VANCOUVER LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL



Indigenous Film From BC & Beyond - A Beginning

In 2011, the City of Vancouver recognized its 125th anniversary since its incorporation as a city. As part of the celebrations, there was increased awareness that the land and waters that the City of Vancouver came to exist on needed to be recognized first and foremost as the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Sə̓lílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

With grants from the City of Vancouver and BC Arts Council, Festival Director Christian Sida Valenzuela, Festival Manager Lisa Pearlman, and Programmer Anne-Mary Mullen organized ¡Fiesta 125! A Celebration of Latin American Culture in Vancouver featuring works by local Latin-Canadian filmmakers alongside Indigenous Film From BC & Beyond, a program of Indigenous films from across Canada and Latin America.

This marked the first time VLAFF brought together Indigenous filmmakers from across the continents to showcase their works side by side.

From 2011 - 2021

The first edition of Indigenous Film From BC & Beyond was co-curated by Zoë Miles at the Reel Youth Film Festival, Diana Vargas at the Havana Film Festival, New York, and Christian Sida at VLAFF. The two programs of short films aimed to highlight the parallels between the work of Mayan filmmakers from Guatemala and Mexico in the south and First Nations filmmakers from British Columbia in the north.

The response to the series was overwhelmingly positive. With support from the BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts, the Indigenous Film From BC & Beyond series became an important keystone of the festival programming. Over the years, the VLAFF programming team has co-curated the series with various Indigenous-led organizations and groups, such as Elías Jiménez at Casa Comal in Guatemala; the programming collective at VIMAF (Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival); Luna Marán with the Campamento Audiovisual Itinerante in

Oaxaca, Mexico; Odile Joanette and Tania Choueiri at Wapikoni Mobile; and Jason Ryle and Daniel Northway-Frank at the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in Toronto.

In 2015, Sonia Medel, VLAFF's Community Partnerships Coordinator, became the lead programmer for the series. She expanded the series to include more circle dialogues and opportunities for community engagement. In 2016, in collaboration with the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Sonia curated *Calls to Reality: (Re)constructing Identities* to bring attention to the importance of Indigenous self-representation. In tandem with this series, programmer Sarah Shamash curated a series of films produced as part of an innovative project called *Vídeo nas Aldeias* (Video in the Villages) founded in Brazil in 1986 by Vincent Carelli with the goal of making film production more accessible to Indigenous populations in the Amazon.

In 2018, VLAFF's Senior Programmer & General Manager Anne-Mary Mullen attended the *Listen, Witness, Transmit* conference organized by NIMAC - National Indigenous Media Arts Coalition in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The knowledge shared during the conference helped to expand VLAFF's understanding of its roles and responsibilities regarding Indigenous representation and curatorial practices within the festival, as well as shedding light on the areas where we still needed to grow.

In 2019, Sonia Medel and Sarah Shamash co-curated *Languages of Sovereignty*, a special edition of Indigenous Film from BC & Beyond in honour of the United Nations Declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Jules Arita Koostachin (Cree, member of the Attawapiskat First Nation, MoshKeKoWok Territory) collaborated as a Cultural Advisor for the series, post-screening dialogue, and reception at the VIFF Vancity Theatre.

In 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival had to pivot to screen mostly online. Sonia Medel and Sarah Shamash co-curated a shorts program and online dialogue entitled *Indigeneity, Women & Resilience* to express a commitment to the resilient and brave ways in which Indigenous girls, women, and matriarchs continued to lead the way forward.

In 2021, still under pandemic restrictions, guest curator Karmella Cen Benedito de Barros (Afro-Brazilian & Nêhiyawak, member of the Mistawasis First Nation, Treaty 6 Territory) programmed *Future Ancestors: Storytelling as Ceremony*, a short film program to honour and uplift stories centering Indigenous youth, girls, women, queers, femmes, and matriarchs across

many territories, and provide an understanding for the embodied elements of ceremony and tradition which exist and have always existed through Indigenous storytelling.

From 2022 - present - **Films from Turtle Island & Beyond**

Since 2022, Masa'n Galindo (O'dam from Durango, Mexico) and Akira Iahtail (member of the Attawapiskat First Nation, Amiskwaciwâskahikan, Treaty 6 Territory) have co-curated **Films from Turtle Island & Beyond**. They have developed a unique inter-country curatorial collaboration to continue to bring powerful and entertaining feature and short film programs and dialogues to VLAFF.

FILM ARCHIVE

2011 - First Edition

Short Film Program:

How do the cinematic views of BC First Nations peoples and Indigenous peoples of Latin America relate? In this program of short films we will highlight the parallels between the work of Mayan filmmakers from Guatemala and Mexico in the south and First Nations filmmakers from British Columbia in the north. Presented in collaboration with the New York Havana Film Festival and the Reel Youth Film Festival with financial support from the British Columbia Arts Council

Co-curated by Zoë Miles at the Reel Youth Film Festival, Diana Vargas at the Havana Film Festival, New York, and Christian Sida at VLAFF.

