



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

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2009 Native American Film + Video Festival Lineup

Feature Films, Narrative:

El Grito de la Selva /Cry of the Forest, (2008, 95 min. Bolivia) Directed by Alejandro Noza (Moxeño), Nicolás Ipamo (Chiquitano), Ivan Sanjinés. Produced by Cinematography Education and Production Center - Bolivian Indigenous Peoples' Audiovisual Council (CEFREC-CAIB) and the Aboriginal Indigenous National Plan for Audiovisual Communication. In Spanish with English subtitles. The regional indigenous movement of the 1990s in Bolivia sets the stage for the country's first indigenous feature film. Communities in lowland Beni are shattered by violence meted out by illegal loggers. Their defense of their lives and lands culminates in protests that change the political landscape of Bolivia forever. Presented in association with the Rainforest Foundation US. US Premiere.

Moccasin Flats: Redemption, (2007, 96 min. Canada) Directed by Rob King. Executive Producer: Laura J. Milliken (Ojibwe). Based on a popular Canadian television series set in a gritty "urban rez," this rambunctious feature takes Red out of prison and back to Moccasin Flats, friendless, penniless and aimless. It's here—in the midst of a brewing gang war and the constant temptation of his former addiction to crystal meth – that Red must face the past and choose his future path. Presented in association with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. New York Premiere.

Older Than America, (2007, 102 min. USA) Directed by Georgina Lightning (Cree). An accomplished first feature explores a dark reality that has shaped generations of Native American experience cross the U.S. and Canada—the Indian boarding school. A woman's haunting visions reveal a web of intrigue that reaches out from the past in a cry for justice and healing. Presented in association with IFP. New York Premiere.

Pachamama, (2008, 104 min. Bolivia/Japan) Directed by Toshifumi Matsushita. In Quechua and Aymara with English subtitles. A warm and vibrant coming-of-age film follows Kunchari, a traditional Quechua boy, who joins his father on a trek across Bolivia to trade the salt they have gathered at the salt lake. As they and their pack animals slowly make their way, Kunchari's many experiences—hardship, tragedy and the joy of first love—reveal to him the gift of Pachamama, the fullness of life itself. Presented in association with Asian CineVision and the Japan Society. US Premiere.

Tkaronto, (2007, 105 min. Canada) Directed by Shane Belcourt (Métis). In this moody, stylishly envisioned feature, Ray and Jolene, two Native thirty-somethings living in Tkaronto (the Mohawk word for Toronto), make an unexpected and life-changing connection as they navigate experiences of contemporary Native life. Presented in association with imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival. New York Premiere.

Feature Films, Documentary:

Club Native, (2008, 78 min. Canada) Directed by Tracey Deer (Mohawk). Through absorbing, intimate portraits of four Mohawk women, the filmmaker delineates the human cost of rules about blood quantum that determine the everyday lives and loves of the Kahnawake Mohawk. In common with many Native communities, blood quantum, marrying “out,” and arbitrary requirements for membership have a devastating power to define aboriginal identity and aboriginal rights. Presented in association with Women Make Movies.

El Juicio de Pascual Pichún/Besieged Land, (2007, 65 min. Canada/Chile) Directed by María Teresa Larraín. In Spanish and Mapudungun with English subtitles. In Southern Chile, a powerful landowner and a respected Mapuche chief dispute contested land. When the chief is accused and tried for burning the landowner's home, his case comes to represent a clash between two opposing visions of the world, enflamed by a multinational company's desire to log the land. US Premiere.

Kanien'Keha:Ka/Living the Language, (2008, 62 min. Canada) Directed by Paul M. Rickard (Cree) and Tracey Deer (Mohawk). In Mohawk and English with English subtitles. What does it take to save an ancient language? In the Mohawk community of Akwesasne an immersion program developed by the Akwesasne Freedom School holds out hope for new speakers of all ages. US Premiere.

Little Caughnawaga: To Brooklyn and Back, (2008, 57 min. Canada/USA) Directed by Reaghan Tarbell (Mohawk). The filmmaker explores her roots and traces the connections of her family from the Kahnawake Reserve outside Montreal to the 10-square block area in Brooklyn known as Little Caughnawaga. There, while the Mohawk ironworkers were building Manhattan's iconic skyscrapers, the women sustained a vibrant community far from home.

Making the River, (2008, 83 min. USA) Directed by SarahDel Seronde (Navajo). Jimi Simmons shares his life story, growing up within the institutional system, finding family and his Indian identity inside prison walls, and—despite the odds—his emergence as a loving husband and father. New York Premiere.

Mokoĩ Tekoá Peteĩ Jeguatá/Two Villages, One Path, (2008, 63 min. Brazil) Directed by Ariel Ortega (Guaraní), Germano Beñites (Guaraní), Jorge Motinico (Guaraní). In Guaraní and Portuguese with English subtitles. Three young Guaraní filmmakers explore the daily lives of the inhabitants of two communities linked by a common past, their first contact with Europeans and their dependence on the sale of their artisan crafts to survive. US Premiere.

