary/Canada/78 minutes/
English (Director & Screenwriter: Faith Leone Howe)**

The Nature of Healing is the spoken truth of seven courageous people who survived the Mohawk Institute, Canada’s first and longest running “Indian” residential school. From victim to survivor, to activist, this is a story of resistance, resilience and a healing path.

The 139 residential schools, operated in partnership with the Canadian Government, Catholic, Anglican and other protestant churches were Canada’s sanctioned system of dehumanization; neglect, brutality and child abuse in all its forms, “until there is not a single Indian in Canada”.

**They Can't Kill Us/Documentary/USA/57 minutes/English
(Director: Johnathan Bloodwolf Lopez)**

"They Can't Kill US" will be a powerful and insightful documentary that will challenge viewers to rethink their understanding of Native American culture and history. It will be a testament to the importance of preserving and celebrating the rich diversity of our nation's first peoples.

DOC SHORTS

**Native Hope Champions: Riding For The Missing/
Documentary Short/USA/9 Minutes/English (Directors: Sahar
Khadjenoury, Frank Blanquet)**

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls pandemic is a widespread crisis that primarily exists under the radar. At the Indian National Finals Rodeo, or INFR, participants used their platform to shed light on this issue.

**Keepers Of The Land/Documentary Short/Canada/28 Minutes/
English (Directors: Deirdre Leowinata, Douglas Neasloss)**

In the heart of British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, one Nation is reclaiming the power they held for millennia. As the impacts of colonial exploitation and mismanagement take an increasing toll on their territory, the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation finds strength in its stories and culture, emerging as a stewardship leader in a new age of reconciliation in Canada. A powerful story of resurgence, the weight of hereditary leadership, and the responsibility they carry into the modern world told through the

eyes of elder and hereditary chief Nismuutk, Ernest Mason Jr., and the new young leaders following in his footsteps.

Mauri Tu Mauri Ora/ Documentary Short/New Zealand/25 Minutes/English, Maori (Director & Screenwriter Daniel Nathan)

Hokia te waoku kia purea ai – Return to the forest and be restored. A passionate indigenous artist strives to re-awaken a deeper conversation with the natural world.

His approach is informed by Mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge systems) and a deep affinity for the unique indigenous flora and fauna of Aotearoa (New Zealand).

Kokum, With Love./Documentary Short/Canada/11 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Kim Stadfeld)

Flora Bear's youngest granddaughter searches for truth and answers about her Indigenous grandmother's life. This short documentary is the filmmaker's personal journey of discovery to honour her late grandmother's life and understand her family history .

Hebron Relocation/Documentary Short/Canada/15 Minutes/English, Inuktitut (Director: Holly Andersen)

Filmmaker Holly Andersen of Makkovik, Nunatsiavut, always knew that the house she lives in carries within its frame the echoes of the forced displacement of northern Labrador Inuit. In Hebron Relocation, Andersen explores what makes a place a home as she speaks with friends and family about how the relocation impacted generations of Labrador Inuit.

Pe Ataju Jumali/Hot Air/Documentary Short/Brazil/25 Minutes/English (Director: United against colonization: many eyes, one heart; Screenwriter: United against colonization: many eyes, one heart)

The countries of the Global North are the biggest polluters on the planet with their CO2 emissions. Thus, they created the carbon credit system, which pretends to protect forests in the Global South, which are already protected by their first nations. A typical farce of the financial capitalism known as “hot air”. The enchanted beings of those forests, with their performMAGIC ACTivations, came to reveal this great farce and invite everyone to do environmental justice with their own hands united in a great cosmic spiral.

Medicine And Obligations/Documentary Short/Usa/10 Minutes/English (Director: Tinia Witherspoon)

The documentary is about Indigenous students grappling with the obligations of college at Northern Arizona University (NAU), while maintaining traditional practices that are integral to health and traditional medicine. The students point out the hypocrisy of NAU claiming to be the leading university serving Indigenous students, while contributing to cultural erasure and cultural genocide.

Miss Campbell: Inuk Teacher/Documentary Short/ Canada/15 Minutes/English, French (Director & Screenwriter: Heather Campbell)

Evelyn Campbell was one of the first accredited Inuk teachers in Labrador and a pioneer for an Inuk-led educational system. As a residential school survivor, she overcame extraordinary odds to train as a teacher and pursue her passion for education. Director Heather Campbell unveils her grandmother’s legacy by layering

live-action art, animation and intimate family conversations.

