

INDIGENOUS CATALOGUE

2021-2022

NOW IS THE TIME | CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER

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DISTRIBUTION



KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY

124 MIN | 2021 | ELLE-MÁIJÁ TAILFEATHERS | SEEN THROUGH WOMAN PRODUCTIONS, NFB

Follow filmmaker Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers as she creates an intimate portrait of her community and the impacts of the substance use and overdose epidemic. Witness the change brought by community members with substance-use disorder, first responders and medical professionals as they strive for harm reduction in the Kainai First Nation.



THE LAKE WINNIPEG PROJECT

4 X 10-15 MIN | 2021 | KEVIN SETTEE | NFB

The Lake Winnipeg Project is a four-part documentary series that calls attention to stories of ingenuity and resilience among the Anishinaabe, Cree and Métis communities of Matheson Island, Poplar River First Nation, Fisher River Cree Nation and Camp Morningstar, at a time when many external forces are imposing change.



MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN

34 MIN | 2021 | COURTNEY MONTGOMERY | NFB

Mary Two-Axe Earley: I Am Indian Again shares the powerful story of Mary Two-Axe Earley, who fought for more than two decades to challenge sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in *Canada's Indian Act* and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement.



THE TOURNAMENT

22 MIN | 2020 | SAM VINT | NFB

Over the course of a weekend tournament, youth sledge hockey teams from the U.S. and Canada battle for supremacy. Designed for players who have a physical challenge, the fundamentals of the sport – passing, shooting, trash talking your opponents – remain the same. Director Sam Vint captures the end-to-end action as the Manitoba Sledgehammers do it all.



STORIES ARE IN OUR BONES

11 MIN | 2019 | JANINE WINDOLPH | NFB

In this layered short film, filmmaker Janine Windolph takes her young sons fishing with their kokum (grandmother), a residential school survivor who retains a deep knowledge and memory of the land. The act of reconnecting with their homeland is a cultural and familial healing journey for the boys, who are growing up in the city. It's also a powerful form of resistance for the women.



FREEDOM ROAD

5 SHORT FILMS | 2019 | ANGELINA MCLEOD | NFB

Freedom Road is a five-part documentary series that tells the inspiring story of one First Nation's battle to resolve a brutal colonial legacy that uprooted and transformed a self-sustaining community into an isolated island, only a short distance from the Trans-Canada highway.



NOW IS THE TIME

16 MIN | 2019 | CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER | NFB

When internationally renowned Haida carver Robert Davidson was only 22 years old, he carved the first new totem pole on British Columbia's Haida Gwaii in almost a century. On the 50th anniversary of the pole's raising, Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter steps easily through history to revisit that day in August 1969, when the entire village of Old Massett gathered to celebrate the event that would signal the rebirth of the Haida spirit.



JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON, THE MESSENGER

66 MIN | 2019 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

Director Alanis Obomsawin tells the story of Jordan River Anderson, and how as a result of his short life, thousands of Indigenous children today have equal access to health care. Jordan's Principle was passed into law, yet many Indigenous patients still face a denial of services. It took sustained commitment for justice to be done. *Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger* completes the film cycle on the rights of Indigenous children and peoples that began with *The People of the Kattawapiskak River*.



NĪPAWISTAMÂSOWIN: WE WILL STAND UP

52 · 98 MIN | 2019 | TASHA HUBBARD | DOWNSTREAM DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTIONS, BIZABLE MEDIA, NFB

Sensitively directed by Tasha Hubbard, *nīpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* follows the family of the late Colten Boushie, a young Cree man fatally shot in a Saskatchewan farmyard, as they demand justice from Canada's legal system.



WABAN-AKI: PEOPLE FROM WHERE THE SUN RISES

104 MIN | 2006 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

In this feature-length documentary by Alanis Obomsawin, the filmmaker returns to the village where she was raised to craft a lyrical account of her own people. After decades of tirelessly recording others' stories, she focuses this film on her own.



