



FESTIVAL GUIDE





Welcome



On behalf of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation community, it is my pleasure to send my greetings and a most warm Algonquin welcome to everyone attending the 1st annual Asinabka Film & Media Arts Festival.

This event promises to be an excellent venue for advancing works from emerging and established Indigenous artists, both nationally and internationally. Such a festival also has the potential to help Canadians to better understand the realities of Indigenous peoples lives and experiences in this country.

I would like to welcome everyone attending the festival to unceded, un-surrendered ancestral Algonquin Territory. Please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable week.

***Kichi Migwech,
Chief Gilbert W. Whiteduck
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg***





MON. JUNE 18

TUE. JUNE 19

WED. JUNE 20

THU. JUNE 21

FRI. JUNE 22

SAT. JUNE 23

SUN JUNE 24

Festival Schedule

Victoria Island
(100 Middle St.
- Access via
Portage
Bridge)

7:00-8:00pm
Traditional
Gathering

8:30-8:40pm
Shorts:
The Vision

**&
The Plan**
(For the Asin-
abka
National Indig-
enous
Centre)

8:40-8:50pm
(Artist talk
with A.G.
Ruffo)

8:50-10:20pm
A Windigo Tale

**Mayfair The-
atre**
(1074 Bank St.)

6:00-7:00pm
(Doors @
5:30pm)
Shkiniigi:
Youth Shorts
Program

8:00-10:00pm
(Doors @
7:30pm)
3rd World
Canada Pro-
gram

**Auditorium @
the Library &
Archives
Canada**
(395 Welling-
ton St.)

6:00-8:00pm
(Doors @
5:30pm)
Otipemisiwak:
Métis Program

(Curated by
Jamie Koebel)

8:30-10:00pm
And this is My
Garden Pro-
gram

Gallery 101
(301 ½ Bank
Street – Up-
stairs on the
2nd floor)

6:30-8:00pm
Media Art
Exhibition
Opening:
Gzhe-minidoo
Ki / God's
Country
(June 21 – July
28, 2012)

Artists: Tannis
Nielsen, Scott
Benesii-
naabandan,
Frank She-
bageget,
Douglas Cardi-
nal

**Fall Down
Gallery**
(288 Bank
Street)

8:00pm-2:00am
#REDHOT-
NDNs #CapCi-
ty – A Fresh
Tracks Indige-
nous Arts
Collective
Performance

**Auditorium @
the National
Gallery of
Canada**
(380 Sussex
Drive)

5:30-7:00pm
(Doors@5:00p
m)
Kanien'kehá-
ka: Language
Program

7:30-8:30pm
Search for the
Worlds Best
Indian Taco –
Shorts Pro-
gram

9:00-10:00pm
Robert's Paint-
ings

**Babylon Night-
club**
(317 Bank St.)

Electric
Powwow
With ATRC

**Museum of
Civilization
Theatre**
(100 Rue Lauri-
er, Gatineau,
QC)

5:30-7:30pm
(Doors @5:00)
Land of the
Brave Program

8:00-9:15pm
imagineNA-
TIVE
Program –
Commissions
2007-2011

9:30-11:00pm
Smoke Traders
& The Creator's
Game

Club SAW
(67 Nicholas
St.)

12:00-1:50am
Aabtaa-Dbik:
Midnight
Shorts Pro-
gram

Club SAW
(67 Nicholas
St.)

Club SAW
(67 Nicholas
St.)

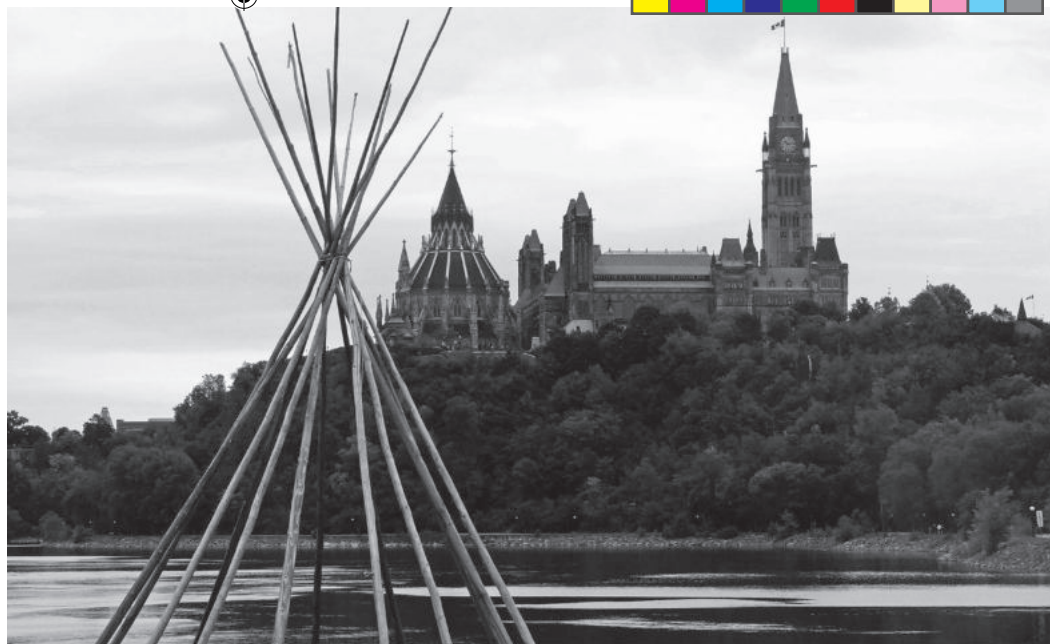
8:00pm
(Doors @
7:30pm)
Little Girl /
Ugly Girl / Not
Bad / Just Evil
Girl: The Films
& Videos of
Ariel Smith



Opening Night

Asinabka Festival
Opening
Victoria Island,
Monday
June 18,
7:00-10:30pm

Traditional Gathering
7:00-8:00pm



The Asinabka Film & Media Arts Festival celebrates and welcomes everyone to its opening day with a small Traditional Gathering on the beautiful Victoria Island. Come experience Indigenous culture with traditional dance, drumming and singing. This event is free and open to everyone!

Outdoor Film Screening(s):
8:30-10:30pm

**Note that this event is free, and is rain or shine!
Please bring your own fold-up chair or blanket to sit on, and respect the space by leaving the grounds clean and litter free.*



Title: *The Vision*
 Length: 3:04
 Title: *The Plan*
 Length: 2:52
 Producer: *Asinabka Online*

These two short documentary films share respected Algonquin Elder Grandfather William Commanda's vision, and renowned architect Douglas Cardinal's plan, for the Asinabka National Indigenous Centre on Victoria Island.



