



MOTHER TONGUE FILM FESTIVAL



 Smithsonian

FEBRUARY 21 - 24, 2018
WASHINGTON, DC

29 languages. 14 countries. 6 continents. 4 days.



Presented by:

**THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S
RECOVERING VOICES PROGRAM**

Recovering Voices is a collaborative partnership between the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

Founded in 2009, Recovering Voices recognizes that language communities and scholars have a mutual interest in documenting, revitalizing, and sustaining languages and the knowledge embedded in them. Through Recovering Voices, the Smithsonian strives to work with communities and sister institutions to address issues of Indigenous language, knowledge diversity and sustainability at the national and global levels. In collaboration with communities and partner organizations, Recovering Voices seeks to improve access to the Smithsonian's diverse collections and to support existing community initiatives focusing on language and knowledge sustainability.

OUR MISSION

Opening on the United Nations International Mother Languages Day (February 21), the Mother Tongue Film Festival celebrates language and cultural diversity through showcasing films and filmmakers from around the world. Through digital storytelling, the festival amplifies the work of diverse practitioners who explore the power of language to connect the past, present, and future.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Mother Tongue Film Festival is made possible through the generous financial support of the Smithsonian and key partners. This program received Federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool (LIP), administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. We would also like to thank the Asian Pacific American Center (APAC) for their support.



Welcome to the Smithsonian

Since 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has celebrated and documented linguistic and cultural diversity through research, exhibitions, and public programs. With the Smithsonian's Recovering Voices Initiative, a collaboration between our Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, National Museum of the American Indian, and National Museum of Natural History, we recognize that the preservation of Indigenous languages—our Mother Tongues—and global diversity is best accomplished in partnership with local communities and institutions. The Recovering Voices Program's Mother Tongue Film Festival continues that commitment by presenting a venue in the Nation's capital for filmmakers to present their own perspectives on the power and importance of language in communities across the globe. On behalf of the Smithsonian, I am proud and pleased to welcome you to the Mother Tongue Film Festival.



Dr. John Davis

Provost,

Undersecretary of Museums and Research

Smithsonian Institution

Welcome from Recovering Voices

Recovering Voices is delighted to be able to present to you the third annual Mother Tongue Film Festival. With this festival, we bring to Washington D.C. and the Smithsonian the voices, spirit and vitality of a remarkable range of talented filmmakers, artists and community activists who are dedicated—not only to animating their languages—but to sharing these with you in creative ways that are certain to be transformative. Join us for this exciting lineup of films, the chance to meet the filmmakers and become part of a shared dialogue about the value of sustaining and celebrating the diversity of our languages.



Dr. Gwyneira Isaac

Director, Recovering Voices Program

Curator of North America

National Museum of Natural History

Smithsonian Institution



**MOTHER TONGUE
FILM FESTIVAL**

Organizing Committee

Joshua A. Bell	Curator of Globalization Department of Anthropology National Museum of Natural History
Melissa Bisagni	Program Manager Media Initiatives National Museum of the American Indian
Amalia Córdova	Latinx Curator for Digital and Emerging Media Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Mary S. Linn	Curator of Cultural and Linguistic Revitalization Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Sarah Baburi	Program Assistant, Recovering Voices Department of Anthropology National Museum of Natural History
Emily Cain	Program Assistant Department of Anthropology National Museum of Natural History
Haley Bryant	Program Assistant Department of Anthropology National Museum of Natural History
Nafisa Isa	Program Manager Asian Pacific American Center
Mariano Bartolomeu	Special Advisor, Independent Filmmaker
Laura Sharp	Program Assistant, Recovering Voices Department of Anthropology National Museum of Natural History

Venues

National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)
Rasmuson Theater
Fourth Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20560

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)
Q?rius Theater
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20560

Freer Gallery of Art (FGA)
Meyer Auditorium
1050 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC, 20015





SCHEDULE

AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY 2/21

Opening Ceremony

5:00 pm @ Potomac Atrium, NMAI

Keep Talking

7:00 pm @ Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

THURSDAY 2/22

Kayapo Video Talkback: A Conversation with Kayapo Directors

2:30 pm @ Q?rius Theater, NMNH

Reclaiming Our Time

7:00 pm @ Q?rius Theater, NMNH

FRIDAY 2/23

Truth to Power

1:00 pm @ Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Women Directors Roundtable

4:00 pm @ Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

This, For You

7:00 pm @ Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

SATURDAY 2/24

Speaking the Land

3:00 pm @ Meyer Auditorium, FGA

In the Periphery

7:00 pm @ Meyer Auditorium, FGA

OPENING NIGHT: KEEP TALKING

Wednesday, February 21st

7:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

68 Voces: Ja b'ajlami sok ja chulchuli / The Tiger and the Grasshopper (2016)

Tojolabal (Chiapas)

COMBO, Mexico, 1 min.