Suma Qamaña, Sumak Kausay, Teko Kavi /For a Better Life, (2008, 55 min. Bolivia) Directed collectively. Produced by Cinematography Education and Production Center-Bolivian Indigenous Peoples' Audiovisual Council. In Spanish and indigenous languages with English subtitles. In Bolivia, a forceful new movement for progressive change has emerged from the indigenous peoples of the country. Indigenous videomakers document the historic process of mobilization by indigenous and peasant organizations, leading to

the drafting of a controversial new national constitution that recognizes indigenous autonomy and protects linguistic and cultural diversity. US Premiere.

Weaving Worlds, (2007, 57 min. USA) Directed by Bennie Klain (Navajo). In Navajo and English with English subtitles. An exploration of the intricate relationships between Navajo rug weavers and reservation traders, this insightful documentary reveals the delicate balance between maintaining cultural traditions, economic survival, and the artistic validation sought by many weavers. New York Premiere.

We Shall Remain: Trail of Tears, (2008, 74 min., USA) Directed by Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho). Though the Cherokee embraced “civilization” in the mid-1800s and their sovereignty was recognized in the U.S. Supreme Court, they were made to leave their eastern homelands and force-marched to present-day Oklahoma on the infamous Trail of Tears. Contemporary voices are woven with a richly textured narrative cinema that recreates this tragic chapter in Cherokee history. Presented in association with the American Indian Community House and Native American Public Telecommunications. World Premiere.

Short Films, Narrative:

The Colony, (2007, 24 min. Canada) Directed by Jeff Barnaby (Mi'kmaq). In English and Mi'kmaq with English subtitles. Graphic imagery pushes boundaries to capture the descent into madness of a Native man displaced from the reserve and living in the city. New York Premiere.

Escape Hatch, (2008, 18 min. Canada) Directed by Tracey Deer (Mohawk)
When Bailey discovers her boyfriend is also her cousin, she decides to look off the reserve for love. Misadventures await her as she searches for her “Mr. Right!” in the big city of Montreal. World Premiere.

Good Looking, (2007, 21 min. Canada) Directed by Joseph Lazare (Mohawk). A struggling young actor finally lands a role. Unfortunately, it's as a bimbo in a zombie

film. Now she must decide: take the part or maintain her self-respect? New York Premiere.

The Hand Drum, (2008, 12 min. USA) Directed by Stephanie Painter (Washoe/Shoshone/Oneida). A young Native man tries to get the girl of his dreams the only way he knows how—the traditional way—using his songs and hand drum. New York Premiere.

Indian, (2008, 2 min. Canada) Directed by Darryl Nepinak (Saulteaux). Spelling bee finals, stuck on the word “Indian.” US Premiere.

The Little Prince, (2007, 6 min. Canada) Directed by Vincent Papatie (Algonquin). A young man recounts his origin as a “little prince,” and how he faced the difficulties he encountered in growing up. US Premiere.

Lumbini Park, (2008, 9 min., USA) Directed by Eve LaFountain (Turtle Mountain Chippewa). The loving connection between a granddaughter and grandmother stretches beyond this world. New York Premiere.

Pookums, (2006, 11 min. Canada) Directed by Shane Belcourt (Métis) and Duane Murray (Ojibwe). A street musician gets a dog sitting gig—could anything be simpler? US Premiere.

Pow Wow Dreams, (2006, 8 min. USA) Directed by Princess Lucaj (Gwich'in). Four sisters in a Native American drum group face a dilemma when one of them decides to leave the group. New York Premiere.

Sikumi/On the Ice, (2008, 15 min. USA) Directed by Andrew Okpeaha MacLean (Inupiaq). In Inupiaq with English subtitles. An Inuit hunter drives his dog team out on the frozen Arctic Ocean in search of seals, but instead, he becomes a witness to murder...and knows both victim and the killer.

Xankuchka Ia/That Was All, (2008, 29 min. Mexico) Directed by Pavel Rodríguez Guillén (P'urhepecha). In P'urhepecha with English subtitles. The P'urhepecha of Michoacan have preserved and interpreted their history in the story of a young woman whose task is to tell the inhabitants of the Echerio (the world) of the dark destiny decreed by the gods: the fall of the Lords of the Eagle and the invasion of P'urhepecha lands by the Spaniards. US Premiere.

Short Films, Documentary:

A Cielo Abierto/Under the Open Sky, (2007, 38 min. Mexico) Directed by José Luis Matías (Nahua) and Carlos Perez Rojas (Mixe). In Spanish with English subtitles. Mexico's largest gold deposit is found in El Carrizalillo, Guerrero, where the people live in grinding poverty. In early 2007, community landholders organized in order to seek a fair annual lease payment and social benefits for the community from the Canadian transnational company Goldcorp Mining. US Premiere.