YOU ARE ON INDIAN LAND

37 MIN | 1969 | MICHAEL KANENTAKERON MITCHELL | NFB

Released in 1969, this short documentary was one of the most influential and widely distributed productions made by the Indian Film Crew, the NFB's first all-Indigenous unit. It documents a 1969 protest by the Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) of Akwesasne, a territory that straddles the Canada-U.S. border. When Canadian authorities prohibited the duty-free cross-border passage of personal purchases, Kanien'kéhaka protesters blocked the international bridge between Ontario and New York State.



THE ROAD FORWARD

101 MIN | 2017 | MARIE CLEMENTS | NFB

Marie Clements' musical documentary connects a pivotal moment in Canada's civil rights history—the beginnings of Indian Nationalism in the 1930s—with the powerful momentum of First Nations activism today. Clements paints an electrifying picture of how a tiny movement, the Native Brotherhood and Native Sisterhood, became a powerful voice for social, political, and legal advocacy, eventually effecting profound change at the national level.



THE MOUNTAIN OF SGAANA

10 MIN | 2017 | CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER | NFB

A magical tale of a young man who is stolen away to the Haida spirit world, and the young woman who rescues him. Without words.



THREE THOUSAND

14 MIN | 2017 | ASINNAJAQ | NFB

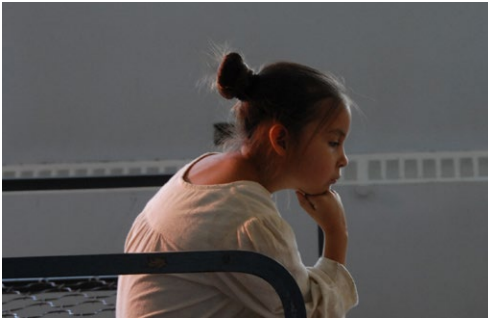
This experimental film unravels Inuit culture over 3,000 years, with archives and animation uniquely expressed in three chapters: past, present and future.



OUR PEOPLE WILL BE HEALED

96 MIN | 2017 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

Alanis Obomsawin's 50th film reveals how the Cree community in Norway House, Manitoba, has been enriched through the power of education. This documentary conveys a message of hope: the belief that in an appropriate school environment, one that incorporates their people's history, language and culture, Indigenous youth can realize their dreams.



HOLY ANGELS

14 MIN | 2017 | JAY CARDINAL VILLENEUVE | NFB

A redemptive and ingeniously crafted short documentary, *Holy Angels* employs a potent blend of shadow puppetry, dance, and interview footage to document Lena Wandering Spirit's return to the site of the residential school in Fort Chipewyan that stole much of her childhood. Wandering Spirit spent six years there, one of an estimated 150,000 Indigenous children across Canada that were forcibly removed from their families.



BIRTH OF A FAMILY

79 MIN | 2017 | TASHA HUBBARD | NFB

Three sisters and a brother, adopted as infants into separate families, meet for the first time in this deeply moving documentary. Part of Canada's infamous Sixties Scoop, in which 20,000 Indigenous children were removed from their families, the siblings are now middle-aged, with no shared memories. Together, they piece together their history and take the first steps toward building their family.



SHAMAN

5 MIN | 2017 | ECHO HENOCHÉ | NFB

Shaman recounts the legend of a polar bear that's transformed into an iconic mountain in the community of Nain, Labrador. Without words.



ANGRY INUK

82 MIN | 2016 | ALETHEA ARNAQUQ-BARIL | UNIKKAAT STUDIOS INC., NFB

Seal hunting, a critical part of Inuit life, has been controversial for a long time. Now, a new generation of Inuit, armed with social media and their own sense of humour and justice, are challenging the anti-sealing groups and bringing their own voices into the conversation. Director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins her fellow Inuit activists as they address outdated perceptions of Inuit and present themselves to the world as a modern people in dire need of a sustainable economy.