An animated retelling of a traditional Tojolabal story about a tiger and a grasshopper, and the power of small things.

Sesenta y Ocho Voces, Sesenta y Ocho Corazones (also known as 68 Voces or 68 Voices), is an initiative to record folk tales from Indigenous communities in Mexico and present them in their mother tongue with animations. Thanks to support from Mexico's Fund for The Culture and Arts (FONCA) and from national institutions such as INALI, CDI and Canal Once, 35 capsules have been produced to date by HOLA COMBO, a studio that believes in the social responsibility of storytellers.

Ana Gabriela Badillo Sánchez

Gabriela graduated from the Ibero-American University in Mexico and co-founded COMBO studios. With more than 11 years of experience, her work has been recognized in Mexico and around the world. She is the founder and director of 68 Voces.

Ka Duu (2018)

Zapotec, Spanish, English

Yolanda Cruz for NMAI, Mexico & USA, 11 min.

A portrait of Zapotec master-weaver Porfirio Gutiérrez, who continues to dye and weave in the traditional way, with the participation of his family and home community.

Yolanda Cruz

Yolanda (Chatina) received a BA from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and an MFA from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. She has produced seven documentaries on Indigenous people from Oaxaca living in the United States and Mexico. In 2003 Cruz founded Petate Productions, a company focused on using film and video to reflect on the displacement and vibrancy of Indigenous Oaxacan culture.

KEEP TALKING

*Wednesday, February 21st
7:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI*

Niugaa, Yugaa/Keep Talking (2017)

[Kodiak Alutiiq](#)

Karen Lynn Weinberg, USA, 79 min.

Keep Talking follows four Alaska Native women fighting to save Kodiak Alutiiq, a language now spoken by less than 40 remaining fluent Native Elders. Their small community travels to remote Afognak Island to start an Alutiiq language camp for kids. Sadie, 13, is inspired to begin learning the language and dances of her ancestors. Over the next five years, the women overcome historical and personal traumas to find joy and hope in the revitalization of their cultural heritage.

[Karen Lynn Weinberg](#)

After a decade-long career as a film editor and producer, Keep Talking is Karen's directorial debut. She currently works as a Promotions Producer at Chicago's WCIU-TV and operates her own production company, Ten Trees Productions.

KAYAPO VIDEO TALKBACK

Thursday, February 22nd
2:00 pm, Q?rius Theater, NMNH

Kwrykango Metoro A'Ukre/Manioc Festival A'Ukre (2016)

Kayapó (Mebêngôkre)

Pat-i Kayapo, Brazil, 60 min.

In the Mebêngôkre-Kayapo village of A'Ukre, Kayapo Indigenous Lands, Brazil, the manioc festival is an important traditional ceremony that passes beautiful names to children. Completed in 2016, this ceremony celebrates Mebêngôkre customs and traditions that have been passed down for generations.

Pat-i Kayapo

Pat-i Kayapó is a filmmaker from the Kayapó village of A'Ukre and part of the Koko jagoti filmmaking collective. He has participated in two filmmaking workshops led by the non-governmental organization Video in the Villages (Videos nas Aldeias) and a 2017 joint Middle Tennessee State University-Purdue-Museu Goeldi editing workshop in the village of Kaprankrere. In 2016, Pat-i presented his work at the InDigital Conference at Vanderbilt University. For several years, he has also served as a co-instructor for a study abroad course that takes place in his community each summer with Purdue University and the University of Uberlândia.

KAYAPO VIDEO TALKBACK

Thursday, February 22nd
2:00 pm, Q?rius Theater, NMNH

A Festa no Meio da Amazonas/The Festival in the Middle of the Amazon (2017)

Kayapó (Mebêngôkre)

Bpunu Mebêngôkre, Brazil, 6 min.