Acteal 10 Años de Impunidad y ¿Cuántos mas?/Acteal 10 Years of Impunity and How Many More?, (2007, 45 min. Mexico) Directed by José Alfredo Jiménez (Tsotsil). In Tsotsil and Spanish with English subtitles. Dedicated to the 45 people, mostly women and children, massacred by paramilitary forces on the 22nd of December of 1997 in Acteal, Chiapas, this video examines why those truly responsible have never been brought to justice. US Premiere.

Ati-Wicahsin/It's Getting Easier, (2007, 6 min. Canada) Directed by Tessa Desnomie (Cree). The filmmaker and her grandmother, a Woodlands Cree woman born and raised on the trapline, collaborate on a statement about changing times. New York Premiere.

Axuni Atari/Hunter of Deer, (2006, 11 min. Mexico) Directed by Raúl Máximo Cortés (P'urhepecha). In P'urhepecha with English subtitles. This film explores the unbroken link between past and present in the P'urhepecha tradition that holds the deer in a place of respect, a sacred animal considered to be "food of the gods." US Premiere.

From Honey to Ashes, (2008, 47 min. US/Paraguay) Directed by Lucas Bessire. In Ayoreo and Spanish with English subtitles. Threatened by ranchers moving in with bulldozers, an isolated group of indigenous people flees the forest. This video chronicles their journey to a new kind of life with more settled relatives, adjusting to a new identity as “Ayoreo Indians” and learning to survive in a world shaped by deforestation, NGO activity, anthropologists and evangelical Christianity. US Premiere.

A Gente Luta mas Come Fruta/We Struggle but We Eat Fruit, (2006, 40 min. Brazil) Directed by Bebeto Piãko (Ashaninka) and Isaac Piãko (Ashaninka). In Ashaninka with English subtitles. Ashaninka videomakers create a loving portrait of their own community, located in Acre, near the border with Peru. The people organized to preserve a sustainable way of life on their forest lands, threatened by logging. Their efforts were recognized in 2007 with the Chico Mendes Prize for the Environment.

History of the Iñupiat: Nipaa I'tqusipta/The Voice of Our Spirit, (2008, 49 min. USA) Directed by Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson (Inupiaq). In Inupiaq and English with English subtitles. Iñupiat community members in Barrow, Alaska, reflect on the impact of first contacts, which brought with them devastating diseases, and the undermining of the indigenous culture and language by the American educational system. New York Premiere.

Já Me Transformei em Imagem /I've Already Become an Image, (2008, 32 min. Brazil) Directed by Zezinho Yube (Hunikui). Produced by Video in the Villages. In Hunikui with English subtitles. From the first encounters with the white man and the ensuing years of enslavement on the rubber tree plantations, to the recovery of their lands and cultural traditions, the Hunikuis' story of loss and renewal is unfolded through the experiences shared by community members.

Ki-Hi-Ka Ste': Life of Chief George Tall Chief, (2008, 15 min., USA) Directed by Amy Tall Chief (Osage). A filmmaker chronicles the long and eventful life of her grandfather. World Premiere.

Mémère Métisse/My Métis Grandmother, (2008, 30 min., Canada) Directed by Janelle Wookey (Métis). All her life, Cecile St. Amant concealed her Métis heritage. Now, her granddaughter, the filmmaker, lovingly begins to lead her to a new way of thinking. US Premiere.

Migrar o Morir/Paying the Price: Migrant Workers in the Toxic Fields of Sinaloa, (2008, 35 min. Mexico) Directed collectively. Produced by the Chiapas Media Project/Promedios for the Tlachinollan Human Rights Organization. In English and Spanish with English subtitles. This film examines the lives of impoverished workers from Guerrero who migrate to Sinaloa to pick exotic Chinese vegetables for the export trade. It is a devastating portrait of hardship—from their community of origin, largely abandoned by the local and state governments, to the inhumane and slave-like working conditions of the migrant camp. World Premiere.

Owners of the Water: Conflict & Collaboration Over Rivers, (2008, 30 min. USA) Directed by Laura R. Graham, David Hernández Palmar (Wayuu), Caimi Waiassé (Xavante). In Xavante and Spanish with English subtitles. A collaboration between indigenous filmmakers (a central Brazilian Xavante and a Wayuu from Venezuela) and an anthropologist explores a campaign headed by the Xavante to protect the Rio das Mortes River Basin from the uncontrolled soy cultivation that brings deforestation and pollution to the watershed. The Xavantes' May 25, 2006 blockade of a national highway in Mato Grosso raises awareness of their concerns and builds support for their efforts. US Premiere.