THIS RIVER

19 MIN | 2016 | KATHERENA VERMETTE, ERIKA MACPHERSON | NFB

This river offers a first-hand perspective on the devastating experience of searching for a loved one who has disappeared. Kyle Kematch and Katherena Vermette have both experienced this heartbreak. Kyle has a sister who went missing over five years ago. Katherena is a poet and writer whose work stems from a family tragedy that happened over 20 years ago. Though their stories are different, they each exemplify the beauty, grace, resilience, and activism born out of the need to do something.



WE CAN'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE

163 MIN | 2016 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

Veteran filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin documents the nine-year legal saga pitting the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations against the Canadian government. Arguing that Indigenous children on reserves and in Yukon received subpar services due to the government's discriminatory practices, the plaintiffs eventually won at trial in 2016.



I LIKE GIRLS

8 MIN | 2016 | DIANE OBOMSAWIN | NFB

First love is an intoxicating experience, but with it can come excruciating awkwardness, unrequited emotions, and confusing issues of identity. Original French version.



RED PATH

16 MIN | 2015 | THÉRÈSE OTTAWA | NFB

This short documentary tells the story of Tony Chachai, a young Indigenous man in search of his identity. Moved by the desire to reconnect with his Atikamekw roots, he delivers a touching testimony on the journey that brought him closer to his family and community. On the verge of becoming a father himself, he becomes increasingly aware of the richness of his heritage and celebrates it by dancing in a powwow.



NOWHERE LAND

15 MIN | 2015 | ROSIE BONNIE AMMAAQ | NFB

This short documentary serves as a quiet elegy for a way of life, which exists now only in the memories of those who experienced it. Bonnie Ammaaq and her family remember it vividly. When Bonnie was a little girl, her parents packed up their essentials, bundled her and her younger brother onto a long, fur-lined sled and left the government-manufactured community of Igloolik to live off the land, as had generations of Inuit before them.



TRICK OR TREATY?

84 MIN | 2014 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

This feature documentary by acclaimed filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin profiles Indigenous leaders in their quest for justice as they seek to establish dialogue with the Canadian government. By tracing the history of their ancestors since the signing of Treaty No. 9, these leaders aim to raise awareness about issues vital to First Nations in Canada: respect for and protection of their lands and their natural resources, and the right to hunt and fish so that their societies can prosper.



CRAZYWATER

56 MIN | 2013 | DENNIS ALLEN | NFB

This documentary from Dennis Allen is an emotional exploration of addiction among Indigenous people in Canada. Five Indigenous Canadians bravely come forward with their stories, presenting the sensitive topic of alcoholism in an honest and forthright manner. Alex, Paula, Desirae, Stephen, and Dennis himself maintain a deep and devoted commitment to their traditional culture to achieve long-term sobriety. Through their voices, this insightful doc offers an inspirational beacon of hope for others.



HI-HO MISTAHEY!

100 MIN | 2013 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

In this feature-length documentary, Alanis Obomsawin tells the story of Shannen's Dream, a national campaign to provide equitable access to education in safe and suitable schools for First Nations children. Strong participation in this initiative eventually brings Shannen's Dream all the way to the United Nations in Geneva.



360 DEGREES

18 MIN | 2008 | CAROLINE MONNET | NFB

This short film introduces us to Sébastien Aubin, a French-speaking member of Manitoba's Opaskwayak Cree Nation. He works as a graphic artist for a living, but he's embarked on a personal spiritual and identity quest on the side. Attempting to transcend the material world, he's apprenticing in traditional Indigenous medicine with healer Mark Thompson. The relationship between the two figures marks the contrast between generations; between modernity and tradition.



THE BALLAD OF CROWFOOT

10 MIN | 1968 | WILLIE DUNN | NFB

The NFB's first Indigenous-directed film was made by Willie Dunn, a Mi'kmaq/Scottish folk singer and activist who was part of the historic Indian Film Crew, the Board's first all-Indigenous production unit. The film is a powerful look at colonial betrayals, told through a striking montage of archival images and a ballad composed by Dunn himself about the legendary 19th-century Siksika (Blackfoot) chief who negotiated Treaty 7 on behalf of the Blackfoot Confederacy.



