

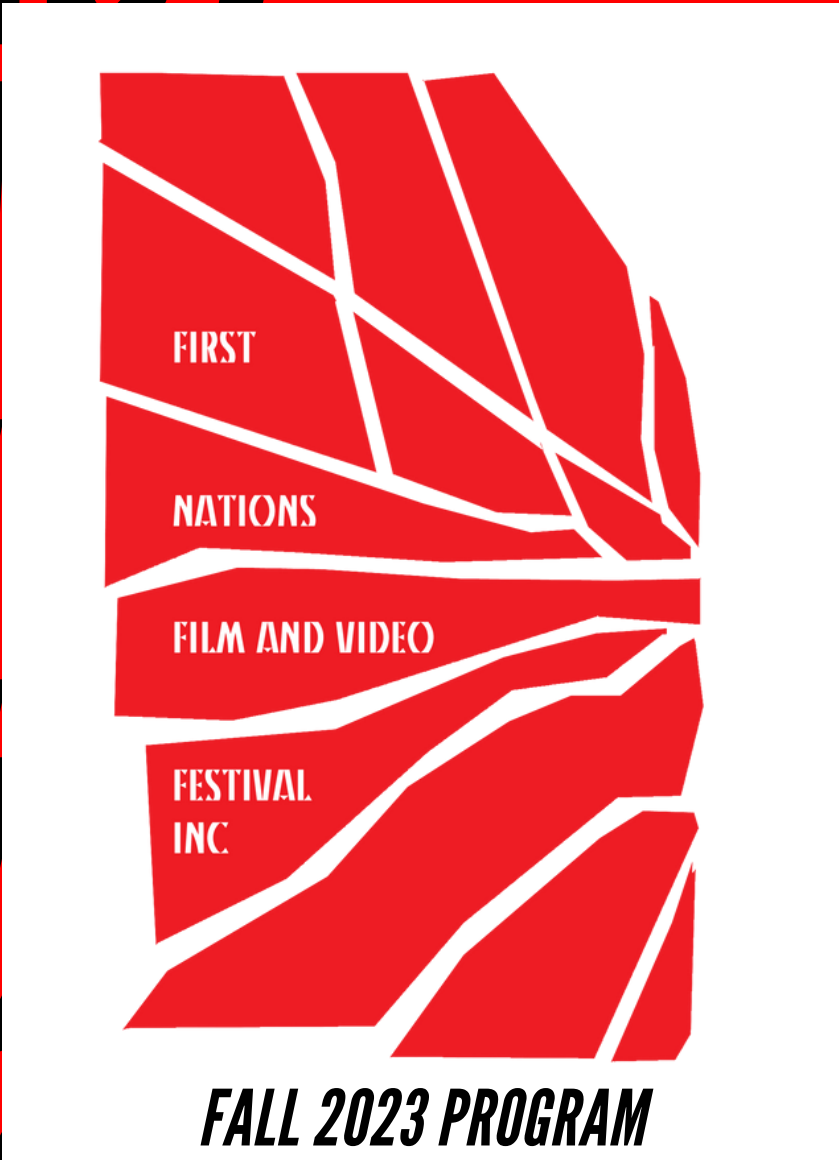
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FILM AND VIDEO

**FESTIVAL
INC.**

FALL 2023 PROGRAM

FESTIVAL

**Native.
American.
Film.**

FNFVF MISSION:

TO CELEBRATE THE WORKS OF NATIVE AMERICAN FILMS THAT BREAK RACIAL STEREOTYPES AND PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CONTEMPORARY NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES AND SOCIETY.

FNFVF INC:

DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING NATIVE AMERICAN FILMMAKERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS AND PROVIDING THEM AN APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR THEIR WORKS AND VOICE.

First Nations Film and Video Festival, Inc. is a 501c3 tax-exempt registered non-profit organization. We host the largest Native American Film Fest in Chicago as well as being the #1 resource for Native-produced films in the region and the most trusted BY Native American filmmakers for getting their films screened.

We are Chicago's only Native American film festival that deals exclusively with Native American film and video makers and features brand new works not being screened anywhere else in Chicago! We offer educational screenings and presentations for your school or educational event!