The film exemplifies Kayapó (Mebêngôkre) filmmaking – a well-established local genre circulated only within the Kayapó Indigenous territories of Brazil. Bypassing narration, the film captures the language, ritual, and ceremonial regalia unique to the Kayapó peoples.

Bpunu Mebêngôkre

Bpunu is a filmmaker from the village of Moikarakô in the Kayapó Indigenous territories of Brazil. Originally trained in videography during the Goeldi Museum Indigenous Media project in 2011, he has since filmed many Kayapó ceremonies and political events, as well as their interactions with the outside world. His films document both change and cultural persistence in a rich display of cultural hybridity. Bpunu's productions have been shown in Europe and the United States and are archived at the National Indian Museum in Rio de Janeiro. Currently he is working with the NGO Association for Protected Forests and is also training with the Video in the Villages (Videos nas Aldeias) project.

Directors Bpunu Kayapó and Pat-i Kayapó will participate in a post-screening roundtable discussion with Dr. Laura Zanotti (Purdue University) and Dr. Richard Pace (Middle Tennessee State University), moderated by curator Amalia Córdova of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

RECLAIMING OUR TIME

Thursday, February 22nd
7:00 pm, Q?rius Theater, NMNH

The Wolf Dance with Ted Mayac, Sr. (2017)

Inupiaq

Anchorage Museum, USA, 10 min.

This film recounts the history and revival of the Wolf Dance, which is part of Kivgik, the Messenger Feast. The dance reenacts a traditional story of swallows turning into wolves. These rituals ended in the early 20th century as people adopted Christian beliefs, but they are being revived as expressions of cultural identity and community.

[Anchorage Museum](#)

Through a combination of art and design, history, science and culture, the Anchorage Museum creates a rich, deep understanding of the human experience. Its mission is to connect people, expand perspectives, and encourage global dialogue about the North and its distinct environment.

Aroha Bridge: Radical Bro (2016)

te reo Māori

Jessica Hansell & Skybranch, Aotearoa (New Zealand), 5 min.

Focusing on urban Māori characters with humour and style, this web series follows Kowhai and Monty Hook as they navigate the complex but hilarious circumstances growing up in a bicultural, eclectic whānau (te reo Māori for 'extended family').

[Jessica Hansell](#)

Hansell (a.k.a. Coco Solid) is a multi-media artist who writes, raps, and makes music and art. In between freelance and community projects Hansell is working on her animated web series 'Aroha Bridge', a comic/poetry book about food and race, and a feature length project for Taika Waititi's company, Piki Films. She joins forces here with Wellington music/animation collective Skybranch (Simon Ward, Don Brooker, Luke 'Disasteradio' Rowell, Kenny Smith, Richard Pilkington).

RECLAIMING OUR TIME

Thursday, February 22nd
7:00 pm, Q?rius Theater, NMNH

68 Voces: Shaagua/The Wind (2016)

Zoque-Ayapaneco (Tabasco)

COMBO, Mexico, 1 min.

Through the captivating illustrations of Alejandro Canela, this film presents an animated retelling of the traditional Zoque-Ayapaneco story about the origin of the wind.

Gabriela Badillo

Gabriela graduated from the Ibero-American University in Mexico and co-founded COMBO studios. With more than 11 years of experience, her work has been recognized in Mexico and around the world. She is the founder and director of 68 Voces.

Out of State (2017)

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, English

Ciara Lacy, USA, 82 min.

Shipped thousands of miles away from the tropical islands of Hawai‘i to a private prison in the Arizona desert, two Native Hawai‘ians, David and Hale, discover their traditions from a fellow inmate serving a life sentence. It is from this unlikely setting that the two men finish their terms and return to Hawai‘i, hoping for a fresh start. Eager to prove to themselves and to their families that this experience has changed them forever, David and Hale struggle with the hurdles of life as formerly incarcerated men, asking the question: can you really go home again?

Ciara Lacy

Ciara is a Native Hawai‘ian filmmaker who crafts investigative films featuring strong characters to challenge the creative and political status quo. She is the inaugural Sundance Institute Merata Mita Fellow and has received fellowships from Firelight Media's Documentary Lab, the Sundance Institute and Time Warner Foundation, the Sundance Institute's NativeLab, the Princess Grace Foundation, and Independent Film Project. Ciara holds a BA from Yale University, and graduated from Hawai‘i's Kamehameha Schools.