DOCTOR, LAWYER, INDIAN CHIEF

29 MIN | 1986 | CAROL GEDDES | NFB

A tribute to Indigenous women everywhere, this short doc focuses on five women from across Canada, of varied ages and backgrounds, who have achieved success in different careers: as the Yukon legislature's first Indigenous woman minister, as a deck hand on a fishing boat, as a teacher, as a lawyer, and as a band council chief. Each of these women talks about how she got to where she is today while emphasizing the importance of Indigenous culture.



FINDING DAWN

73 MIN | 2006 | CHRISTINE WELSH | NFB

Acclaimed Métis filmmaker Christine Welsh brings us a compelling documentary that puts a human face on a national tragedy—the epidemic of missing or murdered Indigenous women in Canada. The film takes a journey into the heart of Indigenous women's experience, from Vancouver's skid row, down the Highway of Tears in northern BC, and on to Saskatoon, where the murders and disappearances of these women remain unsolved.



FOR ANGELA

**21 MIN | 1993 | DANIEL PROUTY;
NANCY TRITES BOTKIN | NFB**

This short film portrays the experiences of Rhonda Gordon and her daughter, Angela, whose lives are changed in an unforeseeable way by a simple bus ride. When they are harassed by three boys, Rhonda finds the courage to take a unique and powerful stance against ignorance and prejudice. What ensues is a dramatic story of racism and empowerment.



FORGOTTEN WARRIORS

51 MIN | 1997 | LORETTA TODD | NFB

This documentary introduces us to thousands of Indigenous Canadians who enlisted and fought alongside their countrymen and women during World War II, even though they could not be conscripted. Ironically, while they fought for the freedom of others, they were being denied equality in their own country and returned home to find their land seized. Loretta Todd's poignant film offers the testimony of those who were there, and reveals how they managed to heal.



FOSTER CHILD

43 MIN | 1987 | GIL CARDINAL | NFB

An important figure in the history of Canadian Indigenous filmmaking, Gil Cardinal was born to a Métis mother but raised by a non-Indigenous foster family, and with this autobiographical documentary he charts his efforts to find his biological mother and to understand why he was removed from her. Considered a milestone in documentary cinema, it addressed the country's internal colonialism in a profoundly personal manner, winning a Special Jury Prize at Banff and multiple international awards.



THE GIFT OF DIABETES

**58 MIN | 2005 | O. BRION WHITFORD,
JOHN PASKIEVICH | NFB**

This feature-length documentary explores the diabetes epidemic within Indigenous communities in Canada. Ojibway filmmaker Brion Whitford lives with the pain of advanced diabetes but shuns traditional Indigenous medicine and healing practices. But as his health deteriorates, he has a change of heart. Join Brion as he connects with his culture, comes to grips with his own mortality, and tries to re-establish balance in his life.



IF THE WEATHER PERMITS

28 MIN | 2003 | ELISAPIE ISAAC | NFB

This short documentary studies life in the village of Kangirsujuaq, Nunavik. In this community on the edge of the Arctic Ocean, children's laughter fills the streets while the old people ponder the passage of time. They are nomads of the wide-open spaces who are trying to get used to the strange feeling of staying put. While the teenagers lap up "southern" culture and play golf on the tundra to kill time, the elders are slowly dying, as their entire culture seems faded away.



INCIDENT AT RESTIGOUCHE

46 MIN | 1984 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

On June 11 and 20, 1981, the Quebec provincial police raided Restigouche Reserve, Quebec. At issue were the salmon-fishing rights of the Mi'kmaq. Because salmon has traditionally been a source of food and income for the Mi'kmaq, the Quebec government's decision to restrict fishing aroused consternation and anger. Released in 1984, this groundbreaking and impassioned account of the police raids brought acclaimed filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin to international attention.