Short films created by BC First Nations youth, followed by a panel presentation.

Residential Truth, Unified Future
Created by: Ian Bee, Amber-Lynn Flamand, Courtenay Agecoutay, Bacilia Ramirez, Kim Webber at the Urban Native Youth Association/Vancouver/11:52

Life in Reverse
Created by: Matt at the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association/Vancouver/2:35





Bandaid
Created by: Jimmy, Bryton, Austin, Tara, Jordan/Tla'amin (formerly Sliammon) territory, Powell River, BC/1:30

Cody
Created by: Cody Henry at the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association/Vancouver/3:28

Peel
Created by: T.J., Jade Littlepoplar, Kevin E., Kaylene at CampOUT/Vancouver/1:00

Kaiya
Created by: Kaiya O'Cheek with the Southern Cortes Community Association/Cortes Island, BC/1:00

Faren
Created by: Faren at the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association/Vancouver/2:40

Dreamcatcher
Created by: Tommy, Samantha Maracle, John, with the Richmond Youth Services Agency/Richmond, BC/1:00

24/7
Created by: Kiel MacDonald, Whitney Wells-James, Garrett Douglas with the Society for Children and Youth of BC/Vancouver/3:30

Grandfather
Created by: Caitlin Hager at the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association/Vancouver/2:20

Decolonization
Created by: Zach, Jessica, Tyra, Cody, Tarin, Bryan/Powell River, BC/1:10

Britney
Created by: Britney at the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association/Vancouver/2:15

Together We Are Strong
Created by: James, Darren, Justin, Raven, at the Pathways Aboriginal Centre/Richmond, BC/1:10
Winner for Best Local Film in the Reel Youth Film Festival in Victoria, BC.

Ignite My Flame
Created by: Girls at the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre/Burnaby, BC/5:00

Philanthropy
Created by: Tyler MacDonald with the Society for Children and Youth of BC/Vancouver/1:40

Five short films by Indigenous filmmakers from Mexico and Guatemala, programmed by Diana Vargas from the Havana Film Festival, New York.

Voladora (A Flying Woman)
Director: Chloe Campero/Mexico/11 min

Ri wachik-Mi sueño (Ri Wachik- My Dream)
Director: Berta Lidia Chirix/Guatemala/9 min

El llanto de la tierra (The Crying of the Earth)
Director: Lucio Olmos/Mexico/8 min

La pila (The Wash House)
Director: Fernando Martinez/Guatemala/9 min

Ixquic
Director: Cesar Manuel León Osorio/Guatemala/5 min

VANCOUVER LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL



2012 - Second Edition

Feature Films:

Distancia
Dir. Sergio Ramirez | Guatemala
K'iche, Q'eqchi' and Spanish with English subtitles | 75 min

The Hyperwomen (As hiper mulheres)
Dir. Carlos Fausto, Leonardo Sette, Takumã Kuikuro | Brazil
Kuikuro and Portuguese with English subtitles | 80 min

Short Film Program:

Co-curated by Zoë Miles at the Reel Youth Film Festival, Elías Jiménez at Casa Comal, and Christian Sida at VLAFF

All videos in this collection were made by First Nations youth participants in Reel Youth programs.

How to Talk About Sex
Made in Maple Ridge, BC at the YouthCO 2012 First Direction Youth Conference, with First Nations youth from BC/3.5 min

Come Home
Made in Maple Ridge, BC at the YouthCO 2012 First Direction Youth Conference with First Nations youth and elders from BC/6 min

Standing in Unity, Living Our Rights
Made in Maple Ridge, BC with the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective, with First Nations youth from BC/11.5 min

Responsibility Stories
Made in Vancouver, BC with First Nations youth and elders and the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society/10 min

Untold Stories
Made by First Nations youth and elders in Fort Liard, NT/ 12.5 min

Boogie Man
Made by First Nations youth in Fort Liard, NT/4.5 min

Be Heard
Made in Vancouver, BC with First Nations youth and the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society/3.75 min

Hope Behind Bars
Made in Burnaby, BC with First Nations youth from across BC/ 7.25 min

FOLLOWED BY SHORT FILMS BY MAYAN FILMMAKERS

Works from Casa Comal: School of Film and Television in Guatemala

The inauguration of Casa Comal in 2006 represented an important step forward for the film community in Central America. The school has received worldwide recognition for its work in building a film and audiovisual industry in the Central American region with filmmakers who are committed to the pursuit of cinema as an art form and as a medium for social development. The directors of Casa Comal have also been instrumental in the formation of Festival ÍCARO: International Central American Film Festival, which is an important showcase of films from the region, along with international titles.