TRUTH TO POWER

Friday, February 23rd

1:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Tarinakusun: Quechua in Seattle (2014)

Quechua, Spanish, and English

Chaska Rojas-Bottger, USA, 6 min.

Though Quechua is considered an endangered language, it continues to exist, not only in the Andean region but also in immigrant communities around the world, like Seattle. Away from the homeland, this language faces unique challenges as it competes with many more languages in the homes of Peruvians and Peruvian descendants. Nevertheless, its presence around the world may help renew interest in the language.

Chaska Rojas-Bottger

Chaska is a freelance web/UI designer and digital media specialist serving small businesses and non-profits in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, Cusco, Lima, and beyond. She created this short documentary for a Master's storytelling class at the University of Washington, and in collaboration with the Peruvian Consulate in Seattle. Chaska currently offers digital media support for language and culture revitalization initiatives.

Karihwanoron: Precious Things (2017)

Kanien'kéha/Mowhawk

Karonhiarokwas Roxann Whitebean, Canada, 15 min.

Yagorihwanirats, a Mohawk child from Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory in Quebec, attends Karihwanoron, a Mohawk immersion program that teaches Mohawk language, culture and philosophy. Yagorihwanirats is so excited to go to school that she never wants to miss a day – even if she is sick.

Karonhiarokwas Roxann Whitebean

Roxann is from the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawà:ke and a member of the Wolf Clan. She began her career as an assistant director on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network's acclaimed television series, Mohawk Girls. She made her directorial debut in 2014 with support from the Canada Council for the Arts to produce Legend of the Storm. In 2016, she opened a production company called Whitebean Media Arts, that is producing work for the Canadian Broadcast Corporation's digital platform.

TRUTH TO POWER

Friday, February 23rd
1:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Aviliaq: Entwined (2014)

Inuktitut

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Canada, 10 min.

This romantic drama set in a 1950s Arctic outpost camp in Nunavut tells the story of two Inuit women struggling to maintain a romantic relationship in a new world run by outsiders.

This short was produced as part of the Embargo Collective project, created and supported by the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival to bring together visionary Indigenous filmmakers to push one another's creativities through "creative obstructions." The Embargo Collective II brings six Aboriginal Canadian women together - three returning mentors and three emerging visionaries - including Alethea Arnaquq-Baril.

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril

Alethea is an Inuk producer and director from Iqaluit, Nunavut. She owns Unikkaat Studios Inc., an independent production company which produces films about Inuit life and culture in Inuktitut language, and is president of the Ajjiiit Nunavut Media Association. Alethea graduated from Sheridan College's program in illustration and completed animation training at the Banff Center in a program offered by the National Film Board of Canada.

Listen (2014)

Arabic, Danish

Hamy Ramezan & Rungano Nyoni,
Denmark/Finland, 13 min.

A woman in a burqa brings her young son to a Copenhagen police station to file a complaint against her abusive husband, but the translator assigned to her seems unwilling to convey the true meaning of her words.

Hamy Ramezan

Hamy is a Finnish-Iranian film director and scriptwriter who studied film in England. Having fled persecution in Iran, and survived Yugoslav refugee camps as a young boy, Ramezan and his family arrived in Finland in 1990. His work has gained considerable attention, winning the best Narrative Short at the Tribeca Film Festival for Listen (Kuuntele, 2014, co-directed with Rungano Nyoni). Listen was nominated for the European Film Awards (2015) and selected for the Directors' Fortnight during the Cannes Film Festival in 2014.

Rungano Nyoni

Rungano is a director and writer born in Zambia and raised in Wales. Though she graduated from Central Saint Martins School of the Arts with a Masters in Acting, she was always more interested in directing and started making short films. One of these, The List (2009) earned her a Bafta Cymru Award. She was accepted into Cannes' Cinéfondation residence in 2013, where she worked on her first feature film, I Am Not a Witch (2017).

TRUTH TO POWER

Friday, February 23rd

1:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Mother Tongue (2015)

Maya Ixil, Spanish

Pamela Yates, Guatemala/USA, 20 min.