We host the First Nations Film and Video Festival twice a year:

SPRING FNFVF: May 1-10

FALL FNFVF: November 1-10

Though depicted in film almost from the creation of the craft, Native Americans have had little control in how others present them: Our purpose is the change that.

We provide a venue for all Native American filmmakers to be able to tell and show our side of the story, their history, and our perspective on today's societies and issues.

Native Americans need to be in control of how others see us and thereby gain that power back that was taken from us in the eras of colonization and assimilation.

For so long the voice of an evolving contemporary society has gone without representation in today's media-driven landscape.

The control of these images has been out of the hands of the Native American film makers ourselves.

That is, until now.

ABOUT US

The FNFVF was established in 1990 by Beverly Moeser (Menominee), the Festival Artistic Director, as a one-day festival which screened thirty videos at Facets Multimedia. Beverly was a film student with a passion for exploring Native issues through the medium of film and videos. With Beverly's dedication to film the festival expanded to a three-day event.

The FNFVF was housed at Facets Multimedia until going on hiatus in 1994. Then in 1999, it returned with major venues such as the Chicago Cultural Center, the Field Museum and Truman College. After which it went on hiatus once more. Dave Spencer, (Choctaw/Navajo) a member of the Chicago Native community dedicated to Native American first-voice representation in the arts, with the help of the Red Path Theater Company resurrected the FNFVF in 2002 as a presentation of the American Indian Center. Dave Spencer first came aboard the FNFVF Committee in 1992 and took on Coordinator duties in 2002.

In 2004, it expanded into a week-long festival with as many as ten different venues and screened over 45 films and videos. It has since featured over two-hundred and fifty new works from Native artists from all the Americas and has had programs at over thirteen venues across Chicago and its surrounding suburbs.

In 2005, Ernest M. Whiteman III (Northern Arapaho) took over as FNFVF Coordinator. The FNFVF screened over 45 films at over at 12 venues in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. Ernest Whiteman continued as the Coordinator until 2008, holding an annual film series, showcasing one feature film at multiple venues in Chicago and in Denver, Colorado before going on hiatus once again.

In 2010 the First Nations Film and Video Festival returned with a full three-day festival showcasing the latest in Native American-produced films and videos. In August of 2011, the FNFVF became First Nations Film and Video Festival, Inc being certified a non-profit corporation with Spencer and Whiteman leading as co-managers. In 2012, after the departure of Dave Spencer, Ernest M. Whiteman III has remained as Director to guide the festival. In 2015, FNFVF Inc expanded to two festivals a year with spring and fall editions. In 2021, the FNFVF introduced a new online panel discussion program.

In 2022, Samantha Garcia (Lac Courte Oreilles band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) took on the role of Co-director, after serving on the board, and expanded the reach of venues, and instituted the new Outdoor Screening program in partnership with the Chi-Nations Youth Council and Chi-Nations Garden. The festival remains a grassroots festival which has served Native American film and video makers the best these past years. The FNFVF remains dedicated to working with organizations that share its passion for contemporary representations of Native people. Dedication to the purpose of the FNFVF remains intact. FNFVF is the only film festival whom deals exclusively with Native American film and video makers and to provide them a venue, indeed, sometimes the ONLY venue, for expression.

FNFVF HISTORY

FILMS

THE FILMS SCREENING AT THE FALL 2023 FESTIVAL

"The KING" Film Series (dot 5)

Remake of King Film Series episode. The initial footage was filmed in Canada, It is a breath exercise.

Director: Liz A Kennedy, (Tlingit)

"Rabbit Stories" - ᎠᎵᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎠᎵ

Rabbit Stories is Cherokee series that captures the essence of Cherokee culture and entirely in the Cherokee Language. This show is made possible by the Cherokee Nation, and the talented Cherokee cast, which includes the renowned academy award winning Wes Studi, who is nothing short of exceptional. The director, Joseph Erb, brings his unique vision to life, creating a show that Cherokee community. This show is not just entertainment but a celebration of a proud culture that deserves to be shared with the world. Starring Academy Award winner Wes Studi.