**Blueberry Land: Epgomanegati/Documentary Short/Canada/
40 Minutes/English (Director & Screenriter: Brian Francis)**

Mi'kmaq and the Harvest is a glimpse into the unique past of the Mikmaw participation in the Annual Maine Blueberry harvest, a long standing tradition in which many hundreds if not thousands have participated. It is a tradition that seems to have begun out of nowhere, yet almost every member of the Mikmaw tribe has a story of their experiences.

**Ha Txan Tsi. An Ka Li (We Come Home After)/Documentary
Short/USA/6 Minutes/English (Director: Dante Biss-Grayson,
Bawaadan Collective; Screenwriter: Dante Biss-Grayson,
Bawaadan Collective)**

“Ha Txan Tsi. An Ka Li (Translated from Osage: We Come Home After)” is a poignant and thought-provoking short documentary film co-produced, written, and directed by Dante Biss-Grayson, an Osage veteran, and the Bawaadan Collective. The film explores the experiences of Native American veterans as they return home after serving in the military and the complex relationships they have with their service and their identity as Indigenous peoples.

**Making Tracks/Documentary Short/USA/34 Minutes/English
(Director: Directed by Kyle Aramburo)**

The Bering Strait School District in Western Alaska is the only place in the United States where biathlon and cross country skiing have both been school activities for almost 40 years. In the late

1970's, a time when village schools did not have television, telephones or gymnasiums, the Bering Strait School District hired John Miles, an educator from the East Coast, to head up a district-wide ski program. While other sports like basketball, wrestling and volleyball serve important roles in village life today, cross country skiing was the only school sport then and continues to be a fitting activity for places with snow on the ground eight months of the year, and for a people whose survival traditionally depended on close acquaintance with the land.

**Where Do I Belong/Documentary Short/Canada/5 Minutes/
English (Director: by Danika St-Laurent)**

As a continuation of her first film We Are Not Speaking the Same Language, Danika explains what it feels like to be a displaced urban Indigenous.

**Many Moons/ Documentary Short/USA/22 Minutes/English
(Director: Chisato Uyeki Hughes)**

In the county which once boasted it was “free of Chinamen,” Chinese community members search for those who may have survived Humboldt’s 1885 expulsion and 60 years of enforced exclusion– the only known survivor being Charlie Moon, whose descendants are Native tribal members. Framed by the words of a ghost, this hybrid documentary/fiction film alternates between the observational search for ‘the others’ with the appearance of ghosts as the past demands recognition in the present.

**Indigenous Resistance: Now And Then/Documentary Short/
USA/ 15 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter:
‘Wáats’asdiyei Joe Yates)**

We explore how it was for our people to go through statehood, blood quantum, ANCSA, boarding schools, stripping our language

and dance away, and all that has done to our mental health. With that, we try to have a hopeful spin on this narrative and show how resilient our people are.

**Paddle Tribal Waters/Documentary Short/USA/9 Minutes/
English (Directors: Paul Robert Wolf Wilson, Rush Sturges)**

When the largest dam removal project in history begins, a group of indigenous youth learn to whitewater kayak in hopes of becoming the first people to paddle the restored river from source to sea.

**I Am Kānaka/Documentary Short/UK/15 Minutes/English,
Hawaiian (Director & Screenwriter: Genevieve Sulway)**

With a dark history, 5% speaking the native language and 10% living in poverty, Hawaii is in danger of losing its traditions forever. “I am Kanaka” gives a glimpse into the future with Kaina Makua’s non-profit program teaching Hawaiian language, sustainability and life skills to disadvantaged indigenous kids aged 5-20.

**Where Dreams Are Forgotten/Documentary Short/Greenland/
6 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Inuk Jørgensen)**

Endorsed by the UN-mandated Spokesperson for the Rights of the Child calling it “a call for action”, ‘Where Dreams Are Forgotten’ is filmed in what was once the economic center of the colonial Arctic and deals with the prospects of the ever evolving infrastructure set against the stark reality for the local population. Told through noisy images the film transports you to a neglected and often forgotten part of the sub-polar regions of the world’s largest island where the youngest generations are the ones who suffer the most in a post-colonial struggle of an entire society.

