

FILMS D'AUTEUR / LANGUES ANCESTRALES

Musée du Quai Branly–Jacques Chirac, Paris

November 28–December 1, 2019

FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS / LONG MÉTRAGE

Vai

Thursday, November 28, 7:30 pm

Directors: Nicole Whippy, 'Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Matasila Freshwater, Amberley Jo

Aumua, Mīria George, Marina Alofagia McCartney, Dianna Fuemana, Becs Arahanga

Regions: Fiji, Tonga, Kuki Airani, Samoa, Niue, Aotearoa, Solomon Islands

Languages: Samoan, Maori, Solomon Islands Pidgin, English (French subtitles)

Year: 2019

Runtime: 90 minutes

This bold new portmanteau film from the producers of *Waru* (2017) celebrates the voices of Pasifika “sisters” and their connection to culture. Retaking control over their own stories through the lens of nine *wahine* directors, *Vai* explores the complex reality of what’s at stake for Pasifika women today.

Filmed in Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kuki, Samoa, Niue, and Aotearoa, this epic film is the journey of one woman, *Vai*, played by eight different Indigenous actresses, each representing the perspective of the different Pacific Island cultures. In each of these nations, *vai* means water.

The film leaves us with this apt message: “*the sea is what binds us as we sweat and cry salt water.*”

Wiñaypacha

Friday, November 29, 7 pm

Director: Oscar Catacora (Aymara)

Region: Peru

Language: Aymara (French subtitles)

Year: 2018

Runtime: 106 minutes

This debut film by director Óscar Catacora subtly retraces the emotional story of his grandparents who taught him to speak Aymara when he was seven years old and his parents sent him to live with them in the highlands of Acora.

Wiñaypacha, the first Peruvian feature film in the Aymara language, is a stylistic masterpiece infused with the nostalgic breath of a Zen-like couple who, despite their solitude, wake up every morning embraced by the illusion of hope.

Tiempo de Lluvia (In Times of Rain)

Saturday, November 30, 2:30 pm

Director: Itandehui Jansen (Mixtec-Dutch)

Region: Mexico

Language: Mixtec, Spanish (French subtitles)

Year: 2018

Runtime: 90 minutes

A traditional Mixtec healer grapples with the imminent departure of her grandson to Mexico City, in a story of cultural continuity and loss.

Tiempo de Lluvia (In Times of Rain) tells the story of a family caught between the rural and the urban. Adele migrates from her rural village to Mexico City to find work, leaving her infant son José with her mother, Soledad. After years apart, Soledad receives word that Adele is getting married and wants José to join her in the city. Soledad is fearful of José leaving his way of life. *In Times of Rain* is an intimate family drama rooted in love of culture, land, and family and the heartbreak of uncertainty in the face of economic migration.

Samson and Delilah

Saturday, November 30, 5:45 pm

Director: Warwick Thornton (Arrernte)

Region: Australia

Languages: Walpiri, English, Rdaka–rdaka (Walpiri sign language) (French subtitles)

Year: 2009

Runtime: 97 minutes

Warwick Thornton's *Caméra d'or*-winning first feature makes visible the unspoken and unspeakable tensions that capture the reality of a small Indigenous community near Mparntwe.

Samson, an Aboriginal boy who sniffs petrol, and Delilah, an Aboriginal girl who doesn't, inhabit a reality otherwise unseen to the dominant contemporary Australian population. Fusing a disjointed rock soundtrack with nihilistic, auto-destructive teen characters, this film gets into the guts of the cultural wounds suffered by Indigenous Australians at the hands of successive Australian government's since colonization.

Offering a powerful cinematic vision of pointlessness, Thornton nevertheless manages to leave the audience with a taste of hope despite the odds.

Sumé Mumisitsinerup Nipaa (The Sound of a Revolution)

Saturday, November 30, 7:45 pm

Director: Inuk Silis Hoegh (Kalaaleq)

Region: Greenland

Language: Kalaallisut (French subtitles)

Year: 2014

Runtime: 74 minutes

An inspirational story of post-colonial protest songs from the frozen north.

It's a revolution you've probably never heard of. Not a shot was fired, not a single drop of blood spilled. But in the span of a few years in the 1970s, the hearts and minds of the entire Greenlandic people were turned upside down.

From 1973 to 1976, the Greenlandic rock band Sumé released three albums. The cult group's poetically barbed protest songs against Danish colonialism were the first to be recorded in the Greenlandic language.

Today, in the midst of a burgeoning film industry, Greenland's first feature documentary film chronicles the revival of Greenlandic culture and identity that Sumé set in motion after 250 years of Danish colonization. A story, which is increasingly relevant today, as Donald Trump shamelessly fantasizes about buying the island of 56,000 inhabitants.

Ofelas (The Pathfinder)

Sunday, December 1, 1:15 pm

Director: Nils Gaup (Sami)

Region: Norway

Language: Sami (French subtitles)

Year: 1987

Runtime: 90 minutes

There have been a number of game-changing Indigenous language films over the last 50 years, and Nils Gaup's *The Pathfinder* (1987) is one of them.

Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars and shot entirely in the Sami language, Gaup's debut action feature was the first Sami feature film to establish a post-colonial Sami identity.

Inspired by Sami storytelling, the film unfolds on the Finnmarksvidda plateau as we follow Aigin, a young hunter who sees his family massacred by Chudes. Aigin swears revenge, but to save other Sami who have fled to the coast, he must become a pathfinder for the Chudes on a dangerous path through a rugged ice landscape.