Title: *A Windigo Tale*
 Director: *Armand Garnet Ruffo*
 Length: 1 hr. & 32 min.

A Windigo Tale is a feature-length film that tells a powerful story of intergenerational trauma and healing. Harold, a Native grandfather, desperate to save his troubled grandson Curtis from a life on the street, shares the dark secrets of their family and community. In an isolated village, an estranged mother, Doris, and daughter Lily, must reunite to exorcise the voracious windigo spirit tied to a painful past. Inspired by Ojibway spiri-

tuality and based on the history of the residential school system, where generations of Native children were forcibly removed from their families and aggressively assimilated into Euro-Canadian society, *A Windigo Tale* is both a chilling and redeeming drama.

A Windigo Tale is poet *Armand Garnet Ruffo's* feature directorial debut. Ruffo's roots extend to the Biscotasing Branch of the Sagamok (Ojibway) First Nation and the Chapleau Fox Lake Cree. He is currently a professor of Aboriginal Literatures and Creative Writing at Carleton University and divides his time between Ottawa and Fox Lake in northern Ontario. The author of *Opening In The Sky* (Theytus Books), *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney* (Coteau Books) and *A Geronimo's Grave* (Coteau Books), he is currently completing a poetic biography on the life of the renowned Anishnaabe painter, and father of the Woodland School of Painters, Norval Morrisseau, which he intends to turn into a film.



DAY 2

Shkiniigi: Youth Shorts Program Mayfair Theatre,

Tuesday June 19, 6:00-
7:30pm



Title: Fight to the Finnish
Director: Miskomin and Migwuhn
Twenish
Running time: 3:01

“Fight to the Finish” is a short action comedy depicting an epic battle between rival high school dodgeball teams.

Miskomin and Migwuhn Twenish are 13 and 16 year old sisters attending high school in Kitigan Zibi Unceded First Nation, Quebec. They both hold a strong interest in visual arts and are currently attending an after school media arts program where they made “Fight to the Finish”.

Title: Join Us
Director: Gigons Rice (8 by Abdulla
Al-Ogail and Joanie Mendowegan)
Time: 3:48

Join Us is the story of a girl named Jamie, she joins her late brothers hoodlum street gang to avenge his death, only to become a victim of steroid abuse.

Title: Wavelengths
Director: Troy Massan (Video Pool
Submission)
Time: 5:53

A young man has trouble making connections with people because his family is always on the move. His problems only get worse when unfortunate series of events removes sound from the world. Will he be able to restore sound and make a friend? Wavelengths is a short drama filled with magic realism.

Troy Massan is from the Fox Lake Cree Nation, he has a diploma in Audio in Media from the Mid-Ocean School of Media Arts in Winnipeg Manitoba. After taking a one-month residency at Video Pool Media Arts Centre, Massan made his first short film Wavelengths.



Title: Tashina
Director: Caroline Monnet
Time: 4:40

A young Aboriginal girl's hopes and dreams are renegotiated within the walls and tunnels of an educational institution.

Caroline Monnet is award winning filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist. She works in film/video, printmaking and installation, and has been exhibited in galleries and film festivals around the world, including the Toronto International Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand video formes, Urban Shaman Contemporary Art Gallery, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin), Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art (Winnipeg) and the Manguere Arts Centre (Auckland, NZ).



Title: Unkown (Wapkonii)
Director: Shayna Decontie
Time: 3:31

This film poignantly and compassionately brings to our attention two young Aboriginal girls, Maisy and Shannon, who went missing from their community of Kitagan Ziibi First Nation.

Shaynah Decontie is from Kitigan Ziibi and has directed two short films. Her first film, Saagihidiwin (Love), has screened at various film festivals. With Unknown, Shaynah wanted to pay tribute to the disappearance of two of her friends.

Title: Aci ni micta cikateriten (Je commence à m'ennuyer) (Wapkonii)
Director: Sakay Ottawa (about his missing brother)
Time: 3:24

This film is a sensitive and poetic testimony on the sudden disappearance of the filmmakers brother.

Sakay Ottawa is from Manawan First Nation in Québec, he has directed two short films, one about the importance of doing what one loves in life, and another about his feelings regarding his missing brother.

Title: Aniahinabekwe (Wapkonii)
Director: Yasmina Jerome
Time: 3:21

A beautifully film that is a tribute to the strength of Indigenous Women, it features youth singing a hand drum song, and dancing in traditional regalia.



Title: Running Free (Wapkoni)
Director: Nodin & Chris Wawatie
Time: 3:13

The film is an exciting display of dance, and tells the story of two youths that try to achieve their dreams.

Nodin and Chris Wawatie are from Kitigan Zibi Algonquin Nation First Nation. Both practice as hip hop and traditional dancers. Nodin is currently studying animation at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Chris is 18 years old and is a talented beatboxer and guitar player.

Title: Cartoons (Wapkoni)
Director: Wapikoni Mobile Team
Time: 3:03

A fun and quirky short film in which youth dance to music!

A fun and quirky short film in which youth dance to music!

The **Wapikoni Mobile** is a non-profit youth organization that aims to bring audiovisual skills and a voice to First Nations youth in isolated communities.

Title: Indigenous Connections to the Land
Director: Francis Burning, Alannah Young-Leon
Time: 4:37

This Film is a contemporary visual story that animates Coast Salish Indigenous Elders teachings and conveys local protocols and values inherent in Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Alannah Young Leon, is Opaskwayak Cree/Peguis Anishnabe and is a PhD student in the UBC Faculty of Education. Francine Burning is Mohawk from Six Nations, and has lived in Vancouver for the past 17.

Title: Corriger le tableau (Wapkoni)
Director: Wapikoni Mobile Team
Time: 4:51

Youth from the First Nations community of Manawan, Quebec, engage with stereotypes and prejudices of which they are often the victim.

Wapikoni Mobile is a non-profit youth organization that aims to bring audiovisual skills and a voice to First Nations youth in isolated communities.