In addition, Casa Comal plays a crucial role in supporting emerging Indigenous filmmakers from Guatemala by offering workshops, training and access to equipment. Each year, a special section of Festival ÍCARO is devoted to the presentation and discussion of works by Mayan filmmakers.

The Vancouver Latin American Film Festival is proud to present these works from Casa Comal, including this series of short films by Mayan directors.

La canasta (The Basket)
Dir: Edgar Chitop / 5'30"

Clara
Dir: Josefina Cuxl Xuc / 7'50"

Waykan
Dir: Ramón Elías Quiñonez / 8'

Kame
Dir: José Fernando Cum Marín / 4'

Q' omaneel (*The Healer*)
Dir: Cleida Cholotio / 9'

Nanimaj Chik (*To Grow Up Again*)
Dir: Elvis Caj / 5'

Ru k'ux Qawa' (*On the Comal*)
Dir: Leyzer Chiquin Chó / Berta Lidia Chirix / 5'

2013

Feature Films:

Eufrosina's Revolution (La revolución de los alcatraces)
Dir. Luciana Kaplan | Mexico
Spanish with English subtitles | 96 min

Pacha
Dir. Héctor Ferreiro | Bolivia/Mexico
Aymara and Spanish with English subtitles | 88 min

Totem
Dir. Franca González | Kwakiutl First Nation/Argentina
English and Spanish with English subtitles | 60 min

VANCOUVER LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL



2014

Short Film Program:

In this third edition of Indigenous Film from BC & Beyond, VLAFF is proud to present a series of short films from First Nations filmmakers from BC alongside works by Mixtec and Zapotec filmmakers from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Spaces to Survive

In collaboration with and curated by the Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival (VIMAF) and in association with the Nighthawk Arts Festival.

Featuring media shorts from Hannah Leona, Kinnie Starr, Melody McKiver and Amanda Strong. Works explore the re-Indigenization of urban spaces, and the urbanization of wild spaces. Culture helps transport us to safe wild spaces, and brings wilderness to our urban *rezervations*. Violence against Indigenous Peoples, violence against Mother Earth, violence against women, violence. These Indigenous media artists make emotionally courageous media artworks that inspire, soothe and replenish. – VIMAF

The Letter R
Dir. Hannah Leona / 8 min

Breaking the Silence
By Community Action Research Team / 10 min

Save Our Water: Haida Raid Series
Haida Raid 2: A Message to Stephen Harper
By Haidawood / 4’33” min

Haida Raid 3: Save Our Waters
By Haidawood / 6 min

Looking at the Devil
By Aspects / 4’45” min

Ga waabmin gaye / Nemolnek elt ni'nen
Dir. Melody McKiver / 3’30” min

Honey For Sale
Dir. Amanda Strong / 6 min

#AmorComunal: Mixtec and Zapotec Short Film Showcase

Curated by Luna Marán, director of the Travelling Audiovisual Camp (Campamento Audiovisual Itinerante) in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The Mixtecs and the Zapotecs are prehispanic peoples that have resisted more than 500 years of conquest and colonization. Today, young filmmakers from Oaxaca, Mexico who are the descendants of these peoples have decided to highlight their love, death, sorrow, and power using the colours and the music that surrounds them.

Music for After Sleeping (Música para después de dormir)
Dir. Nicolás Rojas Sánchez | Mexico, 2013
Mixtec and Spanish with English subtitles/ 10 min

This Song is for Fatima (Esta canción es para Fátima)
Dir. Acelo Ruíz | Mexico, 2014
Zapotec and Spanish with English subtitles/ 22 min

Tiricia, or How to Heal Sadness (La tiricia o cómo curar la tristeza)
Dir. Ángeles Cruz | Mexico, 2012
Spanish with English subtitles/ 12 min

The Last Advice (El último consejo)
Dir. Itandehui Jansen
Mexico, 2012
Mixtec and Spanish with English subtitles/ 12 min

<u>Feature Films:</u>

Icaros
Dir. Georgina Barreiro | Argentina
Shipibo with English subtitles | 71 min

The Quispe Girls (Las niñas quispe)
Dir. Sebastian Sepulveda | Chile
Spanish with English subtitles | 83 min

Yvy Maraey - Land Without Evil
Dir. Juan Carlos Valdivia | Bolivia
Guaraní, Ayoreo, and Spanish with English subtitles |105 min

2015

On the occasion of SFU's 50th Anniversary, SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs and VLAFF are honoured to co-present this dynamic fourth edition of Indigenous Film from BC & Beyond, a showcase of short films from Indigenous filmmakers from across Canada alongside works by Mixtec and Zapotec filmmakers from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Ecologies of Healing and Knowing

Curated by Sonia Medel in collaboration with the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, whose vision is to inspire and connect communities through original, Indigenous film and media arts.