Shot against a frozen landscape of breathtaking beauty.

Touki Bouki

Sunday, December 1, 4 pm

Director: Djibril Diop Mambéty

Region: Senegal

Languages: Wolof, French (French subtitles)

Year: 1973

Runtime: 89 minutes

Filled with a 1970s post-independence anarchism, self-taught Djibril Diop Mambéty's Wolof fantasy-drama introduces us to outlaw couple young Mory and Anta. Together they hatch wildly adventurous and indulgent schemes to facilitate their escape from Dakar to glamorous Paris. This daringly experimental film is widely regarded as a philosophical and aesthetic wellspring for global African visual culture, from screen to stage and to Beyoncé and back.

In 2008, the original film was restored by The World Cinema Foundation at Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata in association with the family of Djibril Diop Mambéty.

SGaaway K'unna (Edge of the Knife)

Sunday, December 1, 6:30 pm

Directors: Gwaai Edenshaw (Haida), Helen Haigh-Brown (Tsilhqot'in)

Region: Canada

Language: Haida, two dialects (French subtitles)

Year: 2018

Runtime: 105 minutes

This landmark new feature draws its name from a Haida saying: "the world is as sharp as a knife," reminding us that as we walk along, we have to be careful not to fall.

Set in the 1800s against the backdrop of the storm-ravaged coast of Haida Gwaii, this deeply haunting film tells an iconic Haida story, sustained over the years through song and performance.

When tragedy strikes young Adiits'ii, he is forced into the forest where he becomes Gaagiixiid/Gaagiid, a possessed Wildman. He fights to survive while his humanity gives way to a more bestial state.

Both a timeless story and a contemporary allegory for the Haida Nation, the film was envisioned as a way to support the critically endangered Haida language, spoken fluently by fewer than twenty people.

SHORT FILMS / COURT MÉTRAGES

The Greedy Emu

Thursday, November 28, 7:30 pm

Director: Terry Guymala

Region: Australia

Language: Kunuwinjku (French subtitles)

Year: 2017

Runtime: 14 minutes

Sharing is a crucial aspect of Western Arnhem land culture, and when people forget to share there are always consequences.

Produced for the *Songlines On Screen* series, this directorial debut for filmmaker-musician Terrah Guymalah portrays the Songline which runs from Croker Island to the Katherine region and takes in central Western Arnhem land.

Refuge

Thursday, November 28, 7:30 pm

Director: Christian Thompson Ao (Bidjara)

Region: Australia

Language: Bidjara (French subtitles)

Year: 2015

Runtime: 4 minutes

In this atmospheric short film, Christian Thompson, in collaboration with James Young (formerly of Nico), explores the innate lyricism of the artist's paternal language, the now endangered Bidjara language, in an attempt to redistribute his language into the public realm.

Yulubidi (Until the End)

Friday, November 29, 7 pm

Director: Curtis Taylo | Co-Director: Nathan Mewett

Region: Australia

Language: Martu wangka (French subtitles)

Year: 2018

Runtime: 12 minutes

As Martu is traditionally an oral language, director Curtis Taylor carried the whole script in his head while shooting this award-winning short drama about a young man tasked with protecting his younger disabled brother from life in a harsh remote community.

My Name Is Mudju

Saturday, November 30, 2:30 pm

Director: Chantelle Murray (Bardi)

Region: Australia

Languages: Yugarabul, English (French subtitles)

Year: 2018

Runtime: 14 minutes

Violent assimilationist policy separates Mudju and her young daughter Munna. Will they ever see each other again? Director Chantelle Murray shares this moving true story of her grandmother and her unflinching determination to be reunited with her daughter.

Aviliaq (Entwined)

Saturday, November 30, 7:45 pm

Director: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril

Region: Canada

Language: Inuktitut (French subtitles)

Year: 2014

Runtime: 10 minutes

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.

Blackbird

Sunday, December 1, 1:15 pm

Director: Amie Batalibasi

Region: Solomon Islands

Languages: Solomon Islands Pidgin, English (French subtitles)

Year: 2015

Runtime: 13 minutes

"Blackbird" tells the story of Solomon Islander siblings Rosa and Kiko who were kidnapped from their island home to work on a sugar cane plantation in Queensland, Australia in the late 1800s. Rosa struggles to keep an eye on her young spirited brother who comes into conflict with their overseer. As Kiko journeys into adulthood, amid oppression and severe loss of culture and identity, he must find his will to survive.

Imfura

Sunday, December 1, 4 pm

Director: Samuel Ishimwe

Region: Rwanda

Language: Kinyarwanda (French subtitles)

Year: 2017

Runtime: 36 minutes

In Kinyarwanda, *imfura* means “first-born.” Gisa travels to the village native to his mother who disappeared during the Rwandan genocide. He finds himself at the center of a family conflict over the fate of the house his mother built. Caught between the contradictions of a changing society, Gisa, who is almost the same age as the new Rwanda, seeks to rediscover his share of the collective memory of a past that belongs to him but is also so far away.

Shimásáni

Sunday, December 1, 6:30 pm

Director: Blackhorse Lowe (Navajo)

Region: United States

Language: Navajo (French subtitles)

Year: 2009

Runtime: 15 minutes

Shot in a remote location in New Mexico, this immersive black-and-white film set in the late 1920s portrays life on a serene Navajo reservation, where Mary Jane spends her time daydreaming and tending to her family’s flock of sheep. When her older sister returns from boarding school with a world geography book, she reveals the tempting new worlds that lie “just over the mountain.”