**All Sacred Things/Documentary Short/Canada/24 Minutes/
English (Director & Screenwriter: Derek Sands)**

A group of indigenous college students go on a journey to reconnect to their culture, which leads them to experience the once almost extinct Ojibway Spirit Horses.

**Malignasquelluki (To Live In Harmony)/Documentary Short/
USA/13 Minutes/English (Directors: Colin Russell, Ilegvak)**

A portrait of the Yupik fur hunter and artist, Ilegvak.

**A REFLECTION OF LIFE: VOICES OF OUR YOUTH/
DOCUMENTARY SHORT/USA/4 MINUTES/English (Director:
Laronn Katchia)**

This short piece features Native youth voices and addresses the importance of recognising that water is life. Filmed by Laronn Katchia, a Native filmmaker from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs who worked with youth from the Native American College Prep Program at Central Oregon Community College.

**Our Longhouse/ Documentary Short/USA/5 Minutes/English
(Director: Maurice John, Jr.)**

A grassroots community effort to construct a traditional Iroquois longhouse. The “Living Longhouse” project is currently housed in Salamanca, NY at the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum / Onöhsagwë:de’ Cultural Center.

**Still Here/Documentary Short/Spain/16 Minutes/Spanish
(Director & Screenwriter: Álvaro Hernández Blanco)**

In the deserts of Baja California (México), Daria and Teresa are the last two speakers of the Ku’ahl indigenous language. In their

world of oblivion and decrepitude, they lament the imminent extinction of the ku'ahl language and culture as the modern world moves on with indifference. But as long as Daria and Teresa converse together, ku'ahl lives.

**Braves Wear Braids/Documentary Short/Canada/28 Minutes/
English (Directors: Jamie K Starlight, Bryce A Starlight;
Screenwriters: Jamie K Starlight, Bryce A Starlight)**

Braves Wear Braids is an empowering short documentary focused on encouraging Indigenous youth not to cut their hair. Through personal stories we look at the challenges faced by many Indigenous families to continue the long-standing tradition of wearing long hair in order to keep the connection that ties them, not only to their culture and ancestors, but also to Creator. Through education, understanding, and allyship this important piece of culture can continue to be passed down to future generations.

**pî-kiwîk/Documentary Short/Canada/10 Minutes/Cree, English
(Director & Screenwriter: Keisha Erwin)**

pî-kiwîk, will bring viewers on a heartfelt journey of how reconnecting to one's culture and family can be life-changing, grounding and how it can provide a sense of belonging, pride and purpose .Through this short-documentary, I will capture my personal journey of reconnection as a mixed child of a 60s scoop survivor (disconnected generationally), a grandchild of 2 residential school survivors and as someone who grew up globally and disconnected from my family in kîwîtinohk kisiskâciwanihk. I will capture the raw emotions, the heartfelt inspiration, the nitty gritty of building relationships with my family while navigating intergenerational trauma and the beauty of it all, as seen in the scenery of the land, the waters, nohkom's voice

and heard in my reclamation and learning of the Woodland Cree language. Through the telling of my own personal story of returning to and finding home in my community in Northern Saskatchewan, I will convey the transformative power of finding oneself in relation to one's family, language and culture. Disconnection (due to colonization and forced assimilation) is a sadly common experience for Indigenous peoples across these lands, pî-kiwîk will not only show the strength within Indigenous communities and matriarchs but also that reconnection is possible. pî-kiwîk, come home, our families and ancestors are waiting for us.

The Alexander Ball/Documentary Short/Australia/29 Minutes/English (Director: Jessica Magro)

'The Alexander Ball' is an observational documentary extravaganza celebrating Samoan-Māori-Australian trans woman of colour, Ella Ganza, and the Meanjin (Brisbane) ballroom scene, as the community prepares for one of biggest ballroom events of the year: The Alexander Ball.

Abaznoda (Basket)/ Documentary Short/Canada/10 Minutes/French (Director: Charlotte Gauthier-Nolett)

Charlotte is a young Abenaki artist who makes black ash baskets. She carries on her shoulders the legacy of all the generations that came before, which pushes her to learn as much as possible about her passion: basketry.