These Aboriginal media artists creatively explore and fuse together Indigenous traditions and ways of knowing, to heal, revision, resist and establish art that is encompassing of the diversity of Indigenous identities and perspectives. The works act as portals into epistemologically plural realities. Viewers are challenged to break free of the cycles of quotidian violence that we are all caught within as a result of colonialism, and seek embodied and experiential ways of relating with each other and the natural environment.

Traditional Healing
Dir. Raymond Caplan (Listuguj), from the Micmac Nation, 2013 | 3 min

Apikiwiyak (Coming Home)
Dir. Shane Belcourt (Métis) & Maria Campbell (Métis & Cree), 2014 | 13 min

NiiPii (Water)
Dir. Jules Arita Koostachin (Cree), from the Attawapiskat Nation, 2012 | 6 min

Indigo
Dir. Amanda Strong (Métis), 2014 | 9 min

Onickakw! (Wake up!)
Dir. Sipi Flamand (Manawan), from the Atikamekw-Nebirowisiw Nation, 2014 | 5 min

The Orphan and the Polar Bear
Dir. Neil Christopher, from Nunavut, 2013 | 9 min

Mob Medicine
Dir. Bracken Hanuse Corlett, from the Wuikinuxv and Klahoose Nations & Amanda Strong, (Métis), 2015 | 13 min

Mixtec and Zapotec Short Film Showcase
Mexico, 2015
Ca Dxi ridiidi (Time Goes By)

Curated by Luna Marán, director of the Campamento Audiovisual Itinerante (Travelling Audiovisual Workshop) in Oaxaca.

www.campamentoaudiovisual.org

A few years ago, I discovered that in Zapotec and Mixtec the word *tiempo* does not exist. “Moving image” is referred to as time. What is “moving image” as understood by the Zapotecs and Mixtecs? The films in this program have been created by Mexican youth in the Zapotec sierra in the State of Oaxaca, as part of their first incursion with cameras. The question remains in the air—if time does not exist for the Zapotecs or Mixtecs, what happens when the youth take hold of a camera?

The following five shorts were completed during the first, second and third editions of the Campamento Audiovisual Itinerante, an event for the learning, exchanging, producing, exhibiting and developing of audiovisual projects, which is run every year in a Zapotec community in the northern sierra of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Take 20 (Rodada 20)
2012 | 12 min

Jarabe
2014 | 7 min

Glances (Miradas)
2014 | 9 min

For Walking (Tawä'äktäjk | Para el andar)
2013 | 16 min

Greetings from a Magical Village (Saludos desde un Pueblo Mágico)
2014 | 20 min

Feature Film:

Daughter of the Lake (Hija de al alguna)
Dir. Ernesto Cabellos Damián | Peru/Bolivia
Spanish with English subtitles | 87 min

2016

Short Film Program:

INDIGENOUS FILM FROM BC & BEYOND - CANADA

Calls to Reality: (Re)constructing Identities





This section explores the beautiful, yet often painful and (de)colonizing concept-process of identity through the works of Aboriginal media artists exploring the impacts of being Indigenous within the colonial confines of Canada.

Many Latin Americans are inextricably linked to processes of (de)colonization, through societal, familial, personal choices, and economic, political and cultural processes. This section is intended to illustrate the violent and silenced realities of educational and religious colonial projects, and push us to address ourselves, honour our relations, and (re)value our diverse ancestral roots. These films highlight the complexity and power in encountering oneself through intricately challenging histories and contemporary realities; and ask us as guests and settlers, here on Coast Salish territories, to recognize the role of land and community as teacher.
– Curator, Sonia Medel

Curated in collaboration with the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, whose vision is to inspire and connect communities through original, Indigenous film and media arts.

Pearl
Dir. Elisa Moar (Manawan, Atikamekw Nation) & Meky Ottawa (Manawan, Atikamekw Nation)
2013 | 3 min

Clouds of Autumn
Dir. Trevor Mack (Tsilhqot'in Nation) & Matthew Taylor Blais (Vancouver)
2015 | 15 min

The Black Case
Dir. Caroline Monnet (Algonquin) & Daniel Watchorn (Quebec)
2014 | 13 min

Mia'
Dir.: Amanda Strong (Michif) & Bracken Hanuse Corlett (Wuikinuxv & Klahoose Nations)
2015 | 8 min

Without Words
Dir. Jules Arita Koostachin (Cree, Attawapiskat Nation)
2015 | 17 min

Assini
Dir. Gail Maurice (Cree/Métis, Northern Saskatchewan)
2015 | 13 min

INDIGENOUS FILM FROM BC & BEYOND - BRAZIL

These three films celebrate the diversity and plurality of Latin American film culture while highlighting the importance of Indigenous self-representation. The films are part of an innovative project in Brazil, Vídeo nas Aldeias (Video in the Villages), founded in 1986 with the goal of making film production accessible to Indigenous populations. The video collection at VNA is a vital part of Brazil and Latin America's social, cultural, historical identity and legacy while representing the contemporary situation of over forty Indigenous groups in Brazil.
– Curator, Sarah Shamash