This short film chronicles the first time the film *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* (2011), is translated and dubbed into Maya-Ixil. Told from the perspective of Matilde Terraza, an emerging Ixil leader and the translation project's coordinator, *Mother Tongue* illuminates the Ixil community's ongoing work to preserve collective memory and heal the wounds from the ravages of war.

Pamela Yates

Pamela is a co-founder and Creative Director of Skylight Pictures, a company dedicated to creating films and digital media tools that advance awareness of human rights and the quest for justice. Her film *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* (2011), a powerful documentary film about Guatemalan genocide, in which the majority of the 200,000 people killed were Maya, was used as forensic evidence in the Rios Montt genocide trial.

Tifa (2017)

Dutch

Jeftha Pattikawa, The Netherlands, 9 min.

From its origin, the Tifa drum has been used as a bridge to the spiritual world and to warn the inhabitants of the Moluccan Islands of Indonesia of the arrival of the *Marinjo*, a messenger. Every beat has a deeper meaning and belongs to a specific clan. Over time, the Tifa has gained a symbolic significance; the Moluccans say "as long as the Tifa sounds, our people lives." In *Tifa*, Jeftha Pattikawa delves into the symbolic and emotional value of the drum.

Jeftha Pattikawa

Jeftha was born in Vaassen, in the Netherlands. After the decolonization of Indonesia in 1950, his Moluccan grandparents were part of a forced migration to the Netherlands. He grew up in a Moluccan barrack camp and later studied Communication Management in Amsterdam. In 2011, he went to the Moluccas for the first time. He is currently working on a documentary that tells the story of a Moluccan video group.

TRUTH TO POWER

Friday, February 23rd
1:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Anyone Like Me (2017)

American Sign Language

Mimi d'Autremont, USA, 26 min.

Before 2009, Shelby Bean had never experienced Deaf culture or American Sign Language; he is the only hard of hearing member of his family. In 2009, his world changed when he was recruited to play football for Gallaudet University, home of the only collegiate Deaf team.

Mimi d'Autremont

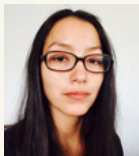
Mimi is a Washington, DC-based photo and video journalist who earned her Master's in New Media Photojournalism from the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design at the George Washington University in 2017. Her video work has been screened at film festivals including DC Shorts, Montclair Film Festival (NJ), Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival (CO) and the Emerge Film Festival (ME). Mimi currently works as a freelance photographer and videographer, and teaches those skills at Putney Student Travel.

WOMEN DIRECTORS ROUND TABLE

Friday, February 23rd

4:00 p.m., Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

This year's Mother Tongue Film Festival program presents a notable number of films directed by women (87%). While women directors have historically struggled to have their work funded and produced, increasingly films of critical cultural importance are being made by women. Join us for a discussion of the work, motivations and future plans of five of these remarkable women directors who have dedicated their talent to showcasing language revitalization efforts in diverse contexts around the world.



Chaska Rojas-Bottger

Tarinakusun: Quechua in Seattle

Chaska is a freelance web/UI designer and digital media specialist serving small businesses and non-profits in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, Cusco, Lima, and beyond. She created this short documentary for a Master's storytelling class at the University of Washington, and in collaboration with the Peruvian Consulate in Seattle. Chaska currently offers digital media support for language and culture revitalization initiatives.

Karen Lynn Weinberg

Niuuga, Yuuga/Keep Talking

"The Women Directors Roundtable was a rare and special opportunity to share stories and experiences with other female directors at a time when we all must struggle to have our voices heard. The Mother Tongue Film Festival experience was actually one of my favorite festival experiences; the staff is warm and knowledgeable, the films are varied and fascinating, the communication and cultivation of related events is excellent- we highly recommend this festival to filmmakers and audiences alike! I am grateful our film was included, and that our story of Alutiig language revitalization was part of the ongoing conversation cultivated by Mother Tongue. Quyanaa."



Karonhiarokwas Roxann Whitebean

Kariwahnoron: Precious Things

"I was honoured to participate in the Women Directors Roundtable program at Mother Tongue. My Nation is a matrilineal society and I feel like the majority of mainstream media has oppressed women's voices by subjecting us to an androcentric culture, so it was heart-warming to be given a platform to express ourselves and our world views."