Title: Aboriginal Youth: Overcoming Stereotypes
Director: Monique Manatche
Time: 15:44

This documentary was a project for the students of the Urban Aboriginal Alternative High School and the Indigenous Culture and Media Innovations multi-media program. It was developed by Aboriginal youth in Ottawa, **Jamie Rondeau, Nick Fontaine and Myingun Meekis**. The film is a channel for the filmmakers to find their own voice and confront issues of racism and stereotypes.

3rd World Canada
(Mayfair Theatre,
Tuesday June 19, 8:00-10:00pm)





Title: "No Running water"
Director: Tyler Walsh & Joe Bryska
Time: 22:13

This film examines four remote reserves in Manitoba's north that don't have running water, the Island Lake communities of St. Theresa Point, Wasagamack, Garden Hill and Red Sucker Lake. Many residents there survive on less water a day and must walk further to get it than if they lived in a United Nations refugee camp. They have access to less than one-third the water UNESCO says is necessary for basic needs, and many have less than UNESCO's cut-off point for serious health problems.

Tyler Walsh graduated from Red River College's Creative Communications program with a major in journalism in 2002. He joined the Winnipeg Free Press as the news organization's first ever multimedia editor in January 2008. Joe Bryska studied photojournalism at Red River College and began his career at newspapers in the city before joining the Winnipeg Free Press 16 years ago.



Title: 3rd World Canada
Director: Andrée Cazabon
Time: 46:40

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (the people of the lake) is a remote Native community bound by reserve laws in the forgotten North of Ontario. Set in the backdrop of the aftermath of the suicide of three parents, the documentary explores the impact of 3rd world conditions on the children left behind and a community's courage in looking after them.

A Gemini-nominee, **Andrée Cazabon's** films have been seen by over 1 million viewers on CBC-NewsWorld, TVA, Canal D, Radio-Canada, and CBC Television. They have been screened at film festivals in Vancouver, Montreal, Sudbury, Chicoutimi and at the Yorktown Film festival.



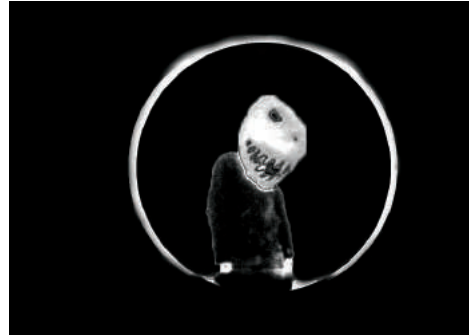
Title: Life on the Reserve
Director: Graham Shonfield
Time: 42 minutes

Life on the Reserve is a documentary about the Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay First Nation). Life in this community is difficult compared to living in a big city. They don't have clean drinking water, so they have to get bottled water shipped to the community. The school is not big enough to have adequate space for the students and they don't have a gymnasium. And despite being a small community of 400 on-reserve members, they have deep family conflicts that affect everyone's daily life.

Graham Shonfield is a 19-year old documentary filmmaker from Toronto, Ontario. He has volunteered for development work in Kenya, Africa, which inspired him to continue his volunteer work in the community of Gull Bay First Nation.



And this is My Garden
(Auditorium,
Library and
Archives Canada,
Wednesday June 20,
8:30-10:00pm)



Title: Fossil Fuels
Director: Nathan Adler
Length: 4:32

During the Paleozoic era, the largest mass extinction of life in the history of earth, the Permian Mass Extinction, was triggered by the release of carbon deposits from a previous mass extinction earlier in the Paleozoic era. This experimental film alludes to the contemporary burning of fossil fuels as the next trigger for mass extinction.

Nathan Adler (Lace des Mille Lacs First Nation) is a graduate of OCAD in integrated-media, and a writer that has published in Redwire magazine, Canada's History magazine, Shtetl magazine, and as a part of the Odemin Giizis Festival.



Title: Oil on Lubicon Land: a Photo Essay
Director: Aube Giroux & Melina Laboucan-Massimo
Length: 10:46

Featuring the work of 4 international award-winning photographers, this moving and personal photo essay describes how a recent oil spill in northern Alberta affected Director Melina Laboucan-Massimo's family and community.

Aube Giroux is a documentary filmmaker with an M.A. in Film Production from York University. Prior to working as a Multimedia Producer at Greenpeace Canada, she directed 2 films for the National Film Board as well as several independent productions. Melina Laboucan-Massimo is Lubicon Cree from Northern Alberta.



She has been working as an advocate for Indigenous rights for the past 10 years. She has written articles and produced a short documentary for Redwire Media Society.



Title: Overburden
Director: Warren Cariou & Neil McArthur
Length: 14:57

In Northern Alberta lies roughly two trillion barrels of oil, 15% of the world's known reserve. These oil fields are also the home of two small Aboriginal communities, Fort Mackay and Fort Chipewyan, which try to preserve their traditions amidst the largest and most destructive oil recovery operation in the world. Surrounded by pollution, and with the highest cancer rates in the world, these are their voices.

Warren Cariou is of Métis, German, and Norwegian heritage, and grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan. He has a PhD in English from the University of Toronto, and currently teaches Aboriginal Literature at the University of Manitoba.



Title: And this is my Garden
Director: Katharina Stieffenhofer
Length: 58:00

And this is my Garden explores a sustainable school gardening program that is breaking new ground in education and literally growing a healthier community in the process. This inspirational documentary, set in Wabowden, Northern Manitoba, follows a teacher and her students through a season of their award-winning community food security project.

Katharina Stieffenhofer is a Winnipeg filmmaker, with an interest in art, sustainability, social justice, and building healthier communities through quality programming.



God's Country / Gzhe-minidoo Ki

(Gallery 101, June 21-July
28)

Exhibition Opening and Artist Talk

(Thursday June 21, 6:30-
8:00pm)

Artists:

Douglas Cardinal, Frank Shebageget, Scott Benesiinaabandan, Tannis Nielsen

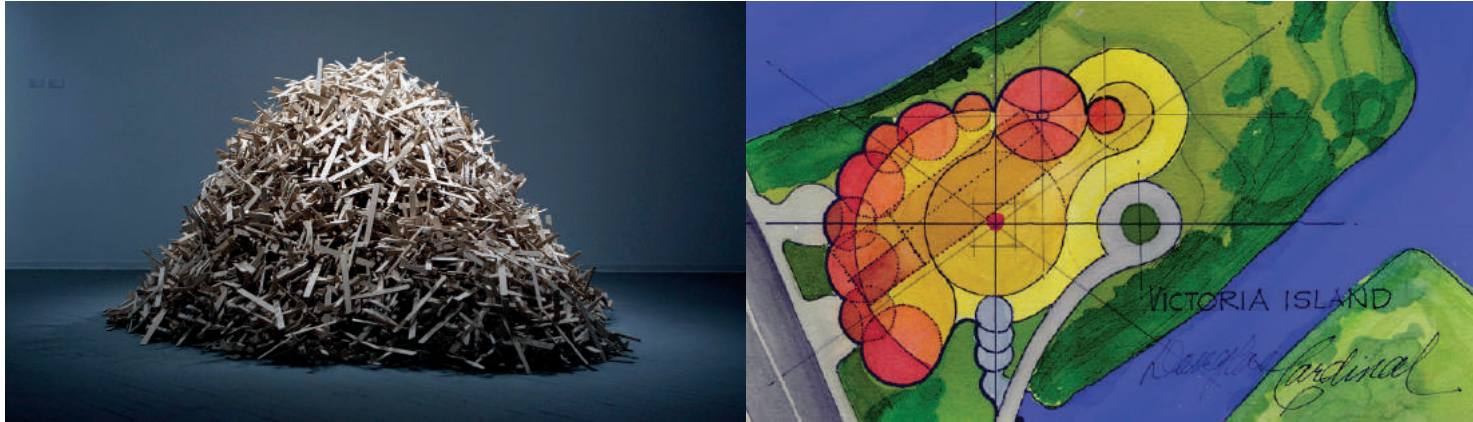
Curators:

Howard Adler (Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation)
Christopher Wong (Chippewa's of Nawash First Nation)

Curators Note:

God's Country is a radio station for Christian country and southern gospel music... God's Country is located in Potters County, Pennsylvania, it is "unspoiled, untouched" and "untamed"... God's Country is a modern day story of slavery, young women ignored by the police and protected by "freedom of religion" are trapped in polygamous communities scattered throughout North America... God's Country, often abbreviated to "godzone", is a phrase that has been used by New Zealanders and Australians to describe their homeland... God's Country was used by the Confederate army to describe parts of Tennessee in the 1860's, it was also used to describe California, and to describe the land of the Mississippi plains; it is still occasionally used to describe the United States, and parts of Canada.

God's Country / Gzhe-minidoo Ki features four contemporary Aboriginal artists whose works innovatively challenge histories of colonization. Appropriating a ubiquitous phrase with religious connotations, the exhibitions title symbolically reclaims Indigenous lands by placing western notions of ownership and possession into an Indigenous context. When translated into Anishinaabemowin (the Ojibwa Language), the term loses its power to claim Indigenous lands as belonging to the deity of the colonizing group. The artists in this exhibition explore issues of past wrongdoings and processes of colonization, but also demonstrate decolonial practices and strategies for reclaiming Indigenous voice. They find ways to honor the traditions and teachings of their ancestors by not forgetting their stories, and by incorporating structures found on the land, and in nature, into their artistic practices. This oeuvre of work is not only about the Canadian context, but also addresses shared colonial legacies across international borders. God's Country / Gzhe-minidoo Ki asks the viewer to consider how Indigenous peoples continue to grapple with difficult colonial legacies, and to think about how they are implicated in these histories.



Media Art:

On display is **Douglas Cardinal's** design of the Museum of the American Indian, part of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., and his design of St. Albert's Place, a provincial government building located in Ponoka, Alberta. Both buildings reflect Cardinal's characteristic curvilinear design, which in the museum represents the nurturing female forms of Mother Earth, while in St. Albert's Place it dispels the rigidity associated with the Alberta Government. Also on display is Cardinal's Blueprint for the Asinabka National Indigenous Centre on Victoria Island in Ottawa, Ontario. The Centre is a Circular Building open

to the four directions and the solstice lines, it faces east to symbolize reconciliation and a new dawn, and it is shaped to symbolize the Seven fires prophecy of the Anishinaabe people.

On display is **Frank Shebageget's** installation piece Lodge. Ubiquitous with travel to remote northern communities, the Beaver floatplane has become synonymous with modern innovation, resource speculation and by association, the exploitation of Native Peoples and lands in the pursuit of commercial interests. Here, this 'Beaver dam' points to the practice of hydro-electric generation, the displacement of communities and the devastation of vast wilderness areas.

On display is **Scott Benesiinaabandan's** experimental video piece Ak-Sunrise. This work was created as a part of the Canada Council for the Arts Australia/Canada Indigenous Urban Artist Exchange program Jan-April 2012. This work was created as a part of the exhibition Mii Omaa Ayaad/Oshiki Inenedamowin (someone lives here/new thought) which was a series of new work that explored shared colonial histories of First Nations in Canada and Aboriginal Australians. It deals with ideas, histories and the present issues of land (terra nullius) language and resistance.



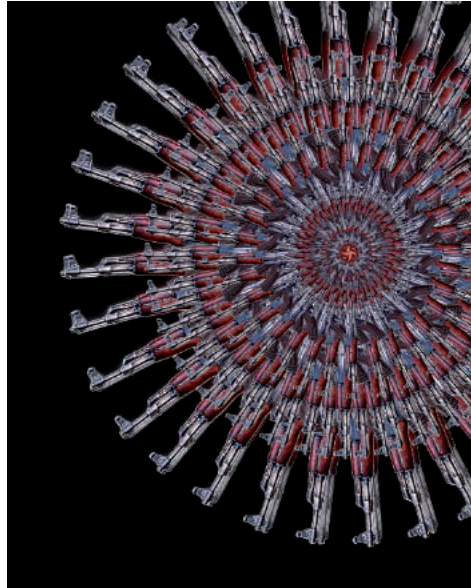


On display is **Tannis Nielsen's** *Not forgotten*, an experimental video about the loss of language and culture, and the detrimental effects of assimilation policies through residential schools, convents, and sanatoriums. It's repetitive visuals and ethereal sound-scape reflect traumatic memories of institutional experiences, notions of cultural loss and survival, intergenerational effects, and the importance of not forgetting this important history.

Artist Bios:

Architect, designer, planner, activist, philosopher, and artist, **Douglas Cardinal** is that and more. Douglas Cardinal's life is dedicated to creating beautiful, thriving, and harmonious built environments. As an architect he builds buildings, as a planner and activist he builds communities, and as a leader and philosopher he builds bridges between dispersed cultures all over the world. Douglas Cardinal personifies the timelessness of a master builder.

