

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2022

Please direct all inquiries to: Karen Larsen/Joel Shepard at Larsen Associates via phone: 415-957-1205,

FILMS BY AND ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, PANELS ON SOCIAL-CHANGE DOCUMENTARIES, AND AMERICAN INDIAN TRADITIONAL FOODS HIGHLIGHT THE 47th ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL, NOV. 4-12, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO – With just under one month before the exciting, in-person return of the 47th annual American Indian Film Festival, Nov. 4-12 in San Francisco, the American Indian Film Institute proudly releases its film schedule, and announces its Official Festival Artist, and special events.

Chelsea Smith, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is the Official Festival Artist of AIFF 47. Her art, titled "Red Dreaming On The Red Road" is an all-digital image, with definitively feminine, brilliant colors, and a message that's utterly uplifting. "Hope," Smith says of the intention and emotion behind "Red Dreaming On The Red Road. "Witnessing and experiencing the heaviness that's been going on in our world these past few years, I created this piece expressing light, love and softness to carry in your heart as you walk The Red Road the very best you can."

An artist "my whole life," Smith says she began creating art at age 4, and she didn't have to look far for inspiration. "I was always drawing and painting my whole life, but I started taking my art seriously in my high school years," recalls Smith, now 27. "I'm self-taught, and I've developed my art skills over many years. I used to watch my father paint when I was younger. I was really amazed, and it definitely lit a spark for me."

The soft, soothing hues of "Red Dreaming On The Red Road" are balanced by Smith's inclusion of traditional Ojibwe landscapes, accouterments and symbols. "I love to incorporate my Ojibwe culture in my art. The floral motifs on her dress, and the wildflowers are bits of reflection of my culture, and myself."

The American Indian Film Festival is proud to feature Chelsea Smith's beautiful artwork on film programs, posters and T-shirts, available at screening venues throughout the film festival in San Francisco. The Minneapolis-based Ojibwe artist is proud to be selected as the Official Festival Artist of AIFF 47.

"It's an honor, truly. I'm thrilled to be invited, sincerely grateful for the opportunity and so happy to be a part of this creative space. Chi' Miigwetch (Thank You.)"

Program 1 of AIFF 47's Opening Night, Presented by LucasFilm x ILM, begins at 6 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 4 at the Letterman Digital Arts Center, 1 Letterman Drive, in San Francisco's Presidio district, with the screening of short film, "Unlord the Land" directed by Yvan Iturriaga and written by Tommy Orange (There There) is a film about a young native artist who makes a deal with his brother to flip their family's apartment building in rapidly gentrifying Oakland; followed by Shaandiin Tome and Rayka Zehtabshi-directed "Long Line of Ladies," a documentary short film about a Northern California Karuk girl preparing for her *Ihuk* coming-of-age ceremony. Next up is "Indianland," a documentary feature, directed by Liz Irons, focusing on the 50-year retrospective of the 19-months-long takeover of Alcatraz Island by the Indians Of All Tribes. **The filmmakers will be on-hand for a brief Q&A following the screenings** of these two documentaries. More information, films, trailers and ticket purchases is available at: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6331beeb71c7f4003725316f>

Program 2, AIFF 47's Shorts Program, Presented by the American Indian Cultural District & Magic Theatre, starts Sat., Nov. 5 from 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., at the Koret Auditorium inside the San Francisco Public Library, with a collection of seven short films: "Firecracker Bullets;" "The Trails Before Us;" "Temosen;" "Bill Reid Remembers;" "Grassdancer;" "Founders" and "13 Eggs." Featuring films from Standing Rock to the Navajo Nation, to tales from Pacific Northwest Nations, these well-researched stories of the contemporary Indian Experience are insightful, powerful and enlightening. Details and tickets: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6331c9a83f9ce40079b3888b>.