WOMEN DIRECTORS ROUND TABLE

Friday, February 23rd

4:00 p.m., Rasmuson Theater, NMAI



Natalie Grube

Gwen 'bii Yern: It Will Be Yours

Nat uses the medium of film to explore her Norfolk heritage and contribute to language and culture revitalization efforts. She is working on longer documentary material which highlights five Norfolk Islanders sharing their connection to Norfolk's land and culture in the wake of the recent undemocratic takeover by the Australian government. And is also in the process of recording and producing an album of children's songs in the native Norfolk language.

Olivia Wyatt

Sailing a Sinking Sea

Olivia is an award-winning filmmaker and photographer based in Los Angeles. She is a member of the Sublime Frequencies film and music collective and has directed, produced, shot, and edited several feature-length documentaries.



Dr. Erica Wortham

Roundtable Moderator



Erica is a cultural anthropologist and videographer with a focus on Indigenous media. Her research interests include media and culture, Indigenous media, visual heritage, archiving, nationalism and ethnicity, specifically within Mexico. Currently her research focuses on the formation of ILADMA, the Indigenous Latin American Digital Media Archive, to preserve, archive, and access visual media created by Indigenous peoples of the Americas.

THIS, FOR YOU

Friday, February 23rd

7:00 p.m., Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

*68 Voces: Te binut'il ayin te k'aal
sok te ue/ The Origin of the Sun
and the Moon (2016)*

Tseltal

COMBO, Mexico, 1 min.

A long time ago, a young man named Xutil persuaded his mother to join him in an effort to reach the heavens, and then became the sun and the moon. Based on a Tseltal tale.

Gabriel Badillo

Gabriela graduated from the Ibero-American University in Mexico and co-founded COMBO studios. With more than 11 years of experience, her work has been recognized in Mexico and around the world. She is the founder and director of 68 Voces.

Gwen 'bii Yern/It Will Be Yours (2017)

Norf'k

Natalie Grube, Territory of Norfolk Island, 2 min.

The mother tongue of the Norfolk Island people is on the United Nations list of endangered languages. The Australian government has denied Norfolk Islanders their unique heritage, and the resulting outcry has largely been unheard. This short film highlights the importance of elders handing down knowledge and pride to new generations.

Natalie Grube

Nat uses the medium of film to explore her Norfolk heritage and contribute to language and culture revitalization efforts. She is working on longer documentary material which highlights five Norfolk Islanders sharing their connection to Norfolk's land and culture in the wake of the recent undemocratic takeover by the Australian government. And is also in the process of recording and producing an album of children's songs in the native Nurf'k language.

THIS, FOR YOU

Friday, February 23rd
7:00 p.m., Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Waru (2017)

te reo Māori

Chelsea Cohen, Ainsley Gardiner, Casey Kaa, Renae Maihi, Paula Jones, Katie Wolfe, Briar Grace-Smith, and Awanui Simich-Pene, Aotearoa (New Zealand), 86 min.

For this film, eight Māori women directors each contributed a ten-minute vignette, presented as a continuous shot in real time that unfolds around the tangi (funeral) of Waru, a small boy who died at the hands of his caregiver. Waru is the powerful and challenging story of how the boy's death impacts the community, and represents the first film directed by Māori women in nearly 30 years.

Briar Grace Smith

Briar (Ngāpuhi) is an award-winning writer, inaugural Arts Foundation Laureate, and Sundance Alum. She previously worked as a Development Executive for the New Zealand Film Commission. For Waru, she wrote and directed the vignette, Charm.

Paula Whetu-Jones

Paula (Whakatōhea, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Ngāti Porou) has been working as a television documentary director and writer for over 20 years. For Waru, she wrote and directed the vignette, Mere.

Awanui Simich-Pene

Awanui (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Apakura, Croatian, Belgian) has had a successful career as a television director and script supervisor. For Waru, she directed the vignette, Titty & Bash.

Katie Wolfe

Katie (Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga) has had a diverse career in acting, directing, producing, writing, and development for both stage and screen after training at Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School. Katie wrote and directed the vignette, Em, for Waru.

Casey Kaa

Casey (Taitokerau, Tainui) has spent the past decade producing children's television and web content in te reo Māori and English. For Waru, she wrote and directed the vignette, Anahera.

Renae Maihi

Renae (Ngāti Tama, Ngāpuhi) is an award-winning and critically acclaimed writer and director in theater and film. For Waru, Renae wrote and directed the vignette, Ranui.