Frank Shebageget (Ojibway) is an installation artist from northwestern Ontario, and currently resides in Ottawa. Shebageget graduated with his A.O.C.A. from the Ontario College of Art in 1996, and received his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Victoria in 2000.



Scott Benesiinaabandan is an Anishinabe artist who works in photography, printmaking and video, among other media. Scott has recently completed an international residency at Context Gallery in Derry, North of Ireland (2010) and in Oklahoma with photographer Rita Leistner (2009).

Tannis Nielsen is Cree, Danish, and Métis. In 2006 she obtained her Masters of Visual studies degree from the University of Toronto. Today,



Tannis continues to practice as a professional visual artist / educator, her most recently held position is as instructor at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

G-101



DAY 5

Kanien'kehá:ka: Living the Language (Auditorium, National Gallery of Canada,

Friday June 22, 5:30-
7:00pm)



Title: Niso Kakastesinowin
Director: Jules A. Koostachin
Time: 2 minutes

In the Swampy Cree culture twins are believed to carry medicine over from the spirit world. One day a spirit visits our world speaking of the special gifts that twin boys Pawaken (totem) and Tapwewin will share during their life on earth.

Jules A. Koostachin was raised in Moosonee and Ottawa, and is a member of Attawapiskat First Nation. She studied theatre at Concordia University, as well as film programs at Gorge Brown College and Ryerson University.



Title: Cry Rock
Director: Banchi Hanuse
Time: 28:43

Less than fifteen Nuxalk language speakers and storytellers remain in Bella Coola, BC. In a technologically obsessed century, it would seem easier to record Nuxalk stories for future generations, but Hanuse resists. Instead, she asks whether an electronic recording can capture the true meaning and value of these oral traditions.



Title: Kanien'kehá:ka – Living the Language
Director: Paul M. Rickard & Tracey Deer
Time: 62 minutes

Kanien'kehá:ka – Living the Language is a documentary about what it takes to save a language in the Mohawk community of Akwesasne. The film tells the story of the Akwesasne Freedom School and it's unique Mohawk language immersion program, which blends the concepts of tradition, education and identity preservation.

Mushkeg Media's president **Paul M. Rickard** is an Omskego Cree from Moose Factory in Northern Ontario. He has worked as a producer, director and cameraman in collaboration with various independent production companies. Mohawk Director **Tracey Deer** is a multi-award winning filmmaker who divides her time between Montreal and Kahnawake First Nation.

Search for the World's Best Indian Taco – Shorts Program (Auditorium, National Gallery of Canada, Friday June 22, 7:30-8:30pm)

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Title: The Maiden Indian
Director: The Ephemerals
Time: 3:25

With the popularity of mukluks and feathered headbands, moving from mall to museum, three friends stitch together fashionable signifiers of Indigenous identity.

The Ephemerals is a collective from Winnipeg, Manitoba made up of Jaimie Isaac, Niki Little and Jenny Western. Since 2012, they have investigated and interrogated the perceptions of Indigenous

identity through aspects of material culture.

Title: Love on the Street
Director: Kerry Potts
Time: 11:00

This intimate short invites the viewer to listen to the perspectives of people not often asked to speak about love. Kerry Potts (Teme-Augama Anishnaabe) is a first-time filmmaker who currently lives in Toronto. She has an MA in Sociology and Equity Studies from OISE/UofT and completed her thesis on Aboriginal music as an anti-colonial tool.

Title: Keeping Quiet
Director: Shane Belcourt
Time: 9:20

Bob tries out the world of classified dating to disastrous results.

Shane Belcourt is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and musician based in Toronto. His feature film, "Tkaronto", has won awards and played at many international film festivals. Shane co-wrote and directed "Boxed In", a short film produced by the NFB that was included in the Canadian Pavilion at the 2010 Winter Olympics.





Title: A Good Indian
Director: Andrew George
Time: 8:00

A fair skinned First Nations person has his pride and identity put to the test when two bar patrons involve him in a discussion.

Andrew George is a filmmaker from Fort Frances, Ontario. He has worked on a wide range of projects from producer and video-journalist, to aboriginal educational videos and commissioned artistic projects.

Title: Native Time
Director: Sean Morris
Time: 9:35

A traditional Inuit hunter from ages ago scours the barren landscape in search of food, braving brutal weather, winds and famine. An expert of this harsh wilderness, he is prepared for absolutely everything, except this: a crosswalk in modern day Anchorage, Alaska.

Sean Morris was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska and got his BA in Cinematography from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. His feature film debut, "Kusah Hakwaan - An Alaska Native Legend" toured the US, Canada and Europe, garnering four International Awards.

Title: Search for the Worlds Best Indian Taco
Director: Steven Judd
Time: 15:00

An old Indian man tells his grandson the tall tale of his search for true love.

Steven Judd (Kiowa/Choctaw) received the Story Teller of the Year Award from the Native Word Craft Writing Circle in 2005. "MAC v. PC with a Native Twist" garnered him a semifinalist

position in NBC/Universal's Comedy Short Cuts Diversity Film Festival in 2007, and inclusion in an installment at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Robert's Paintings
(Auditorium, National Gallery of Canada,
Friday June 22, 9:00-10:00pm)

Title: Two Scoops
Jackie Traverse
Time: 2:00

Hand drawn animation punctuates this touching personal story about the 60's scoop of Aboriginal children into the Canadian child-welfare system.

Jackie Traverse, a graduate from the University of Manitoba School of Fine Arts, is an Anishnaabe from Lake St. Martin First Nations. Works works in all mediums from sculpture, mixed media, video, and created several short films on missing and murdered women in Canada.



Title: The Dimming
Director: Ippiksaut Friesen
Time: 5:21

An Inuit woman tries to find the identity of her lover in the dimming festival. This results to the creation of the sun and the moon.

Ippiksaut has spent her life mediating between Manitoba and Nunavut. In 2010 she worked with Atomic Productions on a short APTN animated series “Artie the Ant”, and has recently graduated from Emily Carr University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Animation.



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Director: Shelly Niro
Time: 52:00

Robert Houle is an internationally known Anishnabe artist. From the age of 6 until 18, Robert was taken to the local residential school and sexually abused by the Catholic priests and nuns. Robert, however, does not want to be labeled a victim or a survivor. In this film a ten-year-old Native boy will be recreating the young Robert. We will see the world through his eyes.