IS THE CROWN AT WAR WITH US?

97 MIN | 2002 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

It's the summer of 2000 and the country watches in disbelief as federal fisheries wage war on the Mi'kmaq fishermen of Burnt Church, NB. Why would officials of the Canadian government attack citizens for exercising rights that had been affirmed by the highest court in the land? Casting her cinematic and intellectual nets into history to provide context, Alanis Obomsawin delineates the complex roots of the conflict with passion and clarity, building a persuasive defence of the Mi'kmaq position.



KANATA: LEGACY OF THE CHILDREN OF AATAENTSIC

52 MIN | 1999 | RENÉ SIOUI LABELLE | NFB

In this feature documentary, filmmaker René Sioui Labelle retraces the path of his ancestors and surveys their territories, recording images of stunning beauty. He unveils a historical journey known to very few as he reflects upon the identity of the Wendat nation. In French with English subtitles.



KANEHSATAKE: 270 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

119 MIN | 1993 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

In July 1990, a dispute over a proposed golf course to be built on Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) lands in Oka, Quebec, set the stage for a historic confrontation that would grab international headlines. Alanis Obomsawin spent 78 days behind Kanien'kéhaka lines, filming the armed standoff between protestors, the Quebec police and the Canadian army. Jesse Wente, Director of Canada's Indigenous Screen Office, has called this a "watershed film in the history of First Peoples cinema."



MOHAWK GIRLS

63 MIN | 2005 | TRACEY DEER | NFB

Shot over two years, *Mohawk Girls* provides a surprising inside look at modern Indigenous youth culture. Deeply emotional yet unsentimental, it reveals the hope, despair, heartache and promise of growing up Indigenous at the beginning of the 21st century.



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER: AN INDIAN VIEW OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

42 MIN | 1972 | MARTIN DEFALCO, WILLIE DUNN | NFB

The Hudson's Bay Company's 300th-anniversary celebration in 1970 was no occasion for joy among the people whose lives were tied to the trading stores. Narrated by George Manuel, then president of the National Indian Brotherhood, this landmark film presents Indigenous perspectives on the company whose fur-trading empire drove colonization across vast tracts of land in central, western and northern Canada.



THE PEOPLE OF THE KATTAWAPISKAK RIVER

50 MIN | 2012 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

The people of the Attawapiskat First Nation, a Cree community in northern Ontario, were thrust into the national spotlight in 2012 when the impoverished living conditions on their reserve became an issue of national debate. Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin allows community members to tell their own story, shedding light on a history of dispossession and official indifference. Winner of the 2013 Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary.



REDSKINS, TRICKSTERS AND PUPPY STEW

54 MIN | 2000 | DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR | NFB

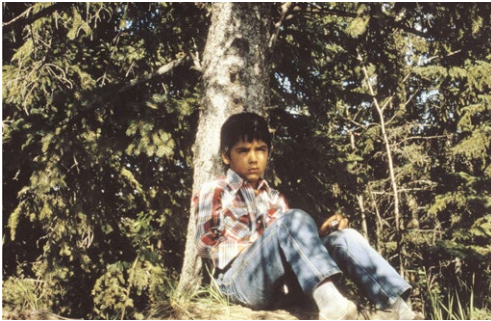
This feature documentary hilariously overturns the conventional notion of the “stoic Indian” and shines a light on an overlooked element of Indigenous culture: humour and its healing powers. Featuring an engaging cast of characters, the film is an in-depth, laugh-a-minute tour of complex issues like identity, politics, and racism.



REEL INJUN

88 MIN | 2009 | CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE, JEREMIAH HAYES, NEIL DIAMOND | NFB

Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond takes an entertaining and insightful look at the portrayal of North American Indigenous people throughout a century of cinema. Featuring hundreds of clips from old classics as well as recent releases, this feature-length doc traces the evolution of the “Hollywood Indian.” Diamond guides the audience on a journey across America and conducts candid interviews with celebrities like Clint Eastwood, Robbie Robertson and Jim Jarmusch.