Kene Yuxi, As voltas do kene
Dir. Zezinho Yube
Brazil | 2010
Hatxa Kuin and Portuguese with English subtitles | 48 min

Mbya Mirim
Dir. Patrícia Ferreira, Ariel Duarte Ortega
Brazil | 2012
Guarani and Portuguese with English subtitles | 42 min

The Hyperwomen (As hiper mulheres)
Dir. Carlos Fausto, Leonardo Sette, Takumã Kuikuro
Brazil | 2011
Kuikuro and Portuguese with English subtitles | 80 min

2017

Short Film Program:

RITMOS, Rhythms of Resilience

Ritmos centres on the rhythms of resilience, traditions and practices of Indigenous peoples in Canada and Latin America. From the beat of the drum and the movement of bodies, to the raising of voices and the sharing in celebration, these short films highlight diverse and beautiful ways of engaging all relations, human and other. The rhythms of the land, ancestors, and survival are calling us to listen and feel.
– Curator, Sonia Medel

This program was curated in partnership with the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival and Reel 2 Real International Film Festival for Youth.

Regalia: Pride in Two Spirits
Dir. Love Intersections (Jen Sungshine & David Ng)
Haisla and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations/Canada, 2015 | English | 5.19 min

Way of Giants (Caminho dos gigantes)
Dir. Alois Di Leo | Brazil, 2016 | No Dialogue | 11.52 min

The Grandfather Drum
Dir: Michelle Derosier | Anishinaabe/Canada, 2016 | No Dialogue | 13 min

Feast of the Enchanted (A festa dos encantados)
Dir. Masanori Ohashy | Guajajara/Brazil, 2016 | Portuguese | 13 min

Hila
Dir. Adam Bentley Dancer: Tiffany Ayalik | Inuit/Canada, 2016 | 3.27 min

Feature Films:

Mara'akame's Dream (El sueño del Mara'akame)
Dir. Federico Cecchetti
Mexico, 2016 | Wixárika and Spanish with English subtitles | 90 min

Native Planet
Dir. Carmen Henríquez & Denis Paquette
Mexico/Canada, 2017 | O'Dam, Mexicanero, Wixárika and Spanish with English subtitles | 45 min

SACHARUNA SHORTS
Participatory Film from Peru

Participating Production Collectives: Vision Cinema, Proyector & El Maizal
Workshop Directors: Renzo Alonso Alva Hurtado & Julio Cesar Gonzales Oviedo

Sacharuna Shorts is a snapshot of travels and collaborative audiovisual and stop-motion initiatives throughout the Peruvian Amazon. The shorts included were created as part of workshops with Indigenous youth and adults, developed for the preservation and promotion of intergenerational and intercultural dialogue that (re)values the diverse ancestral knowledge of communities in the Peruvian Amazon. The screenings will be accompanied by a discussion.

LIVE ACTION

Alina and Mother Nature (Alina y la Selva Madre)
Tacshacuraray/Kichwa, 2015 1.26 min

We Are Muruy Muinane (Somos Muruy Muinane)
Negro Urco/Muruy Muinane, 2015 | 5.33 min

A Trunk of Coca (Un tronco de coca)
8 de diciembre/Muruy Muinane, 2016 | 24 min

STOP-MOTION

These stop-motion shorts were collaboratively created with the Indigenous communities of Puerto Franco, Flor de Agosto, and Puerto Aurora in the Putumayo River basin.

The Fishes of my River (Los peces de mi cocha)
Puerto Franco, 2016 | 2.06 min

My Community (Mi comunidad)
Flor de Agosto, 2016 | 1:26 min

Ayaymama
Puerto Aurora, 2016 | 1:10 min

2018

Short Film Program:

Agua-Water Stories

Through the transformative space of diverse film media, including documentary and animation, the perspectives of Indigenous peoples from Canada and Latin America, as well as those of settlers, merge to draw us all into water worlds. Merging some of the best and most recent short works, the program explores the relationship(s) with and perspectives on water by Indigenous peoples and their allies. Audience members are invited to learn from the local knowledge keepers and allies of the flows and tides that sustain our hopes for life.
- Sonia Medel, Curator

Flood
Dir. Amanda Strong (Michif)
Poetic narration: The Northwest Kid (Craig Frank Eds of Mob Bounce) | Canada, 4 min

How to Steal A Canoe
Dir. Amanda Strong (Michif) Spoken lyrics: Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Nishnaabeg)
Score: Cris Derkson (Cree) | Canada, 4 min

Lafken Ñi Az (The Ocean Reveals its Knowledge)
Dir. The Mapuche Communication and Cinema School of Aylla Rewe Budi | Chile, 8 min
Communities: Lafkenche,Llaguepulli, Malalhue,Williche, Relicura et Quetroleofu
Nation: Mapuche