Shelley Niro (Mohawk) is a turtle clan and member of Six Nations Unceded First Nation. She has a MFA from the University of Western Ontario. Niro’s works of art are at the Museum of Civilization, the National Gallery, Contemporary Photography Museum, and the Portrait Gallery in Ottawa, Ontario, as well as the Rockwell Museum, Corning New York, University of Seattle, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

**Electric Powwow with
 A Tribe Called Red
 (Babylon Night Club,
 Friday June 22, 11:00pm-2:00am)**

Celebrating the first annual Asinabka Film & Media Arts Festival, local Indigenous Dj crew and founders of the “Electric Powwow”, *DJ Shub, Deejay NDN, and Bear Witness*, spin their distinctive style of Powwow Step, a mix of traditional powwow music with cutting-edge electronic music. A Tribe Called Red’s music continues the idea of powwow culture by bringing people together to listen to music, to dance, and to have great time!



DAY 6

Land of the Brave (Canadian Museum of Civilization Theatre,

Saturday June 23, 5:30-7:30pm



Title: Mikomiing
Director: Leonard Sumner
Length: 9:00

Mikomiing is an Anishinaabe word for “on the frozen water”, a term often used when a commercial fisherman has gone out to check his nets. This Documentary follows a day in the life of a fisherman in the community of Little Saskatchewan, Manitoba.

Leonard Sumner is Anishinaabe videographer from Little Saskatchewan First Nation. He has a diploma in Media Production from Assiniboine Community College, and completed Mikomiing during a residency at Video Pool Media Arts Centre in Winnipeg.

Title: Let's Move
Director: Willard Napash
Length: 4:42

Let's Move is a short documentary about the potential dangers from hydroelectric dams nearby the First Nations community of Chasasibi, Quebec.

Willard Napash (Cree) is from Chisasibi, Quebec. He made the film Let's Move in order to raise awareness about the dangers to his community from dams and power stations.

Title: Totem Impact
Director: Duke Redbird
Length: 2:50

Using the story of the beaver as a totem, Redbird combines spoken word-poetry and dance to make a statement on the environmental impact of modern dam building and the inherent contradiction between building Canada's national symbols.

A poet, scholar, storyteller, inspirational speaker and television personality, *Duke Redbird* (Ojibway) is a member of the Saugeen First Nation and the author of a collection of poetry, and has been published in numerous anthologies.



Title: Tibet: Land of the Brave
Director: Genevieve Brault
Length: 96 Min.

A cinematic journey to one of the most remote places on the planet, this documentary transports the audience into the everyday lives of Tibetan herders, as seen through the eyes of a Tibetan-French Canadian couple and their daughter. This film explores how China's radical turn towards a market economy has devastating effects on the nomadic lifestyle.

A Graduate in Journalism from the University of Quebec at Montreal, **Genevieve Brault** is a young director with a keen interest in social problems. She is an experienced director and researcher for television, and her concern with Tibet began in the early 2000's when she reported on the issue for the bilingual journalism show Culture Choc/Shock, which aired on RDI, Radio-Canada, CBC Newsworld and TV5.



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imagineNATIVE Presents: Commissions 2007-2011 (Canadian Museum of Civilization Theatre, Saturday June 23, 8:00-9:15pm)



The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival presents Commissions 2007-2011, a selection of 10 short works created by some of Canada's leading artists and emerging filmmakers. For some, including celebrated actors Jani Lauzon, Michael Greyeyes, and Michelle Latimer, their commissioned projects marked their first foray into directing. For others, such as the four youth involved in the Canada-South Africa collaborative project, it was an unprecedented opportunity to explore animation at an international level with their peers.

This innovative collection also includes two highly successful shorts commissioned as part of The Embargo Collective, imagineNATIVE's 10th year anniversary project that challenged Indigenous

artists from around their world to push their creative boundaries. Lisa Jackson and Helen Haig-Brown – both of whom worked exclusively in documentary – created two dramatic short films that have become contemporary classics of Indigenous Cinema. This programme also features imagineNATIVE's first sound art commission, whereby the audience is surrounded in an immersive audio-only experience in the dark of the cinema.

Indigenous artists continue to push creative boundaries to present unique voices and visions that are truly original and proudly Indigenous.





Moss Origins

2011, Canada, 8 min, Digital Beta, PG
Director: Jennifer Dysart

In a dichotomy between environments, messages in the moss lead a woman between the natural and urban worlds.

Jennifer Dysart's (Cree/German/Canadian) past short films have screened at imagineNATIVE and across North America. She is currently completing her Master's of Fine Art in Film Production. Moss Origins was commissioned as part of the inaugural 2011 imagineNATIVE/Charles Street Video Residency.

eu•tha•na•sia

2008, Canada, 6 min, Beta SP
Director: Jani Lauzon

The cycle of life is revealed in this poignant film that examines choice and responsibility, step by step.

Jani Lauzon (Métis) is a three time Dora Mavor Moore nominated actress, a Juno and CAMA nominated singer/songwriter and a Gemini Award winning puppeteer. Lauzon has countless theatre, film and radio credits to her name.



Savage

2009, Canada, 6 min, Digital Beta,
Cree with English subtitles
Director: Lisa Jackson
World Premiere

On a summer day in the 1950s, a young girl watches the countryside go by from the backseat of a car. She arrives to find that the end of her journey is only the beginning ...

With a background in documentary, *Lisa Jackson* (Anishnaabe) expanded into fiction with *Savage*, which went on to win the 2011 Genie for Best Live Action Short and was commissioned as part of imagineNATIVE's Embargo Collective in 2009. She recently completed *Parkdale* as part of the CFC Director Training program.

Seven Seconds

2010, Canada, 10 min, Beta SP, G
Director: Michael Greyeyes

Set against the backdrop of a concrete jungle, one woman's impassioned dance poses the question: What is the imprint of our existence?

Michael Greyeyes is a director, actor, choreographer and educator. He has directed and choreographed the first Cree opera, *Pimootewin* (The Journey), and Daniel David Moses' *Almighty Voice and his Wife* for Native Earth Performing Arts, which was subsequently performed at the inaugural Origins Festival of First Nations Theatre in London, UK. He is an Associate Professor in the Theatre department at York University. *Seven Seconds* was created through the 2010 imagineNATIVE & LIFT Mentorship Program.

TOMORROW

2007, Canada, 5 min, Digital Beta
Director: Michelle Latimer

A young actress asks herself if it is possible to feel alone in a city of millions, after life-altering news forces her to make a difficult decision.