Handgames In The Delta/Documentary Short/Canada/27 Minutes/English (Director: Taylor Smith)

A group of Indigenous Handgames players based in the Yukon travelled to four separate communities in the Delta region of the Northwest Territories (Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic) teaching Handgames to citizens. In addition to the history & culture being taught, selflessness and humility were major lessons in this ancient game. In the end, each community submitted a team to a Delta-wide tournament in Inuvik.

Wounded Knee Survivors Run/Documentary Short/USA/12 Minutes/English (Director: Seth Brings Plenty)

This short film is a powerful story about the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890, a tragedy that still resonates in the hearts of many Native Americans today. It follows the journey of runners who, every year, travel from Wounded Knee to Bridger in South Dakota, retracing the steps of the massacre and saying prayers as they go. The film captures the beauty of the land, the emotion of the runners, and the solemnity of remembering a tragedy that affected so many lives. It is a story of remembrance, healing and hope for a better future.

Istén:'A/Documentary Short/Canada/5 Minutes/English ((Director: KJ Edwards)

A poetic retelling of a visit from the artist's mother, istén:'a explores dreamspace as a meeting place for us and our late loved ones, who we always remain tethered to.

Lily Gladstone: Far Out There/Documentary Short/USA/13 Minutes/English (Director: Brooke Pepion Swaney)

Follow Native American actress Lily Gladstone as she share her love of her craft and prepares for the release of her highest profile Hollywood film to date. Gladstone shares with us how her

foundation and making her voice heard as a professional actor shapes her career, and her understanding of the profession.

LIVE ACTION

The Comedian/Live Action/USA/8 Minutes/English (Director: Ajuawak Kapashesit; Screenwriters: Ajuawak Kapashesit, Jeff Barehand)

A comedian learns that quitting smoking will become the greatest joke of his life. A Red Eagle Soaring film production. Directed by Ajuawak Kapashesit. Written by Ajuawak Kapashesit and Jeff Barehand. Produced by Red Eagle Soaring and Sky Bear Media.

The Martyrdom Of Saint Ethel: Patron Saint Of The Santee, Bloody Fourth, And Gitmo Bay/Live Action/USA/29 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Myrton W Running Wolf)

Be sure to check out Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" and Martin Scorsese's upcoming "Killers of the Flower Moon" for historical reference. Then buckle-up for a whacky retelling of the death-sentence hearing of Ethel Rosenberg – who was found guilty of giving U.S. atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union! Also, you may wish to brush up on Native American Sacred Clown "comic inversion" as well as celebrated verbatim theater works like "The Laramie Project" and Anna Deavere Smith's groundbreaking productions. Our short film combines dark humor, physical comedy, and excerpts from the courtroom transcripts to satirize our imperfect legal system.

Happy Thanksgiving/Live Action/USA/8 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Ishkwaazhe Shane McSauby)

A Native American man takes a Happy Thanksgiving wish from a bank teller so personally, his rage drives him to carry out a bizarre revenge plan.

Urpi: Her Last Wish/ Live Action/USA/17 Minutes/English, Quechua, Spanish (Director & Screenwriter: Sisa Quispe)

Urpi travels to the sacred valley of the Incas in the Peruvian Andes to fulfill a promise to her grandmother. She meets Sayri, an indigenous Quechua young man, who offers his motorcycle for a journey that will challenge her understanding of her identity.

My Roommate Makayla/Live Action/Canada/5 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Jonelle Belcourt)

A fun girl's night in is turned upside down when a late-night phone call alerts a group of friends that one of their roommates is alone and in danger but how can they help her when they don't know how to find her?

Une Fille Étrange (A Strange Girl)/Live Action/USA/25 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: ZsaZsa K.)

A young artist is stuck in a purgatory-like state, between deep-rooted personal challenges and a blossoming career.

Hatarimuy (Rise Up)/Live Action/Peru/ 23 Minutes/Quechua, Spanish (Director & Screenwriter: Suni Sonqo Vizcarra Wood)

After being injured in the protests, a Quechua young man experiences a supernatural encounter, which leads him to question his history, revealing his true identity and decolonizing his inner self.

Seven Live Action/USA/3 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: ZsaZsa K.)

SEVEN, is an eco-fashion awareness video, which promotes shopping second-hand clothing as a practical approach toward sustainable living.