Program 3 moves to the Southside Theatre, 2 Marina Blvd. in San Francisco, beginning at 4:00 p.m., with a spotlight on "Government Impact" films: "Restoring Néske'emāne" (Loren Kasey Waters, Dir.), an examination of Oklahoma's Concho Indian School, and the toxic fallout to the environment that continues today. A gripping account of unexplained deaths, disappearances, abuse and atrocities at the Rapid City (South Dakota) Indian Boarding School is exposed in "Remember the Children;" directed by Arlo Iron Cloud. Finally, director Abraham Côté details the historical grief of having traditional tribal names, in Native languages, stripped away by the Bureau of Indian Affairs atrocious "boarding school" institutions – **and the empowering act of reclaiming them, in his bittersweet film**, "My Indian Name."

FMI: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63327d446cbad8006003ff38>

The Sat., Nov. 5 program, **Program 4**, continues with evening screenings of AIFF's "Thriller Block," from 5:30-9:15 p.m. at the Southside Theater. First up is "Shadow of the Rougarou" (Jordan Waunch, Dir.), followed by "Superstition" (Nicole Eilers, Dir.), "Mirror Man" (Ginew Benton, Dir.), "The Red Orchid" (Montana Cypress, Dir.), and "L'Inhuman" (Jason Brennan, Dir.). Link to Program 4 films, tickets: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/633204a3da9cd10059d9fbcc>

Program 5, “For the Good,” returns to the Koret Theater on Sun., Nov. 6 at 1:00-2:30 p.m., with the screenings of “Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair,” directed by legendary Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, followed by “Interwoven” (Ariel St. Louis-Lamoureux, Dir.), and “Imalirijit,” directed by Vincent L’Hérault and Tim Anaviapik Soucie.

Program 5 link: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63354cce1f7b3a003e9b792c>

Stay tuned inside the Koret Auditorium for AIFF 47’s **Program 6** “Doc Feature” films, 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Koret Auditorium, with “She Still Walks Among Us.” Directed by (AIFI Tribal Touring Program Alumni) Marissa Hiosik Johnson and Cordell Timothy Parker, the hour-long doc feature examines the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s revitalization and reclamation of its sacred Kia-ah basket.

AIFF 47 programming continues with the following:

Program 7, “Animated Shorts,” Mon., Nov. 7, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, featuring eight films from American Indian and Canada’s First Nations filmmakers: “Məca” (Ritchie Norman Hemphill and Ryan Edward Haché, Dirs.); “I Am the Warrior” (Tara Audibert, Dir.); “Arctic Song” (Germaine Arnattaajuq, Louise Flaherty and Neil Christopher, Dirs.); “Meneath (The Hidden Island of Ethics),” written and directed by Terril Calder; “Woven Hoops” (Sage Andrew Romero, Dir.); “Simulation: Voladores” (Dominick Andrew Porras, Dir.); “Things You Know But Cannot Explain” (Michelle Hernandez and Chantal Jung, Dirs.); “When the Earth Began: The Way of The Skydwellers” (Skawennati and Jason Edward Lewis, Dirs.); “Wâhkôhtowin/All My Relations” (Barry Bilinsky, Dir.); “Titration: Radioactive Waste, Princeton, and the Navajo Nation” (Michael Q. Ceballos, Dir.); “Premonition: On the Eve of Signing Treaty 6” (Barry Bilinsky, Dir.); and “Wabanavia,” directed by Jason Keith Brown. Program 7: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/633208672fd65500a0d25500>

Program 8, “A Winter Love” rounds out the afternoon from 2:00-4:05 p.m. with “A Winter Love” a Feature film, directed by Siku Allooloo; followed by the intertribal love story of the feature film, “A Winter Love” (Rhiana Yazzie, Dir.). Program 8: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63321118442702008ac4b67c>