RICHARD CARDINAL: CRY FROM A DIARY OF A MÉTIS CHILD

29 MIN | 1986 | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | NFB

Richard Cardinal died by his own hand at the age of 17, having spent most of his life in a string of foster homes and shelters across Alberta. In this short documentary, Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin weaves excerpts from Richard's diary into a powerful tribute to his short life. Released decades before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the film exposed the systemic neglect and mistreatment of Indigenous children in Canada's child welfare system.



SPIRIT WITHIN

51 MIN | 1990 | GIL CARDINAL, WIL CAMPBELL | NFB

This documentary looks at various Indigenous spirituality programs that run in western Canadian federal penitentiaries, as well as in some provincial institutions. These programs are led by elders, with assistance from liaison officers. They include workshops, ceremonies, and other traditional methods that help put the incarcerated back in touch with themselves, their culture, and their spirituality. A unique glimpse of the lives of Indigenous inmates.



THESE ARE MY PEOPLE ...

13 MIN | 1969 | MICHAEL KANENTAKERON MITCHELL, WILLIE DUNN, BARBARA WILSON, ROY DANIELS | NFB

Released in 1969, *These Are My People...* was the first NFB film made entirely by an Indigenous crew. One of the first Canadian documentaries to foreground an Indigenous perspective on the history of Indigenous-settler relations, it features Standing Arrow and Tom Porter, from the Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) community of Akwesasne, who discuss longhouse religion, culture, government and the impacts of settler arrival on their way of life.



TOTEM: THE RETURN OF THE G'PSGOLOX POLE

70 MIN | 2003 | GIL CARDINAL | NFB

This feature-length documentary traces the journey of the Haisla people to reclaim the G'psglox totem pole, which went missing from their British Columbia village in 1929. The fate of the 19th-century traditional mortuary pole remained unknown for over 60 years, until it was discovered in a Stockholm museum. Director Gil Cardinal combines interviews and rare footage of master carvers to raise questions about ownership and the meaning of Indigenous objects held in museums.



TOTEM: RETURN AND RENEWAL

24 MIN | 2007 | GIL CARDINAL | NFB

In this follow-up to his 2003 film, filmmaker Gil Cardinal documents the final journey of the G'psglox Pole as it returns home to Kitamaat and the Haisla people, from where it went missing in 1929.



TWO WORLDS COLLIDING

49 MIN | 2004 | TASHA HUBBARD | NFB

This doc chronicles the story of Darrell Night, an Indigenous man who was dumped by two police officers in a field on the outskirts of Saskatoon in sub-zero temperatures. He survived, but he was stunned to hear that the frozen body of another Indigenous man was discovered in the same area. This film is an inquiry into what came to be known as Saskatoon's infamous "freezing deaths" and the schism between a fearful, mistrustful Indigenous community and a police force harbouring a shocking secret.

CONTACTS



**OSCAR
RANGEL**

AGENT, SALES & MARKET
DEVELOPMENT,
US / LATIN AMERICA / IBERIA
/ AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST /
ASIA-PACIFIC

+1-514-629-5174
O.RANGEL@NFB.CA



**LOUIS-CHARLES
MIGNOT-GRENIER**

AGENT, SALES & MARKET
DEVELOPMENT,
CANADA / EUROPE / VR /
INFLIGHT

+1-514-242-6264
L.GRENIER@NFB.CA



**NATHALIE
BOURDON**

DIRECTOR, DISTRIBUTION
& MARKET DEVELOPMENT

+1-514-995-0095
N.BOURDON@NFB.CA



**GRACE
MARZELLA**

AGENT, SALES & MARKET
DEVELOPMENT,
DIGITAL PLATFORMS,
WORLDWIDE

+1-438-990-1537
G.MARZELLA@NFB.CA