Ainsley Gardiner

Ainsley (Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Pikiāo, Whakatōhea) has had a successful career as a producer, mostly notably of Taika Waititi's hit film BOY (2009). Now experimenting more with directing, Ainsley wrote and directed the vignette, Mihi, in Waru.

Chelsea Cohen

Chelsea (Ngāti Ranginui) wrote and directed the vignette, Kiritapu, for Waru. Her future projects include Taika Waititi's WWII comedy drama Jojo Rabbit, as well as feature documentaries Spray of Plenty and Merata: How Mum Decolonised the Screen.

SPEAKING THE LAND

Saturday, February 24th

3:00 pm, Meyer Auditorium, FGA

Sicigorousawa un Cironnop/The Fox of Shichigorosawa (2014)

Ainu

Tune Sugihara, Japan, 14 min.

A fox contemplates leaving her ancestral homeland when human encroachment and pollution prove too much. Higashiyama, the home of the foxes, has become an illegal dumping ground, resulting in the decrease of small animals, which the mother fox relied on as prey to feed her children. Through traditional Ainu storytelling, this story illustrates the tale of the fox entirely in the Ainu language.

Tune Sugihara

Tune, born in Yokohama, is a freelance computer graphics animator, script writer, and Kabuki audio commentator. A film and animation director from Kanagawa, she studied design in high school and Media Art at the Yokohama College of Art and Design. She works with a wide variety of genres, and has been a part of productions of shows including "Folktales from Japan" and "AbemaTV."

Sailing a Sinking Sea (2015)

Moken, Thai, Southern Thai, Burmese

Olivia Wyatt, Burma/Thailand, 65 min.

The Moken, one of the smallest ethnic minority groups in Asia, are a seafaring community, traditionally spending eight months out of the year in thatch-roofed wooden boats. Wholly reliant upon the sea, their worldview and daily lives revolve around water.

Olivia Wyatt

Olivia Wyatt is an award-winning filmmaker and photographer based in Los Angeles. She is a member of the Sublime Frequencies film and music collective and has directed, produced, shot, and edited several feature-length documentaries.

IN THE PERIPHERY

Saturday, February 24th
7:00 pm, Meyer Auditorium, FGA

68 Voces: Wire natzu/The Witch (2016) *Zerzura (2017)*

Tlahuica

COMBO, Mexico, 1 min.

In this retelling of a traditional Tlahuica story about the origin of evil, Salvador Jaramillo's illustrations give life to a man who discovers something unexpected about his wife.

Ana Gabriel Badillo Sánchez

Gabriela graduated from the Ibero-American University in Mexico and co-founded COMBO studios. With more than 11 years of experience, her work has been recognized in Mexico and around the world. She is the founder and director of 68 Voces.

Tamesheq, Tuareg

Christopher Kirkley, Niger, 84 min.

A young man from a small village in Niger leaves home in search of an enchanted oasis. His journey leads him into a surreal vision of the Sahara, crossing paths with djinn, bandits, gold seekers, and migrants. A modern folktale transposed onto an acid western, the film is a collaborative fiction exploring themes of migration and exoticism, written and developed with a Tuareg cast, and shot in and around Agadez, Niger.

Christopher Kirkley

Chris is an archivist, artist, curator, and occasional DJ who explores culture through collaborative media productions. Since 2009, he runs the project Sahel Sounds, a music project and record label that has released over 45 albums. His work examines contemporary popular musics in an evolving technological landscape in the Sahara and Sahel regions of West Africa. Christopher's films have been featured at festivals around the world, and his work has appeared in The New York Times, NPR, the Village Voice, The Wire Magazine, and VICE. He is based in Portland, Oregon.

MOTHER TONGUE FILM FESTIVAL SHORTS:

Saturday, March 17th
12:30 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Identidad/Identity (2017)

No dialogue

Iván Jaripio, Panama, 4 min.

This experimental short reflects on the dangers facing Indigenous communities- the erasure of their traditions, the razing of their territory and the wiping away of their culture.

Iván Jaripio

Iván lives in the Piriati Embera territory of Panama. He is an award-winning filmmaker whose short films explore Embera identity and tell the stories of his community in the south of Panama. He is part of the Embera youth cultural collective *Dji Ta Wagadi*, who work to reclaim their culture through filmmaking, storytelling, painting, language, music and dance.

