

What Roles Do Bloodline and Culture Play in Determining Identity?

CLUB NATIVE SCREENS AT CINEMA POLITICA ON DECEMBER 21

Whistler, BC – December 14, 2009

Club Native is a candid and deeply moving look at the pain, confusion and frustration suffered by many Aboriginal people as they struggle for the right to belong.

This award-winning documentary will be screened at Cinema Politica on Monday, December 21 at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre with discussion afterwards facilitated by Linda Lepine, a community activist from the Lil'wat Nation. Linda is married to non-native husband David Lepine. They have four children together (of six children) who are denied Indian status as per the Government's definition and rules of who is and is not an Indian.

In Club Native, filmmaker Tracey Deer uses Kahnawake, the Mohawk reserve outside of Montreal and also her hometown, as a lens to probe deeply into the history and contemporary reality of Aboriginal identity. Here, two firm but unspoken rules are drummed into every member of the community: do not marry a white person, and do not have a child with a white person. The potential consequences of ignoring the rules are devastating: those who betray the Mohawk Nation have diluted the purity of the bloodline, and both parent and child lose membership on the reserve.

Following the stories of four women, Deer reveals the exclusionary attitudes that divide the community and many others like it across Canada. Deer traces the roots of the problem, from the advent of the highly discriminatory Indian Act through the controversy of Bill C31, up to the present day, where membership on the reserve is determined by a council of Mohawk elders, whose rulings often appear inconsistent. And with her own home as a poignant case study, she raises a difficult question faced by people of many ethnicities across the world: what roles do bloodline and culture play in determining identity?

Admission is by donation and is open to everyone. Doors open at 6:30PM, film begins at 7:00PM

Awards & Festivals

Winner, Best Canadian documentary, DOXA Documentary Festival 2008, Vancouver

Winner, Best Canadian documentary, Terres En Vues Media Arts Festival, Montreal

CINEMA POLITICA DECEMBER SCREENINGS

DEC 21 , 2009 | CLUB NATIVE

Looks deeply into the history and present-day reality of Aboriginal identity. With moving stories from a range of characters from her Kahnawake Reserve, a difficult question is faced: what roles do bloodline and culture play in determining identity?

DEC 28, 2009 | THE SARI SOLDIERS

Filmed over three years during the most historic and pivotal time in Nepal's modern history, The Sari Soldiers is an extraordinary story of six women's courageous efforts to shape Nepal's future in the midst of an escalating civil war against Maoist insurgents, and the King's crackdown on civil liberties.



ABOUT CINEMA POLITICA

Cinema Politica (CP) is the largest grassroots documentary screening network in North America. CP's main objective is to promote, disseminate, exhibit and promote the discussion of political cinema by independent artists with an emphasis on works that tell stories underrepresented by mainstream media, including narratives around political struggles within Canada, and stories that deal with oppression and/or identity politics.

ABOUT THE SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE

A world-class attraction, showcasing the distinct cultures of the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation, the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre is evocative of a Squamish longhouse and Lil'wat *Istken* (earthen pit house). The culturally rich program options and authentic arts add a new dimension to the already remarkable Whistler experience. In addition to a Class A museum, an 80 seat theatre, a café featuring food First Nations flair, and a gift gallery with authentic Squamish and Lil'wat art, the Centre offers guided and self-guided tours, performances, and artisan demonstrations. www.slcc.ca

ABOUT LATE & UNIQUE NIGHTTIME ALTERNATIVES (LUNA)

LUNA is an innovative crime prevention strategy and a Whistler 2020 partner. LUNA contributes to social sustainability and reduced crime by engaging seasonal workers and locals in meaningful learning opportunities, providing them with healthy nightlife options, and shaping the future of our visitor experience and community life. Local groups may collaborate with LUNA to develop creative solutions to local issues through event design. www.lunawhistler.com

- END TRANSMISSION -

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SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE

WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

where rivers, mountains and people meet

Cinema Politica Mondays | Doors 6:30 Films 7:00 | Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre | Nov 2- Dec 28 | Entry by donation