Yaku Chaski Warmikuna (Messengers of the River)
Dir. Luz Estrello | Ecuador, 5.12 min
Kichwa Ancestral Community: Kausac Sacha

Nendok Between Lagoons (Nendok entre lagunas)
Dir. Juan Ernesto Regalado Morales | Mexico, 23.37 min
Community/Language: Ikoots, San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca/Ombeayiüts

Parana - The River
Dir. Stephanie Boyd & Miguel Araoz | Peru, 13.50 min
Community/Language: Kukama

The Mountain of SGaana
Dir. Christopher Auchtor (Haida) | Canada, 10 min | No dialogue

I am Salmon
Dir. Peter Mieras | First Nation advisers: Darrell Ross Sr. & Tom Watts | Canada, 7 min
Community/Language: Tseshaht First Nation/Nuu chah nulth

Shipu (Rivière)
Dir. Uapukun Mestokosho Mckenzie & Shanice Mollen-Picard | Quebec, 5.42 min
Community: Ekuanitshit–Mingan
Nation: Innu

Feature Films:

Los Burritos
Dir. Violeta Ayala | Bolivia, 2017 | Quechua and Spanish with English subtitles | 76 min

The Still Life of Harley Prosper (La vida suspendida de Harley Prosper)
Dir. Juan Manuel Sepúlveda | Mexico/Canada, 2018 | English | 67 min

Tava, The House of Stone (Tava - A casa de pedra)
Dir. Patrícia Ferreira & Ariel Kuaray Ortega Film Collective: Vídeo nas Aldeias (Video in the Villages)
Brazil, 2012
Mbyá Guaraní and Portuguese with English subtitles | 78 min

Preceded by:
Interview with Patrícia Ferreira (Yxapy)
Dir. Sarah Shamash | Canada/Brazil, 2017
Mbyá Guaraní with English subtitles | 9 min

2019

LANGUAGES OF SOVEREIGNTY

A Special Edition of Indigenous Film from BC & Beyond In Honour of the United Nations Declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

In line with the United Nations declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, *Indigenous Film from BC & Beyond* recognizes and celebrates language sovereignty as an act of self-determination and resurgence. Our curatorial vision weaves together creative short and feature films from First Nations, Metis, Inuit, Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous filmmakers from across Turtle Island and Abya Yala. These cinematic voices engage hemispheric dialogues that meditate on language as inextricable from land, identity, memory, (de)territorializations, cultural heritages, her/histories, and socio-politics. As a whole, the

program aims to forge critical relationships between and across spatio-temporal, cosmological, political, and cultural boundaries.

Curated by Sonia Medel and Sarah Shamash

CULTURAL ADVISOR

Jules Arita Koostachin

Cree from the ancestral lands of the Moshkeko, and a member of Attawapiskat First Nation, Jules was born in Moose Factory where she was raised by her Cree grandparents, as well as with her mother in Ottawa. In 2010, she completed graduate school at Ryerson University in Documentary Media where she was awarded an Award of Distinction and an Academic Gold Medal for her thesis documentary film *Remembering Inninimowin*. She is a PhD candidate with the Institute of Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at UBC with a focus on Indigenous documentary. Her educational and arts practice endeavours address environmental and Indigenous issues. Jules' company VisJuelles Productions Inc. has a number of productions, and her youth series *AskiBOYZ* is currently airing on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. Jules' second CBC documentary *OshKiKiShiKaw: A New Day* was released in 2019. Jules has been working with Indigenous community for many years supporting Indigenous women and children who face barriers. She hopes to continue shedding light on socio-political issues that urban and rural Indigenous peoples face.

INDIGENOUS FILM FROM BC & BEYOND

Followed by a post-screening dialogue moderated by Sonia Medel and Sarah Shamash with visiting directors and other guest speakers. Reception catered by BigHeart Bannock.

All films screen with subtitles in English.

Program running time: 93 min

LANGUAGES OF SOVEREIGNTY - PROGRAM 1

Power To The People (Trailer)
Dir. Denis Paquette & Carmen Henríquez
Canada | 2019 | Cree | 21 sec

Sylix Song
Dir. Helen Haig-Brown
Okanagan, BC | 2010 | nsyilxcən | 1.47 min

Bakuëbom Bompisën Tëkikbo (Kids Blowing Thin Reed)
Dir. Damë Bëtxun Matis; **Co-directors:** Chawa Wassa Matis, Kaxë Mentuk Matis, Shapu Sibo Matis, Dani Matis, Damba Matis, Chawa Atsa Matis, Tumi Rieli Matis
Matis/Rio Branco (Javari) | Brazil | 2018 | Matis | 12.29 min

Wamin (La pomme)
Dir. Katherine Nequado
Atikamekw Nation | Montreal, Quebec | 2017 | Atikamekw | 2.43 min