We Prayed in Water (2012)

Cherokee

Joseph Erb, USA, 5 min.

Cherokee Nation tribal members worry about fracking pollution disrupting the ceremonial practice of "going to water."

Joseph Erb

Joseph is a computer animator, film producer, educator, language technologist, and artist enrolled in the Cherokee Nation. He earned his MFA from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002. Erb's CGI short, *The Beginning They Told*, was the first animated film in the Cherokee language. He has spent many years working on projects that will expand the use of Cherokee language in technology and the arts, including teaching Muscogee Creek and Cherokee students how to animate traditional stories in their own languages. He is an Assistant Professor of Digital Storytelling and Animation at the University of Missouri.

Films presented at the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital

Saturday, March 17th
12:30 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Shásh Jaa' (Bears Ears) (2016)

Navajo (Diné), English

Angelo Baca, USA, 23 min.

Shásh Jaa' (Bears Ears) is 1.9 million acres of Utah wilderness considered sacred lands to many indigenous communities of the four-corners area, including the Navajo, Ute, Ute Mountain, Hopi, and Zuni peoples. The governments of these tribal nations come together to form the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, in hopes of having the area designated a National Monument to be co-managed with the partnership tribes.

Angelo Baca

Angelo (Navajo/Hopi), is a scholar, filmmaker and doctoral student in Anthropology at New York University. He is the Cultural Resources Coordinator at Utah Diné Bikéyah, and was recently distinguished by the National Parks Conservation Association as one of "Ten Under Forty" leaders protecting national parks and public lands. His documentary Shásh Jaa' has won numerous awards and is being used for advocacy and educational purposes.

Then, Now, and Forever: Zuni in the Grand Canyon (2017)

Zuni, English

Daniel A. Byers, USA, 27 min.

Created under the direction of the Zuni Elders, this short documentary follows several elders and Medicine Men on an ancient pilgrimage through the Grand Canyon to visit their place of origin and advocate for the protection of the land.

Daniel Byers

Daniel grew up in Africa and Nepal before launching his documentary film studio, Skyship Films. With a passion for adventure, Indigenous rights and the environment, he has traveled extensively and his documentary films have been featured at numerous international film festivals including the Environmental Film Festival, Banff Mountain Film Festival and International Wildlife Film Festival. Daniel is currently completing an MFA in Directing at Columbia University.

Q&A to follow screenings, with directors Angelo Baca (Navajo/Hopi), Daniel Byers and special guest Octavius Seowtewa (Zuni).

Films presented at the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital

Saturday, March 24th

2:00 pm, Rasmuson Theater, NMAI

Los Ojos Del Camino/The Eyes of the Journey (2016)

Quechua

Rodrigo Otero Heraud, Peru, 88 min.

The Eyes of the Journey is a poetic film that expresses Andean notions around Mother Earth, and the search for a deeper understanding of nature as a living being, as an eternal companion for humankind. The film narrates the journey of the paq'o (healer) Hipólito Peralta Ccama through different parts of the Peruvian sierra, attending to the call of the people and nature. Otero uses this journey to compose a complex metaphor of the human condition from the landscapes of the Andean world and its powerful imaginary, in a documentary that stretches the limits of the genre to what might be considered an offering or petition to life.

Rodrigo Otero Heraud

Rodrigo studied at the Lima Film School and is a participatory video facilitator. He has produced works in a variety of genres and lengths, taking a reflective, poetic approach in his quest for answers to existential and spiritual questions.

LANGUAGES FEATURED:

Ainu	Norf'k
American Sign Language	'Ōlelo Hawai'i
Arabic	Quechua
Burmese	Southern Thai
Danish	Spanish
Dutch	Tamasheq
English	te reo Māori
Inuktitut	Thai
Inupiaq	Tlahuica
Kanien'kéha/Mowhawk	Tseltal
Kayapó (Mebêngôkre)	Tuareg
Kodiak Alutiiq	Zapotec
Maya Ixil	Zoque-Ayapaneco
Moken	Zuni
Navajo (Diné)	

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED:

Aotearoa (New Zealand)	Myanmar
Brazil	Niger
Canada	Panama
Denmark	Peru
Finland	Territory of Norfolk Island
Guatemala	Thailand
Japan	The Netherlands
Mexico	The United States of America



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