Michelle Latimer (Métis) is a filmmaker, actor and programmer. Her last film, *Choke*, premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and received the Sundance Special Jury Honorable Mention for Best International Short Film before going on to be nominated for a 2011 Genie. She is currently playing a recurring lead role on season two of APTN's award-winning drama *Blackstone*.

Digital Smoke Signals
2011, Canada, 2.5 min, DVD
Participants: Judith Schuyler, Cecily Jacko, Lucy Brown, Eugene Hendiks,
2:38, 2011

The impact and legacy made by Indigenous arts icon Buffy Sainte-Marie is beautifully rendered in this inspired stop-motion animation.

The participants in this piece were part of an Aboriginal People's Collaborative Exchange between South African Khoi-San youth and Aboriginal youth from Toronto during the 2011 Festival. The Toronto youth then travelled to South Africa, along with mentor Terril Calder (Métis), to collaborate on a video inspired by the life of Jonathan Butler, the first non-white musician on South African radio.

Honey for Sale
2009, Canada, 7 min, Digital Beta
Director: Amanda Strong

Director Amanda Strong concentrates her camera on the tenuous life of the honeybee in an attempt to expose the fragility of human existence.

Amanda Strong (Métis) is a multi-disciplinary artist and was the imagineNATIVE/LIFT Mentorship recipient in 2010, completing the experimental short, *Honey for Sale*. She has also screened two other films, *Riley* and *Alice Eaton* at imagineNATIVE.

Pride
2011, Canada, 3 min, Digital Beta, PG
Director: Keelan Keeshig

A young man walks through snow-covered streets, recounting the pressure he faced to cut his long hair.

Keelan Keeshig (Ojibway) is a performer in Grade 12 at the Parry Sound High School. *Pride* won imagineNATIVE's first online Youth Video Contest, completed during imagineNATIVE's 2011 Film + Video Tour, bringing Keelan and his work to the Festival.



freek;Üwhency
2011, Canada, 8 min, AIFF, PG
Director: Janet Rogers

Exploring themes of identity, politics, cultural reshaping and forgiveness, artist Janet Rogers crafts an immersive aural experience utilizing sound compositions, interviews and sound poetry to evoke the "spirit of radio." Commissioned for imagineNATIVE 2011, Rogers creates an audio-only time capsule of contemporary Indigeneity in Canada.

Janet Rogers (Mohawk/Tuscarora) was born in Vancouver and is from the Six Nations of the Grand River. She is a writer, poet and performer who currently hosts *Native Waves Radio*, Vancouver Island's only Indigenous radio show. Janet is the co-recipient of imagineNATIVE's inaugural Radio Art Commission that challenged Indigenous artists in Canada to create an audio art piece for the 2011 Festival.



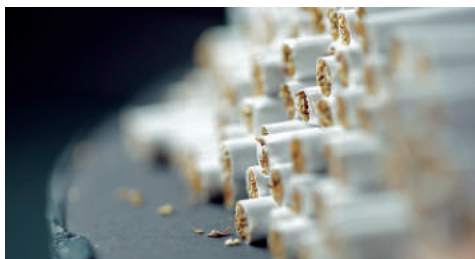


?E?anx The Cave

2009, Canada, 10 min, Digital Beta,
Tsilhqot'in with English subtitles
Director: Helen Haig-Brown

A hunter on horseback accidentally discovers a portal to the afterlife in this fantastical version of a true Tsilhqot'in story.

Director **Helen Haig-Brown** (Tsilhqot'in) grew up between the Stone Reserve, British Columbia, and her current home of Vancouver. Her film *Su Naa* (My Big Brother) won Best Experimental at imagineNATIVE 2005. She sits on the board of directors of Redwire magazine, and has conducted media training for youth in Big Island Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan. She is a graduate of the Aboriginal Film and Television Production Program at Capilano College in North Vancouver, BC. ?E?anx (The Cave) was named one of Canada's Top Ten Short Films in 2010.



Smoke Traders & The Creators Game (Canadian Museum of Civilization Theatre,

Saturday June 23, 9:30-11:00pm

Title: **Smoke Traders**
Director: **Jeff Dorn**
Length: 51 min.

For centuries, Europeans have run the North American tobacco trade; today the First Nations people are taking it back. But is the tobacco trade a road to independence or criminality for Native people? **SMOKE TRADERS** tells the story of the contraband tobacco trade and the effect on individual lives and communities from a Native perspective.

From the Walpole Island First Nation, **Jeff Dorn** began his career as a news photographer in Winnipeg. His filmography includes working as a director for CTV News CJOH in Ottawa between 2009 and 2012, the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Television Showcase (2007-10), the Arctic Winter Games Opening Ceremonies (2004) and two television adaptations of Robert Munsch's *Winter Tales* (50 Below Zero in 2004 and *Baseball Bats for Christmas* in 2003).



Title: **The Creators Game: The Quest for Gold
and the Fight for Nationhood**
Director: **Candace Maracle**
Length: 41 min.

In 2010, the Iroquois Lacrosse team chose to forfeit the World Championship when they were denied entry into England because of their Haudenosaunee passports. Determined to be recognized as a sovereign nation, this timely documentary follows the Iroquois Nationals on their quest for the 2011 medal in Prague – both a fight for gold and a recognition of their nationhood. The Creator's Game was the Documentary Pitch Prize winner at imaginative 2012.

Candace Maracle (Mohawk) of the Bay of Quinte from Tyendinaga, is currently completing her Master's in Journalism at Ryerson University's School of Journalism. She has interned at CBC Radio's *The Current* and produced a piece on Nisga'a private property ownership, and is currently working as a reporter/correspondent with APTN's National News.





Aabtaa-dbik: Midnight Shorts Program (Club Saw, Saturday)

June 23, 12:00-2:00am)

Title: The Indian Word
Director: David Wilson
Time: 4:40

Is the word “Indian” a label for Canadian Aboriginals to reject or reclaim? In this short documentary, David Wilson hits the streets of Winnipeg to find out if people self-identify as “Indians”, and why they do so.

David Wilson is an Ojibwa from Roling River First Nation, Situated fifteen minutes south from Riding Mountain National Park.

Title: Empty
Director: Jackie Traverse
Time: 5:07

Set to music by Little Hawk, this animated and starkly honest story is a daughter’s tribute to her estranged mother.

Jackie Traverse is a graduate from the school of Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba. She is

an Anishinabe from Lake St. Martin First Nation. Jackie works in various mediums such as sculpture, mixed media and video.