Hant Quij Cmaa Cöiipaxi Ac (The Creation of the World)
Dir. Antonio Coello
Mexico | 2019 | Cmiiique litom (Seri) | 10 min

Gonawindua
Dir.**:** Giuliano Cavalli & J.M. Suárez
Kogi Nation | Colombia | 2012 | Kogi | 13.41 min

Tarinakusun: Quechua In Seattle
Dir. Chaska Rojas-Bottger
USA/Peru | 2015 | Quechua Chanka | 6 min

Vishitiri (The Visit)
Dir. Patricio Quinteros Allende
Iquique | Chile | 2018 | Aymara | 13 min

ᏅᏃᏓᏕᏍᏗ ᏅᏛ ᏫᏍᏓᏌ (Uktena And Thunder)
Dir. Joseph Lewis Erb
USA | 2017 | Cherokee | 8.48 min

Shipibos Konibos (Monkey Men, Fish Men)
Dir. Róger Neyra
Shipibo-Konibo | Peru | 2019 | Shipibo and Konibo | 9.37

I Am Hitkoak
Dir. Adine & Tabitha
Inuit, Nunavut | Canada | 2018 | Inuinnaqtun | 7 min

And That Is How The Rivers Came To Be (Y así aparecieron los ríos)
Dir. Miguel Aráoz Cartagena
Kukama | Peru | 2018 | Kukama | 3.16 min

City Speaks
Dir. Lisa Jackson
Squamish | British Columbia | 2010 | Sḵwx̱wú7mesh sníchim | 1.45 min

Kumbarikira
Dir. Leonardo Tello
Kukama | Peru | 2013 | Kukama | 4.58 min

LANGUAGES OF SOVEREIGNTY - PROGRAM 2

Truambi (Lullaby)
Dir. Mileidy Orozco Domicó (Keratuma)
Emberá Yabida, Mutatá, Antioquia/Colombia, 2019
Embera and Spanish with English subtitles | 30 min

Teko Haxy - Being Imperfect
Dir. Patrícia Ferreira Pará Yxapy & Sophia Pinheiro
Mbyá Guarani/Brazil, 2019
Mbyá Guarani and Portuguese with English subtitles | 40 min

Living Culture, Speaking Truth: Language Revitalization in Our Communities
Dir. Mike Black, Petie Chalifoux, Alex Lazarowich, Roxann Whitebean
Canada, 2019 | English | 39 min

Feature Films:

Birds of Passage (Pájaros de verano)
Dir. Cristina Gallego & Ciro Guerra

Colombia, 2018
Wayuunaiki, Spanish, English and Wiwa with English subtitles | 125 min

SG̲aawaay K̲'uuna (Edge of the Knife)
Dir. Gwaai Edenshaw (Haida), Helen Haig-Brown (Tsilhqot'in)
Haida Gwaii/Canada, 2018
Haida with English subtitles | 100 min

Mataindios
Dir. Óscar Sánchez Saldaña & Robert Julca Motta
Peru, 2018
Quechua with English subtitles | 77 min

Los Andes Symphony Orchestra (La sinfónica de los Andes)
Dir. Marta Rodríguez
Colombia, 2018
Spanish with English subtitles | 116 min

2020

Short Film Program:

Indigeneity, Women & Resilience

Curated by Sarah Shamash and Sonia Medel

This year is not business as usual. For us, this VLAFF is not curation as usual. This abbreviated program of *Indigenous Film from BC & Beyond* is one through which we communicate our dedication to Indigenous and racialized women (a struggle we also situate ourselves within). We express a commitment to the resilient and brave ways in which Indigenous girls, women, and matriarchs are leading a way forward. In this time of pandemics and rebellions, we meditated on the question: for whom is the world being saved and who are the beings actually doing the transformative work? We watch billionaires profit off economic, humanitarian, and ecological crises through intentional genocide. The Amazon rainforest burns. The murder and disappearance of Indigenous women (MMIWG) continues. We witness patriarchy and white supremacy attempt to silence women's voices. With this program we honour women warriors, their narratives, and their power to reimagine worlds across Turtle Island and Abya Yala.

Link to dialogue: https://vimeo.com/464379913

The Most Unprotected Girl
Dir. Jerilynn Webster - "JB The First Lady"
Nuxalk and Onondaga Nations/Canada, 2018 | 3.40 min

Sukaskieskwew (Strong Earth Woman)
Dir. Madelaine McCallum
Cree/Métis, 2018 | 5.17 min

The 6th World
Dir. Nanobah Becker
Navajo Nation/Diné/USA, 2012 | 15 min

Kaapora, O Chamado das Matas / The Call of the Forest
Dir. Olinda Yawar Muniz Wanderley
Pataxó Hã-hã-Hãe/Brazil, 2020 | 20 min