Director: Joseph ᎠᎵᎠᎵ Erb, (Cherokee Nation)

"Meanie & Rat"- season 1 & 2

Meanie & Rat in adventures with Van Bunny, Scat the cat and twins in a holiday collection.

Director: TBD

"Mariposa"

Mariposa, meaning Butterfly in Spanish, is about an injured butterfly who is rescued by a young woman. He feels he can not make his life journey in his condition, she helps him realize Though a piece of us has broken off, it does not mean we wont fly again.

Director: Jennifer Amorelli, (Apache)

"My Journey Home"

My Journey Home follows a bi-racial (Indigenous and African) woman. Born in British Columbia, Canada she was adopted by a white family through the 60s scoop and taken to the U.S. losing her connection to her Indigenous identity. Her journey home reconnects her to her roots with the Nisga'a Nation.

Directors : Rose Patterson (Nisga'a First Nations British Columbia) , Priyanka Desai, Avinash Bujhuwan

"Humility (& how i achieved it)"- Episode five : queer jesus

Director Tribal Affiliation:
Cherokee

"PADDLE TRIBAL WATERS"

When the largest dam removal project in history began, a group of indigenous youth learn to whitewater kayak in hopes of becoming the first people to paddle the restored river from source to sea.

Director: Paul Robert Wolf Wilson, Rush Sturges (Klamath and Modoc Tribe)

FILMS

"Canoe Connections"

An essential element of maintaining culture in First Nations communities is nurturing the practice of knowledge keepers passing on their cultural wisdom. For the Canoe Cultures program in Vancouver Canada, an Indigenous-lead non-profit carving centre, Mike Billy Sr. and Jr. are an example of the transference of knowledge from one generation of Squamish Nation War Canoe builder to the next.

Director: Reeve Billy (Squamish Nation Canada, West Coast)

"Nunkui's story"

The Nunkui myth tells the story of the Shuar people who had no food in the past. One day, a woman finds Nunkui's Mother and she offers her daughter, little Nukui, to be the one who provide them with food, on the condition that they take care of her. Directors: SHUAR / Suanua Maiche (co-director), Patricio Catani (co-director)

"EKBEH"

While learning to make gumbo, personal stories of the creator's grandparents are shared as a way to honor and preserve their Indigenous history and life through oral storytelling.

Director: Mariah Eli Hernandez-Fitch (United Houma Nation)

"Dirt Road"

Maria just needs some time alone to come to terms with her demons. As she confronts them, she finds herself inconvenienced by Lee, a passerby who is very cocky and very persistent about having her join him in his SUV. Maria, however, has other plans in mind.

Director: Harlan Wungnema Shield (Hopi, Little Shell Chippewa, Cree)

"Kuinerraq"

A young seventh grader explores the heritage of his maternal grandma through this glance at a Yu'pik village and his Native Alaskan roots.

Director: Magnus Shipe (Yu'pik)

"Love Don't Bully"

A teacher and her middle school students talk about, interview, act out and research bullying, both at school and as a society.

Directors: Dr. Lisa Spencer & her Middle School Students (Hopi, Puebloan, Diné, Yupik, Apache)

"Water, Star Medicine"

A teacher and her students study the nature, science, and brilliance of water. They visit the Rio Grande in New Mexico and interview Veda Austin, a New Zealand Māori scientist to learn that water is life, memory, and healing.

Directors: Middle School Students (Hopi, Puebloan, Diné, Yupik, Apache)

"Spring Dance"

A woman is forced to attend a dance with her friend.

Director: Maggie Branch, Collette Wilson, Daniel Lucero, Lianna Rankin (Kaw Nation)

FILMS

"Auteur Theory: Wes Anderson"

Auteur theory studies how a filmmaker becomes an author of their work. This documentary examines Wes Anderson's influences in his films.

Director: Maggie Branch (Kaw Nation)

"Warmth and Comfort"

Director: Maggie Branch (Kaw Nation)

"The Films of Dorothy Arzner"

Director: Maggie Branch (Kaw Nation)

"Chromasia"

Experimental film about colors.

Director: Maggie Branch (Kaw Nation)

"Dzunukwa"

A young boy bonds with his grandmother as she tells him the traditional 'Nakwaxda'w legend of the Dzunukwa.