In alignment with the 7 generations principle of the Haudenosaunee, Seneca descendants ZsaZsa K (mother) & Eden Serafina (daughter) team-up to showcase a curated collection of vintage, pre-loved, and rescued clothing with accessories.

Intentionally contrasting the superficial & destructive reputation of fast-fashion, subtle prompts encourage the audience to consider the concepts of reverence, reverberation, and resilience, in regards to a better tomorrow.

Ohskennón:Ten Owí:Ra (Little Deer)/Live Action/Canada/34 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter: Jonathan Elliott)

On Christmas Eve, 1967, two young Indigenous girls are forced to battle the elements, confront their darkest secrets and work together in order to return home to their families after a daring escape from the Mohawk Institute Residential School. This harrowing coming-of-age story was developed with survivors of the Mohawk Institute and is based on their real experiences.

This film is a story about the resilience of Indigenous youth, the power of friendship, and the intergenerational impacts of the residential school system on Indigenous people and communities.

BORDERS/LIVE ACTION/USA/12 Minutes/English, Spanish (Directors: Kenneth Thomas Shirley, Adam Michael Conte; Screenwriters: Kenneth Thomas Shirley, Lionel Thundercloud)

Based on a true events from 2021, this film follows a young immigrant girl transporting drugs who gets stranded in the Sonoran desert. She's saved from near death by a kind teenage boy from a reservation. Overcoming language and cultural differences, they wait for her ride to arrive at his reservation home, they forge a powerful connection in a land where the border between good and evil is hard to see. This is a story of survival, compassion, and resilience.

**Polly, Paulina, Pauline/Live Action/USA/11 Minutes/English
(Director & Screenwriter Misty Shipman)**

When ballet dancer Polly wakes up in a fugue state, she is haunted by hallucinations and visions of her best friend, whose tragic death haunts her.

MUSK./LIVE ACTION/CANADA/7 Minutes/English (Director & Screenwriter Rylan Friday)

A short visual poem about an Indigenous Womxn's healing journey as she reconnects with world around her as she lets go of her grief.

**The Handsome Man/Live Action/USA/15 Minutes/English
(Directors: Misty Shipman, Hope Shipman; Screenwriters:
Misty Shipman, Hope Shipman, Johnny Arlee)**

Andre and Lydia are called in by their boss and to clean up a mess. They must move a massive dead body and avoid getting caught by the suspicious police officer.

ANIMATION

A Bear Named Jesus/Animation/Canada/6 MINUTES/Cree, English, French (Director: Terril Calder; Screenwriter: Archer Pechawis)

At Aunty Gladys' funeral, Archer Pechawis heard a tap on the window — it was a bear named Jesus, and Jesus had come for Archer's mom. Now she's no longer recognizable — while Jesus hangs out in the shed.

Who She Is/Documentary Short/USA/37 Minutes/English (Directors: Jordan Dresser (Northern Arapaho), Sophie Barksdale; Screenwriters: Jordan Dresser (Northern Arapaho), Sophie Barksdale)

Abbi. Sheila. Jocelyn. Lela. These are women hidden within the statistics of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women epidemic. Meet them. See them. Say their names. They are "Who She Is". Who She Is tells the story of four women caught in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) epidemic in the U.S. By bringing these missing women to life on screen, through animation and first-person storytelling, the documentary aims to humanize the people behind the statistics of MMIW.

Grape Soda In The Parking Lot/Animation/Canada/7 Minutes/English, French, Inuktitut (Directors: Megan Kyak-Monteith, Taqralik Partridge; Screenwriter: Taqralik Partridge)

What if every language that had been lost to English — every word, every syllable — grew up out of the ground in flowers? Taqralik Partridge's grandmother's Scottish Gaelic and her father's Inuktitut unfold in memories of her family, of pain, and of love.

How To Lose Everything: A Field Guide/Animation/Canada/5 Minutes/English, French, Cree (Directors: Christa Couture, Bekky O'Neil; Screenwriter: Christa Couture)

Through the loss of her leg, her children, her marriage, and her voice, Christa Couture presses into the pages of this field guide stories and notes on how to lose everything.

Things You Know But Cannot Explain/Animation/USA/10 Minutes/English (Director: Michelle Hernandez, Chantal Jung; Screenwriter: Michelle Hernandez, Chantal Jung)

Using images and art from Wiyot artist Rick Bartow as its basis, this experimental short explores one reclaiming their identity and culture as an Indigenous person.