AIFF 47’s **Program 9**, “Music,” films and videos begins Tues., Nov. 8, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at the Koret Auditorium, with screenings of “HISTORY” (James G. Pakootas, Dir.); “R. Carlos Nakai: The Sound of Prayer Within” (Jeremy Frindel, Dir.); “Magic Hits, Featuring Adrian Sutherland (Justin Stephenson, Dir.); “No More Pipeline Blues (On This Land Where We Belong” (Keri Pickett , Dir.); “Right Here Featuring Adrian Sutherland” (Justin

Stephenson, Dir.); and “Elisapie: Facing the Music,” directed by Sophie Proulx-Lachance.
Program 9: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6332125f75dd8213c7525c85>

Program 10, “Sci-Fi Shorts,” Presented by Consulate General of Canada San Francisco/Silicon Valley, continues its afternoon screenings on Tues., Nov. 8, featuring “N’xaxaitkw,” (Asia Youngman, Dir.); followed by “MisTik” (Jules Arita Koostachin, Dir.); “The Faraway Place” (Kenny Welsh, Dir.); and “The Golden Age” (Bawaadin Collective, Dir.). Details, tickets:

<https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63322bfc9ff82600e56c6a63>

Program 11, “Powerlands” wraps AIFF’s Nov. 8 programming from 3:30-5:05 p.m. at the Koret Auditorium, with screenings of “Kanatenhs: When the Pine Needles Fall” (Ellen Gabriel, Dir.); and director Ivey-Camille Manybeads Tso’s “Powerlands.”

Program 11: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63322edd167f6d004b279594>

“The Doctrine of Recovery” is AIFF’s **Program 12**, on Wed., Nov. 9, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m., at the Koret Auditorium, beginning with the government boarding school documentary short film “Stolen Spirits” (Anne Worthington, Dir.), followed by the Documentary Feature, “The Doctrine of Recovery,” written and directed by Brišind.

Program 12: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63326e29ad096400a6a76cb8>

The Koret Auditorium is also the venue for Wednesday afternoon’s **Program 13**, “Narrative Shorts,” screening a total of 10 films from 1:15-3:40 p.m.: “Burros” (Jefferson Stein, Dir.); “Serving Shaid” (April Johnson, Dir.); “Seeds” (Morningstar Angeline, Ajuawak Kapashesit, Dirs.); “Dead Bird Hearts” (Thomas Ryan Redcorn, Dir.); “The Daily Life of Mistress Red” (Peshawn Rae Bread, Dir.); “Landback, Waterback” (Nanobah Becker, Dir.); “Conviction” (Bruce Miller, Dir.); “Good Grief” (Stephanie Mathias, Dir.); “Call Me AWOL” (Geordie Trifa, Dir.); and “Two Bears,” written and directed by Anthony Florez.

Program 13: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/633238a1e7fe2900455d29b2>

AIFF 47’s **Program 14**, “Broken Angel,” runs from 4:10-5:50 p.m. at the Koret Auditorium, featuring screenings of “We Are Still Here” (Otgadahe Whitman-Fox, Dir.); and Jules Arita Koostachin’s compelling feature film, “Broken Angel.”

Program 14: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/63322fbcd3c16900f63bfa2e>

Thurs., Nov. 10's "Youth Block" **Program 15** runs 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Koret Auditorium, with screenings of "Rooted in Resilience" [American Indian Film Institute's Tribal Touring Program], followed by "Heartbeat of a Nation" (Eric Janvier, Dir.); along with "Nightcap" (Talia Kallappa, Dir.); and "Tsiiyéél (Hair Bun)" (Shanique Yazzie, Hailee Bekis and Austin Jimmy, Dirs.).

