



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2016

**41st ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL® KICKS OFF NOVEMBER 4-11
IN SAN FRANCISCO**

SAN FRANCISCO – AIFI stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North Dakota and their thousands of native and non-native allies in the struggle to protect their waters and homelands against bio oil and the development of the Dakota Access Pipeline. This is the most recent of the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples of this continent to protect and preserve their homelands and ways of life against colonial and capitalist interests. AIFI has presented these stories and many others of cultural affirmation, resistance and survival over the years and they will continue to be featured through the **41st annual American Indian Film Festival**, to be presented November 4-11 in San Francisco.

The public is invited to enjoy film screenings, appearances by filmmakers, actors and directors, Q&A sessions, and memorable entertainment during the 8-day event– capped by the American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show on November 11.

“The contemporary medium of cinema as a tool for a very ancient art – storytelling – has always been at the core of the American Indian Film Institute, and our festival,” notes AIFI founder and president, Michael Smith (Sioux). “As we move into our fifth decade, we’re more committed than ever to spotlight and share these vital stories – films, by, for and about American Indian and First Nations peoples – with *all* communities. This is the best of Native cinema, and we’re excited to celebrate the 41st annual American Indian Film Festival with our filmmakers, entertainers and audiences.”

The AMC Van Ness 14 theaters (1000 Van Ness Ave.), is the venue for the festival’s line-up of live short, animation, documentary and feature films, plus public service and music videos, and youth films from AIFI’s **Tribal Touring Program**.

The full schedule of **13 film programs**, with both matinee and evening screenings, is available online at: <http://www.aifisf.com/film-schedule>

Notable films of AIFF 41 include:

November 4: *The Saver*, an 88-minute feature film starring Imajyn Cardinal directed by Wiebke von Carolsfeld

November 5: The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women epidemic of North America is spotlighted in recording artist Crystal Shawanda’s *Pray Sister Pray*,” a music video directed by

Joseph Osawabine; followed by the short: *Sister, Daughter*, directed by Nathaniel Arcand (*Into The West; Blackstone*) and the feature *On the Farm* starring Elle-Maija Tailfeathers

November 7: *Fractured Land*, a documentary feature directed by Fiona Rayher and Damien Gillis

November 8: Lisa D. Olken and Larry Pourier's documentary feature, *Red Power Energy*, along with *The Northlander*, a 98-minute feature film directed by Benjamin R. Hayden, and starring Roseanne Supernault, Michelle Thrush, Julian Black-Antelope, Corey Sevier and Nathaniel Arcand.

November 9: A 97-minute feature *Before the Streets/Avant Les Rues*, starring Rykko Bellemare, Kwena Bellemare-Boivin, Jacques Newashish, Janis Ottawa, Martin Dubreuil and Normand Daoust

November 10: AIFF41's Closing Film Program wraps with producer-recording artist Robby Romero's music video, "*Earth Revolution*" featuring UN youth ambassador Ta'Kaiya Blaney; Kyle Bell's behind-the-scenes look at the epic art of Steven Paul Judd; followed by the feature film *Te Ata*, starring Q'Orianka Kilcher (*The New World*), acclaimed Oneida actor Graham Greene (*The Green Mile, Dances With Wolves, Die Hard With A Vengeance*), and Comanche actor Gil Birmingham (*Twilight, The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1, Rango*; and the recent *Hell or High Water*), alongside Academy Award-winner, Jeff Bridges.

AIFI's **American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show** starts at 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm) on November 11, at the Fillmore Heritage Center (formerly Yoshi's), 1310 Fillmore Street, San Francisco. The show will be co-hosted by Metis-Cree actress **Roseanne Supernault** (*Rhymes For Young Ghouls; Maina; Blackstone*), and Tlingit, Koyukon-Athabaskan actor **Martin Sensmeier** (*The Magnificent Seven, Longmire*), and features live entertainment from Twice As Good (a father and son duo from the Pomo Tribe); Hard Rock Records recording artist Spencer Battiest (Seminole Nation of Florida) along his brother Zachary aka Doc; Ta'Kaiya Blaney, accompanied by Robbie Romero; and the Navajo comedy duo James & Ernie. The American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show includes presentations for Best Film, Best Music Video, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Documentary, and many more.

Kiowa-Choctaw creative force, Steven Paul Judd returns as AIFF 41's Official Festival Artist. Judd's poster, "Endeavour to Persevere," is an homage to film dialogue spoken by the late, legendary First Nations actor and leader, Chief Dan George, in the iconic Western, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*. The unforgettable Chief Dan George was the inspiration for the creation of the American Indian Film Festival®. Catch a glimpse of Judd's amazing, art-filled life, in the documentary short film, *Dig It If You Can*, directed by Kyle Bell.

The 41st annual American Indian Film Festival® is sponsored by: Comcast NBCUniversal, Jackson Rancheria CA, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe WA, Comcast Streampix; Media Partners: Chickasaw Nation Oklahoma, National Indian Gaming Association, CBS NY, Tulalip Tribes WA; Venue Sponsor: AMC Van Ness 14; Foundation Partners: The San Francisco Foundation,

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, George Lucas Family Foundation; and the San Francisco Grants for the Arts.

The American Indian Film Festival® is open to the general public-at-large; and invites all-communities to celebrate **November American Indian Heritage Month**.

Advance tickets for the film festival and awards show are available thru aifisf.com

<http://aifisf.com/>

<https://www.amctheatres.com/movie-theatres/san-francisco/amc-van-ness-14>

http://www.thefillmoredistrict.com/lmac_pages/comm_jazzheritage.html

Please direct all inquiries to: American Indian Film Institute, via email at: aifi.mytia@gmail.com.