Nya'waap Illyuw Uuchyuw — Our Way of Knowing/Animation/USA/20 Minutes/English (Directors: The Barona Band of the Kumeyaay, Ken Winikur; Screenwriter: The Barona Band of the Kumeyaay)

Nya'waap Illyuw Uuchyuw—Our Way of Knowing is a twenty-minute film that shares the origin story of the Barona Band of the Kumeyaay, never before shared publicly. The film interweaves live action and original animation with songs and storytelling by Kumeyaay elders. Produced in collaboration between the Barona Band of Mission Indians and Winikur Productions, this film helps preserve this vital cultural knowledge.

Monstr/Animation/Canada/6 Minutes/English (Director: Tank Standing Buffalo; Screenwriters: Tank Standing Buffalo, Xstine Cook)

How do you go on living when everything is taken from you in the blink of an eye? A young artist confronts his inner demons while

apprenticing with a northwest totem carver after the death of his beloved.

Heart Like A Pow Wow/Animation/Canada/5 Minutes/English, French, Anishinaabemowin (Director: Chief Lady Bird; Screenwriter: Tara Williamson)

Heart Like A Pow Wow explores the depths of grief from an Anishinaabe perspective of love and family. Viewers are called to witness Spirit as they shift to physical form while embodying the love that precedes grief and inevitably foreshadows it.

Tiny/Animation/Canada/16 Minutes/English (Directors: Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché)

Tiny is a contemplative stop motion film which tells the story of 'Nakwaxda'xw Elder Colleen Hemphill's childhood. The film portrays modern day Colleen as she reflects on her past, and re-enacts the stories she tells of her youth, as a young girl growing up on a float-house in the wild and unpredictable Pacific Northwest and its waters. As she retells her story, Colleen notices how different her way of life was when she was young, and how much more harmonious her community was with nature. The film aims to celebrate the life and identity of Colleen by sharing the gift of her presence and stories with audiences.

There Are Hierarchies of Grief Animation/Canada/5 Minutes/English, French, Ktunaxa (Director: Meky Ottawa; Screenwriter: Smokii Sumac)

Smokii Sumac reflects on the wisdom and strength of bereaved mothers, as he is faced with the grief of waking up to a changed world—the day after Donald Trump was elected as President of the United States.

EPISODIC

Warrior Up!/Episodic/Canada/22 Minutes/English (Series Director: David Finch; Screenwriters: David Finch, Maureen Marovitch)

Warrior Up! is a 13 x 22-minute documentary series that follows inspiring Indigenous youth making positive change in their communities! Whether it's defending the land, learning nearly lost Indigenous hunting and building techniques, feeding unsheltered relatives or helping decolonize the fashion industry, the young changemakers featured in this series are making an impact. Warrior Up! shares their inspiring journeys of activism in engaging, entertaining ways as our three hosts take turns traveling Turtle Island, jumping in to lend a hand alongside these young warriors. Inuk actor Anna Lambe, from Iqaluit, Nunavut, Anishnaabe actor Joshua Odjick, from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, and actor Joel Oulette, a member of the Cumberland House Cree and Red River Métis Nation, find themselves shooting arrows from horseback, improvising a rap, walking the runway, building a pit house and packing blessing bags, learning just what it means to be a warrior.

Episode 2 (season 1) Neveah Pine: Voice of Disruption
Grade ten student Neveah Pine is a proud Ojibwe teen from Garden River First Nation, Ontario who found her voice in public speaking competitions. She uses the platform to advocate for Indigenous issues, especially around awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited People (MMIWG2S). Our host Anna Lambe joins Neveah to help put together her high school's first school-wide assembly to mark Red Dress Day. But speaking out isn't always easy – Neveah has and

continues to face bullying for being so outspoken. Following her mom's advice to never 'dim her light', Neveah, Anna and the students persevere and create a moving *event for the school*.

STUDENTS FILMS

Game Night/ Student Film/3 Minutes (Director: Cadence Grace Barreda)

A girl who lost her zest for life is launched into a series of games against a menacing figure. A girl who lost her zest for life is launched into a series of games against a menacing figure.