Director: Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché (Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw)

"Məca"

Məca is a stop motion representation of the late Elder Ida Smith telling her grandson the 'Nakwax'daxw legend of the Mink. In this film Ida tells the story in the Bakwamkala language. Mink, or "Məca", is an impatient son of the Sun who is trying to force himself into being someone other than he is, so that he can impress love interests. Throughout his journey Məca will learn what it means to have humility, patience, and to be better at self acceptance.

Director:Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché (Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw)

"Tiny"

Tiny is a contemplative stop motion film which tells the story of 'Nakwaxda'xw Elder Colleen Hemphill's childhood. The film portrays modern day Colleen as she reflects on her past, and re-enacts the stories she tells of her youth, as a young girl growing up on a float-house in the wild and unpredictable Pacific Northwest and its waters. As she retells her story, Colleen notices how different her way of life was when she was young, and how much more harmonious her community was with nature. The film aims to celebrate the life and identity of Colleen by sharing the gift of her presence and stories with audiences.

Director: Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché (Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw)

FILMS

"Pualuk" (Mittens)

The main character is an Inuk from Nunavik who has been living on a reservation in Odanak since the pandemic. He was an okay student with decent grades but not good enough to go to college. He can barely hold the shovel and can't tolerate the pain anymore. He asked the band office if they could lend him warm mittens for the winter, but they refused due to inflation. There is a First Nation college that provides materials for its students. He asked the college if he could come and make mitts. They agreed, but on one condition: he had to exchange cultural knowledge with them. He taught them how to make an igloo in exchange for their creation.

Director:Jusi Ainalik (Inuit)

"Tandemic"

Waking from a nightmare, Telma and her partner Jack prepare to venture out into a deadly pandemic as their world crashes around them...or is it all a bad dream?

Director:Susan Spain (Lenape)

"Work is Ceremony"

A short dance film exploring the love of Rick Bartow and Julie Swan.

Director:Michelle Hernandez (Wiyot), Samantha Williams-Gray (Tlingit)

SCHEDULE



CHICAGOLAND PREMIERES!

OPENING PROGRAM
"BONES OF CROWS" (2022)
DIRECTED BY MARIE CLEMENTS

"Bones of Crows" is a multi-generational epic and story of resilience told through the eyes of Cree Matriarch Aline Spears (played by Summer Testawich; Grace Dove, Monkey Beach; and Carla Rae, Rutherford Falls). Removed from their family home and forced into Canada's residential school system, young musical prodigy Aline and her siblings are plunged into a struggle for survival. Over the next hundred years, Aline and her descendants fight against systemic starvation, racism and sexual abuse—and to build a more just future.

CLOSING PROGRAM
"HEY VIKTOR!" (2023)
DIRECTED BY CODY LIGHTNING

Twenty years removed from childhood fame as Little Viktor in 1998's *Smoke Signals*, CODY LIGHTNING has been forced to move home to his reserve in northern Alberta. A documentary crew follows Cody on his journey around the Indigenous world— re-uniting the original cast, borrowing money from arms dealers, & realizing his vision.

2023 FIVE FIVE VENUES

FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

WED. NOVEMBER 1, 2023 7PM
FACETS (OPENING PROGRAM)
1517 W FULLERTON AVE

"BONES OF CROWS" (2:07:00)
INCLUDES POST-SCREENING
RECEPTION

FRI. NOVEMBER 3, 2023, 7PM
ONLINE PROGRAM VIA ZOOM

HUMILITY (& HOW I ACHIEVED IT) EPISODE FIVE -
QUEER JESUS (49:58)
HUMILITY (& HOW I ACHIEVED IT) EPISODE SIX -
QUEER JESUS (53:05)
TOTAL 1:43:03

SAT. NOVEMBER 4, 2023, 1PM
HUMBOLDT PARK BRANCH LIBRARY
1605 N TROY ST

THE KING FILM SERIES (DOT 5) (1:00)
TINY (16:21)
NUNKUI'S STORY (19:37)
EKBEH (8:46)
THE FILMS OF DOROTHY ARZNER (9:01)
WARMTH AND COMFORT (2:26)
MY JOURNEY HOME (26:18)
TOTAL 1:23:29