Raised by Our Own Authority, (2006, 24 min. Colombia) Directed by Mauricio Acosta. Produced by the Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca. In Spanish with English subtitles. The repression of the indigenous movement in Colombia is exposed in

this look at what happens when thousands gather at the “Territory of Peace and Coexistence” in La Maria Piendamó, in Cauca, to call for national referendum on the free trade agreement with the U.S. New York Premiere.

Reservation Soldiers, (2007, 48 min. Canada) Directed by Lisa Jackson (Ojibwe). The military represents an opportunity aboriginal young people don't often see at home—adventure, discipline and cold hard cash. Three young men facing a life-changing decision are featured in this exploration of the relationship between the Canadian military and Native youth. New York Premiere.

A Return Home, (2007, 31 min. USA) Directed by Ramona D. Emerson (Navajo). The filmmaker explores the experience of her mother, B. Emerson Kitsman, a contemporary painter who has returned to her childhood home in the Navajo Nation, asking questions about what it means to come home and what it means to be a Native artist today. New York Premiere.

Soy Pedro, Somos Mixteco/I Am Pedro, We Are Mixteco, (2007, 20 min. USA). Directed by Cedar Sherbert (Kumeyaay). A complex conversation about immigration is intertwined with the story of an indigenous man who immigrates from Mexico to work as a fruit picker and activist in California.

Umiaq Skin Boat, (2008, 31 min. Canada) Directed by Jobie Weetaluktuk (Inuit). In Inuktitut with English subtitles. Elders of the Inuit community of Inukjuak in northern Quebec decide to revive the lost art of making a traditional umiaq before the knowledge is lost forever. As they work, they recount astonishing stories of survival navigating the volatile and unforgiving waters of the Arctic. US Premiere.

Short Films, Experimental:

4-Wheel War Pony, (2008, 8 min. USA) Directed by Dustinn Craig (White Mountain Apache/Navajo). Young Apache skateboarders link past to present.

Hill High Low, (2008, 8 min., USA) Directed by Michael David Little (Navajo). A Navajo man's journey from homeless artist to painter and gallery dealer. New York Premiere.

Horse You See, (2007, 8 min. USA) Directed by Melissa Henry (Navajo). In Navajo with English subtitles. Ross, a Navajo horse, explains the very essence of being himself.

Nikamowin/Song, (2007, 11 min. Canada) Directed by Kevin Lee Burton (Swampy Cree). In English and Cree with English subtitles and voiceover. An experimental work plays with the human connection to language to make a statement about the loss of Native languages. New York Premiere.

Real Love, (2007, 4 min. USA) Directed by Donovan Seschillie (Navajo) and Deidra Peaches (Navajo). A film asks the question, "Can paper bags love?" World Premiere.

Untitled, (2008, 5 min. USA) Directed by Courtney M. Leonard (Shinnecock). The death of a 60-foot finback whale on the shores of the Shinnecock Reservation inspires a young artist to preserve the memory for future generations. New York Premiere.

Writing the Land, (2007, 8 min. Canada) Directed by Kevin Lee Burton (Swampy Cree). In English and Hunkamenum. A celebration of Musqueam elder Larry Grant's experience of rediscovering the Hunkamenum language and cultural traditions in the cityscape of Vancouver, located on ancestral Musqueam lands. New York Premiere.

Native Youth Films:

Canoe Pulling: A Lummi Way of Life, (2008, 7 min. USA) Directed by the Youth of the Lummi Cedar Project. Produced by Longhouse Media. Teens reflect on Northwest Coast canoeing as part of their unique cultural and community identity, and why they are determined to carry the tradition to the next generations. New York Premiere.

Fifteen, (2006, 7 min. USA) Directed by Annie Silverstein, Cody Cayou (Swinomish), Travis Tom (Swinomish/Lummi). Produced by Longhouse Media. Youth filmmakers explore how peer pressure can lead to trouble. New York Premiere.

NVision, (2008, 5 min. USA) Directed by Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Creek) and Ryan Red Corn (Osage). Produced by NVision. An introduction to the work of NVision, a nationwide youth arts and leadership project. New York Premiere.

Save the Peaks: Sacred Sites March; Stick Mania; and Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?, (2008, 12 min. total, USA). Produced by Outta Your Backpack Media Project. Fiction and documentary written and directed by participants in a dynamic Arizona-based youth media organization. New York Premiere.

This Is Me, (2008, 4 min. USA) Directed by David Sam (Ojibwe). Produced by Four Directions Charter School, In Progress. A young man looks back on his experience as the victim of bullies. New York Premiere.

Two Spirited, (2007, 7 min. Canada) Directed by Sharon A. Desjarlais (Cree/Métis/Ojibwe). *First Stories*. Produced by the National Film Board of Canada. A young man who competes as a jingle dancer, a role normally reserved for women, works through prejudice in order to remain true to his spirit. New York Premiere.