The Sound of Drums/Student Film/10 Minutes (Director: Megan James)

The film is about a Cree Indian kid, named Rye. Rye is trying to find what he loves. Rye used to dance Pow Wow when he was a kid and it made him really happy. As he grew up, he slowly drifted from this passion. After seeing a man taking photos of the mountains while on his bike ride, this inspires him to love something again. So he goes out and tries to find what his passion is.

Lost Travelers/Student Film/2 Minutes (Director: Cadence Isaac Boss)

Living deep in the forest, three mushrooms, Owen, Agaric, and Virgo went out scavenging for supplies. While out in the woods, they encounter a glowing light in the distance and decide to investigate. They chase the light and make an amazing discovery.

Deprived/Student Film/9 Minutes (Director: Megan James)

A young man is trapped in this ongoing cycle where he realizes the brokenness of the world. Will he continue down this rabbit hole, or will he realign himself and gain new perspective?

Remembering The Children: The Red Deer Indian Industrial School/Student Film/64 Minutes (Director: Penny Gullion)

For over 100 years, many of the Indigenous children of Canada were forcefully taken from their families and sent hundred or thousands of kilometers away to Residential Schools whose purpose was to take away their language and culture and replace it with that of the European colonizers, often using abuse and neglect to achieve this goal.

The Red Deer Indian Industrial School which operated from 1889 to 1919 and was per population one of the most deadly Indigenous Residential Schools in Canada's history. This film focuses on honoring the memory of the students who survived as well as those that died at the school whose bodies were never returned to their families. It also focuses on how this has affected generations of First Nations, Inuit and Metis through intergenerational trauma, but also how to move towards a brighter future of cultural revitalization and reconciliation through the eyes of the Indigenous filmmakers on their journey of discovery.

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The Red Nation International Film Festival® (RNIFF)

is a program of Red Nation Celebration Institute. Empowering Native Indigenous Storytellers Since 1995. RNIFF is the largest Native Indigenous Film Festival in the world and the first in Los Angeles.

Amplifying more than **5000+** Native and Indigenous content creators through its streaming company Red Nation Television Network, supporting **2700+** Native Indigenous filmmakers through its Red Nation International Film Festival, including films directed by women through its Native Women in Film & Television in All Media, since 1995. In the last six years **RNCI** has screened **162** films directed by women.

Los Angeles is home to the largest urban American Indian and Alaska Native population in the country, with over 200 tribes, including the original peoples of this land: the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash.

The program consists of fiction and nonfiction features and short films, episodic content, student films, emerging media, and performances, as well as conversations, and other events. The Festival takes place both in person in the state of California and online, connecting audiences across the U.S. and Globally to new artists and films from the Native Indigenous perspective. The 2023 Festival takes place November 1-30. Be a part of the Festival at Red Nation International Film Festival and follow RNIFF at Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.

To date, 2023 Festival sponsors include: name them The support of these organizations helps offset the Festival's costs and sustain the Institute's year-round programs for Native Indigenous independent artists. [Link](#)

Properties include: Red Nation International Film Festival, RNCI Red Nation Awards, Red Nation Television Network Media Streaming Company (*re-dating Netflix and Hulu or any other streaming company*), Native Women in Film & Television in All Media, RNCI Crew Directory, California Native Indigenous Film Commission, New Mexico Native Indigenous Film Commission,

American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles, Native Indigenous Student Academy for Cinematic Arts, and Native Youth Matter – If I Can See It I Can Be It.

Red Nation Celebration Institute (RNCI)

The Creative Enterprise by Natives delivering to all people the stories that shape our world. Is the longest-running successful Native Women-Led Indigenous Media Arts and Cultural non-profit enterprise in the history of the entertainment industry. Serving over 575+ Native Nations in the U.S. and collectively on the planet 1200. Based in Los Angeles with office in Santa Fe New Mexico.

Founded by Joanelle Romero in 1995 with the mission to break barriers of racism by creating systemic change through film television in all media in order to eliminate American Indian stereotypes. Our vision for the future of cinema and the arts is one in which Native Indigenous perspectives are authentically pictured, recognized, and valued in a way that promotes strong authentic Native identities, economic outcomes, equity, and wellness for our Indigenous communities.

Join RNCI on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.

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PRESS CREDENTIALING & MORE: Requests for press accreditation can be found here <https://www.rednationff.com/festival-accreditation/>