



June 18, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

TIFF COMMEMORATES NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY WITH VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

TORONTO — On June 21, TIFF will screen **11** short films made by Indigenous youth, in partnership with Wapikoni Mobile, an initiative dedicated to audiovisual creation in Indigenous communities. These works celebrate the complexity, resilience, joy, and power of Indigenous life today. Audiences are invited to join a live Facebook watch party at 3pm EDT and enjoy these titles together at home.

“For the past two years, TIFF has partnered with Wapikoni to showcase short films by Indigenous youth at TIFF Bell Lightbox,” said Cameron Bailey, TIFF Artistic Director and Co-Head. “We’re inviting viewers to unite online this year to experience Indigenous-made films that explore the complexity and joy of their communities.”

The following short films will be screened:

Batailles Karen Pinette Fontaine

The Guest Nick Rodgers

Healing Journey One Button at a Time Joleen Mitton

Katatjatuuk Kangirsumi (*Throat Singing in Kangirsuk | Chants de gorge à Kangirsuk*) Eva Kaukai, Manon Chamberland | Canada’s Top Ten 2019 and TIFF Next Wave 2019 selection

Kinauvunga (*Qui suis-je? / Qui je suis. | Who Am I? / Who I Am.*) Charlie Gordon

Mitshishuss (*Petit aigle | Little Eagle*) Christopher Grégoire-Gabriel

Nuhe nenë boghílnih (*Protégeons nos terres | Protecting our Homeland*) Ashton Janvier

Rose Exposed (*Rose s’expose*) Rose Stiffarm

Traditional Healing Raymond Caplin

Walk with my Spirits (*Mes esprits et moi*) Tyler Jacobs

Zuya (*Tracer son chemin | The Journey*) Ariel Waskewitch

Following the screening, at 5pm EDT, participants are invited to continue the conversation with a Member Meet-up on Zoom in the Virtual Bell Blue Room for an intimate discussion on the films. Those interested can RSVP through [TIFF Loyalty](#) by June 19.

Social Media:

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TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world through film.



About TIFF

TIFF is a not-for-profit cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, major exhibitions, and learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit tiff.net.

About Wapikoni

At the start of the new millennium, director Manon Barbeau wrote a script, with fifteen Atikamekw youth from Wemotaci, for a feature-length film entitled, *La fin du mépris*. Among these youth was a woman named Wapikoni Awashish, a positive role model and group leader within her community. In May 2002, when she was only 20 years old and undertaking numerous projects, Wapikoni died in a car accident when her car collided into a truck loaded with wood.

Already profoundly touched by the number of youth suicides within the community, Manon Barbeau is devastated by the accidental death of her closest collaborator. Consequently, Manon is inspired to create a mobile studio as a place of assembly, intervention, and audiovisual and musical creation for First Nations youth; she names it Wapikoni Mobile, in honour of Wapikoni Awashish.

Co-founded in 2003 by Manon Barbeau, the Council of the Atikamekw Nation Youth Council and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, with the support of the Assembly of First Nations and the collaboration of the National Film Board of Canada, the launch of Wapikoni Mobile took place in 2004 during the Montreal First Peoples Festival.

Since then, Wapikoni Mobile travels to Aboriginal communities providing workshops for First Nations youth that allow them to master digital tools by directing short films and musical works. During each stopover, "mentor filmmakers" welcome and train thirty young participants during all stages of implementation. For more information visit, wapikoni.ca.

TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto.

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For more information, please contact TIFF's Communications Department at 416.934.3200, or email proffice@tiff.net.

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