Title: Half
Director: Phoenix Thomas
Time: 2:12

Half is a candid and short performance documentary, it is set to a narrated poem about the complex experiences of being of both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage.

Phoenix Thomas is a First Nations artist living on Walpole Island; his art often focuses on issues of identity in contemporary society.

Title: Kayissta’pssiwa
Director: Chandra Melting Tallow
Time: 3:33

Kayissta’pssiwa is a short experimental film making reference to the ambiguity experienced between perceived psychosis and communication with ones ancestors and the spirit world. Kayissta’pssiwa is Blackfoot for “It is a spirit.” referring to the spirits that positively assist us from the other world.

Chandra Melting Tallow is a multidisciplinary artist from the Siksika Nation of the Blackfoot Confederacy. She takes a special interest in performance and sound, drawing on her ancestral

history and the role that art plays in traditional Indigenous society: a catalyst between the physical and spirit realm.

Title: Nanameshkueu (Tremblement de terre)
Director: Réal Junior Leblanc
Time: 2:51

Combining visual and poetic experimentation, this film is a celebration of Innu traditions and describes the cultures movement towards modernity.

Réal Junior Leblanc is from Uashat First Nation, Québec, where he currently lives after being in Québec city for 10 years. He is very proud of his roots and he gets his inspiration in his culture to write his poems. With Nanameshkueu, his first movie, he sends a message of hope to his brothers and sisters.

Title: Assi Mak Neka
Director: Guillaîne Pinette and Matthieu Andre
Time: 3:52

Assi Mak Neka, meaning “Earth and Mother”, is a poem about a women’s relationship with mother earth, and how she finds in nature a source of balance and the joy of living.

Guillaîne Pinette was an extra in the feature film”





Nana'' Mesnak. She directed her first short film with Wapikoni Mobile in winter 2011, and is currently a radio host at CKAU in Malotienam, Quebec.

Title: The Choice
Director: Abraham Cote
Time: 2:59

The Choice is an unsettling short film about the dangers of substance abuse, with a clear message about having only one life to live.

Abraham Cote is a filmmaker from Kitigan Zibi, an Algonquin community in Quebec, Canada. He is currently developing a feature film project for Telefilm Canada's Aboriginal Stories Program.

Title: Inheritance
Director: Joe E. Ironstand
Time: 9:31

A drug-induced blackout forces a young man to look at the intergenerational impact residential schools on his life, and the lives of his loved ones.

Joe E. Ironstand is a filmmaker, writer and alumni of the National Screen Institute's New Voices program, and the Weengushk Film Institute. Ironstand's first film Inheritance won Best Student Film at the 14th Annual Native American Film and Video Festival of the Southeast.

Title: The Last Weekend
Director: Tyler Compton
Time: 10:00

This short drama is a story about 5 recent high-school graduates and friends who spend their last weekend together on a vacation. After they slowly begin turning into zombies, Sasha must uncover the hidden secret... but is she the one with the secret after all?

Tyler Compton is from Winnipeg and currently lives in Ottawa. He is enrolled in the Urban Aboriginal High School located on the third floor of the Odawa Friendship Centre. He works for Indigenous Culture & Media Innovations (ICMI).

Title: Shadow
Director: Francis Laliberte
Time: 10:54

Shadow is a film that explores the issue of suicide through the "haunting" perspective of one man. Rob smudges to cleanse his mind and soul and it leads to something much more. He must confront the shadow of his past.

Francis Laliberte is a 23-year-old aboriginal Filmmaker from the community of Beauval, North of Saskatchewan. Francis took a Media Arts Production program at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technologies in Prince Albert.

Title: Amaqut Nunaat (The Country of Wolves)
Director: Neil Christopher
Time: 11:37

In Amaqut Nunaat, two brothers find themselves in a strange and distant land, known as the Country of Wolves. This short and beautifully crafted animation tells a chilling tale of shape-shifting and the supernatural.

Title: Jesus Coyote TeeVee
Director: Chris Bose
Time: 10:34

Mixed imagery of Indigenous and non-Indigenous spirituality overlaps in a cacophony of carefully crafted visual juxtapositions of values and desires, historical interpretations and urban reality.

Chris Bose (N'lakapamux) is a Kamloops based writer, artist musician and filmmaker. His book, Stone the Crow, was released by Kegeedonce Publishing. Through his artwork Chris wrestles with the traumatic intergenerational effects of residential schools on his family.



Little Girl / Ugly Girl / Not Bad / Just Evil Girl: The Films & Videos of Ariel Smith

(Club SAW,
Sunday June 24, 8:00pm)

Programme:

To All The Boys I've Loved Before
2009, 35mm, 5 min.

Dear Diary
2009, Super 8mm, 3 min.

1, 2, 3 Knockup
2006, DV, 7 min.

Little girl/ugly girl/not bad/just evil
girl
2012, DV installation excerpt, 3 min.

Saviour Complex
2008, 16mm, 6 min.

Target Girls
2012, HD, 8 min.

"Ariel Smith's work is gritty and unapologetic in the subject matter she chooses and portrays in stark, cinematographic black and white. Her work exemplifies strong willed women and the sexual situations they encounter"

Daina Warren, Curator



Ariel Smith (1983) is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker and video artist. She has been creating independent works since 2001 and has successfully received all levels of Arts Council funding. Her work has screened at various festivals internationally including Images (Toronto), Inside Out (Toronto), Mix Experimental Film Festival (NYC) and the Boston GLBT Film Festival, and has been shown in galleries such as WARC Gallery (Toronto), Galerie SAW Gallery (Ottawa), MAI (Montréal) Gallery Sans Nom (Moncton) and Cold Creation Gallery

(Barcelona). Her film Saviour Complex was nominated for Best Experimental Film at the 2008 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, and her video Swallow won the Cynthia Licker Sage Award for Emerging Talent at the 2004 ImagineNative Film Festival, and third prize at the 2003 Media City Festival of Experimental Film and Video. Ariel is a 2012 nominee for the K.M. Hunter artist award.



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Featuring:

Jocelyn Formsma, Melody McKiver, Waubgeshig Rice, Vera Wabegijig, Lisa Marie Naponse, Geraldine King, Hyf the Gypsy Sun, Dj Jas Nasty, Nyle Johnston, Isaac Weber,

MC: **Darren Sutherland**

Special Performance by **Leanne Simpson**
Anishinaabe author and scholar

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