Nanayqa mana chinkaqmi – El dolor no desaparece
Dir. Colectivo de mujeres Quechuas - Federación Provincial de mujeres Quechuas de Vilcas Huamán y Chirapaq Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, Contributor: Tarcila Rivera Zea
Quechua/Peru, 2019 | 7.20 min

Features:

Huahua
Dir. Joshi Espinosa Anguaya & Citalli Andrango
Ecuador, 2018
Kichwa and Spanish with English subtitles | 70 min

Mothers of the Land (Sembradoras de vida)
Dir. Alvaro & Diego Sarmiento
Peru, 2019
Quechua and Spanish with English subtitles | 74 min

The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open
Dir. Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers & Kathleen Hepburn
Canada, 2019 | English | 105 min

2021

FUTURE ANCESTORS: Storytelling as Ceremony

Curated by Karmella Cen Benedito de Barros

Curated with the intent to spark an appreciation for the complex and diverse experiences and expressions of culture through film, *Future Ancestors: Storytelling as Ceremony* aims to honour and uplift stories centering Indigenous youth, girls, women, queers, femmes and matriarchs across many territories.

This 19th Vancouver Latin American Film Festival's Indigenous Short Film Program seeks to amplify the stories and voices of numerous Indigenous communities and peoples across Turtle Island "North America", Central and South America.

As the Vancouver Latin American Film Festival takes place on unceded and unsurrendered Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh territories, we acknowledge the necessity to uplift experiences of Indigeneity both from Turtle Island and Latin America. This work is done with gratitude and humility, acknowledging that we celebrate culture and Indigeneity through the art of film on stolen land.

Future Ancestors: Storytelling as ceremony seeks to illustrate the distinct and innately complex stories of Indigenous peoples, as well as the intersections and woven connections between Indigenous cultures across Turtle Island, Central and South America. It is my hope that an appreciation for the innate strength, leadership and foundation that Indigenous youth, girls, women and matriarchs offer to our communities is celebrated and explored through this program. As well, I hope to highlight the significance of intergenerational and interconnected knowledge sharing as fundamental to the development of future ancestors.

I hope that this program offers an understanding for the embodied elements of ceremony and tradition which exist and have always existed through Indigenous storytelling. It is my pleasure to invite you to join us in witnessing these future ancestors through our selected short films.

Kinanâskomitin,
Karmella Cen Benedito De Barros

Celebration
Dir. Edzi'u & Justin Ducharme | Tā́łtān. Łingít. Kukhhittan/Métis
St. Ambroise, Treaty 1 Territory

Inniun ueshkat mak anutshish
Dir. Mary Menie Mark | Pakuashipi/Quebec

Soul of the Sea (Liremu Barana)
Dir. Elvis Caj | Garífuna/Guatemala

My Weaving Hands (Mis manos tejedoras)
Dir. Río Castañeda | Tzotzil/Mexico/USA

Wolves Dream of the Lord's Lambs
Dir. Carlos García | Dominican Republic

Fôlego Vivo (Breath Alive)
Dir. Association of the Native Cariris of Poço Dantas-Umari | Kariri/Brazil

A MATTER OF LIFE
Curated by Anne-Mary Mullen

Friends, community, self…cherishing who we are, just as we are.

Kuxlejal (Life)
Dir. Elke Franke
Mexico, 2020 | Tsotsil and Spanish with English subtitles | 40 min

Odehimin (Heart Berry)
Dir. Kijâtai-Alexandra Veillette-Cheezo
Anishnabe Nation/Canada, 2020
English and French with English subtitles | 3 min

Healing the Nation
Dir. Jack Major & Elder Little Brown Bear, Athehsa Niohkwá:rita:a
Canada, 2020 | English | 44 min

FICWALLMAPU: GUEST FESTIVAL

Organized by Christian Sida at VLAFF and curated by the International Festival of Indigenous Cinema and Arts in Wallmapu, territory of the Mapuche peoples in southern Chile and Argentina.

Wüfko (Paula Baeza Pailamilla); ***Meli*** (Ayelén Lonconao Vargas); ***Kuychi Pucha*** (Segundo Fuérez Quilumbaquín); ***Kiñe Rupa*** (Pewvley taiñ rakizuam); ***Ecos del volcán*** (Saul Kak & Charles Fairbanks).

Feature Films:

Nudo Mixteco (T+ kanu sa'a sau)
Dir. Ángeles Cruz | Mexico, 2021
Mixtec & Spanish with English subtitles | 91 min

Soldier's Woman (Mujer de soldado)
Dir. Patricia Wiesse Risso | Peru, 2020
Quechua & Spanish with English subtitles | 83 min

The Spokeswoman (La vocera)
Dir. Luciana Kaplan | Mexico, 2020
Maya, Yaqui, Wixárica, Spanish with English subtitles | 82 min

2022-2026

FILMS FROM TURTLE ISLAND & BEYOND curated by Masa'n Galindo and Akira Iahtail (list of films available in the VLAFF online archive)