Program 15: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/633276c7f32a50005af1dd97>

AIFF 47's **Program 16**, "Mother Earth" continues on Thurs., Nov. 10, 12:45-4:10 p.m., at the Koret Auditorium with: "Good Fire" (Erica Tom, Dir.); "Killing the Klamath" (Jeff Ostenson and Charles Atkinson, Dirs.); "Okpik: Little Village in the Arctic" (Tiffany Ayalik and Kylik Kisoun Taylor, Dirs.); "Without Water" (Jonathan Hyla, Dir.); "Native to Right Here: The Plants, Animals and People of Tuushtak" (Joan N. Hamilton, Dir.); "Bring the Salmon Home" (Shane Anderson, Dir.); "Voices of the Grand Canyon" (Deidre Peaches, Dir.); "Herd" (David Borish, Dir.); "Pomo Land Back: A Prayer from the Forest" (Evan-Marie Petit, Dir.); "Rename Sq**w Valley" (Kyle Lowe, Dir.); and the documentary short film, "Saging the World" (Rose Ramirez, Deborah Small and David Bryant, Dirs.).

Program 16: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/633278b0c44c75029f17cacc>

Presented by the American Indian Cultural District & Magic Theatre, Thursday evening's **Program 17**, "The Redeemer," moves to the Southside Theater, 2 Marina Blvd. in San Francisco, for screenings of "Dues" (Michael R.L. Begay, Dir.), followed by "Ts'oostsitsi (Years Ago)" (Adam Solway, Dir.); and the two-hour feature film, "The Redeemer," co-written by AIFF Best Actress winner, Irene Bedard, Baylee Toney, and Myles Clohessy, who also directed.

Program 17: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6331d1a6fbc2790063c5d092>

The transcendent power of social-justice films is examined in AIFF 47's panel, "A Film Can Change the World: How to Create Films and Outreach Campaigns to Create Social Change," with The Fund for Sustainable Tomorrow's Executive Director, Steve Michelson, and Ranny Levy, founder and president of Kids First! Coalition for Quality Children's Media, speaking about their work, and the work ahead. The panel will be held Fri., Nov. 11 at 320 Florida St., San Francisco, 11 a.m.-Noon.

Info, tickets: <https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6339d1a49200b6003ecf4400>

Stay close to 320 Florida St. that afternoon, for a cooking demonstration of Native traditional foods, unique preparations and inspired recipes by Kickapoo Nation standout chef Crystal Wahpepah, owner of Wahpepah's Kitchen in Oakland, California. Nominated for Emerging Chef by the 2022 James Beard Restaurant and Chef Awards, Wahpepah

has also appeared on the Food Network's show, "Chopped." The event is from 2:00-3:00 p.m., and is a fundraiser benefiting the American Indian Film Institute.

<https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6339d2ae3d2bea009ab62980>

<https://wahpepahskitchen.com/>

The 47th annual American Indian Film Festival will wrap with the **AIFF Film Awards** at the SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., San Francisco, from 5:00-8:30 p.m. Featuring entertainment, music and comedy from Native American and First Nations performers, AIFI will present awards in 11 categories.

<https://aiff47.eventive.org/schedule/6339e7367c68db00c7c3bd44>

This year, Freddie Lane, [Lummi Nation] will serve as AIFF 47 emcee...

Sponsors / Partnerships of the 47th annual American Indian Film Festival, to-date, include: **San Francisco Grants for the Arts; San Francisco Arts Commission; LucasFilm X ILM; the Consulate General of Canada San Francisco/ Silicon Valley; Native Arts & Culture Foundation; San Francisco Public Library Koret Auditorium; IDEO; the American Indian Child Resource Center; American Indian Cultural District, Magic Theatre; The Fund for Sustainable Tomorrows; Kids First; KQED; Native Arts & Culture, SOMArts Cultural Center, Native American Health Center, Yapopup and Crystal Wahpepah.** AIFF 47 would not be possible without the assistance of these fine organizations, committed to supporting Indian and First Nations filmmakers.

Since its inception in 1975, the mission of the American Indian Film Festival has steadfastly been the cultural exchange – via the power of film – of Native American and Canada's First Nations cultures. While the content is by, for and about Indigenous storytellers, AIFF remains a film festival for *all* audiences – from filmmakers whose intent is to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain all viewers.

For more information, Sponsorship; donation and a full AIFF 47 film schedule:

<https://www.aifisf.com/>

###