SUN. NOVEMBER 5, 2023, 1PM
ROBERT CROWN COMMUNITY CENTER
1801 MAIN ST, EVANSTON, IL

RABBIT STORIES - Ἡ ὁδὸς Ἀβραάμ (25:00)
WORK IS CEREMONY (14:35)
PADDLE TRIBAL WATERS (9:00)
CANOE CONNECTIONS (4:25)
TINY (16:21)
AUTEUR THEORY: WES ANDERSON (9:22)
CHROMASIA (2:01)
SPRING DANCE (9:31)
TOTAL 1:30:15

2023 FIVE VENUES

FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

MON. NOVEMBER 6, 2023, 6PM

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY

**ANGELINA PEDROSO CENTER FOR
DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS
5500 NORTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE**

WORK IS CEREMONY (14:35)
TANDEMIC (6:04)
PAULUK (MITTENS) (12:14)
WATER STAR MEDICINE (5:00)
LOVE DON'T BULLY (9:30)
KUINERRAQ (3:36)
TOTAL 0:50:59

WED. NOVEMBER 8, 2023, 8PM

COMFORT STATION

2579 N MILWAUKEE AVE

TINY (16:21)
MƏCA (8:18)
DZUNUKWA (6:22)
DIRT ROAD (9:00)
CANOE CONNECTIONS (4:25)
PADDLE TRIBAL WATERS (9:00)
MARIPOSA (5:43)
MEANIE AND RAT SEASON 1 & 2 (21:29)
RABBIT STORIES - ᎠᎵᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎠᎵ (25:00)
TOTAL 1:45:38

FRI. NOVEMBER 10, 2023, 7PM

**MUSIC BOX THEATRE (CLOSING
PROGRAM)**

3733 N SOUTHPORT AVE

**CLOSING PROGRAM
HEY VIKTOR! (1:42:00)**



ERNEST M WHITEMAN III

**(NORTHERN APAPAHO)
CO-DIRECTOR**

Ernest M. Whiteman III is a Northern Arapaho filmmaker, artist, writer, and media educator. Ernest teaches an upper-level communications course, Native Americans in Media at the University of Wisconsin Parkside, and is currently an Instructor with YR Media.

Ernest continues to make films, write, and create art. He is working on a contemporary film adaptation of "Hamlet" with a full cast of Native American actors. Ernest has two self-published books, "The Autobiography of Blue Woman", and his first novel "A Rez Tale". He is at work on film and video projects, "Ten in Ten" a documentary series, and "An Indigenous Peoples' History of the Zombie War" an Urban Native Horror.

He is from the Wind River Reservation and currently lives in Skokie. Not bad for a nameless Arapaho from Wyoming.



SAMANTHA GARCIA

**(ANISHINAABE, LAC COURTE OREILLES
BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR OJIBWE)
CO-DIRECTOR**

Samantha is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles band of Lake Superior Ojibwe tribe in Wisconsin. She is the Co-director of First Nations Film and Video Festival and Apothecary Supervisor at the Raby Institute for Integrative Medicine at Northwestern.

Samantha is passionate about uplifting Native first voice in film and media and hopes to help grow the festival with integrity to its mission. In her free time, she enjoys engaging with Chicago's diverse community culture, hiking, biking and playing guitar.

THE DIRECTORS

BC Echohawk**(Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma/Otoe-Missouria/Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma)**

Ms. EchoHawk was raised in Oklahoma City, OK and moved to Washington, DC at an early age. She is a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, and a descendant of the Otoe-Missouria and Iowa Tribes of Oklahoma. She has many years of experience working with national Native organizations, including the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Education Association, and the National American Indian Housing Council. Ms. EchoHawk has worked in communications, including film, webinar, and podcast production for over 20 years. She has worked with federal clients and grantees to develop virtual curricula and has served as a facilitator for training and strategizing events both live and on virtual platforms. Her film experience included working as a casting assistant, production assistant, and camera assistant in such films as Last of the Mohicans, Geronimo, and Leaving Las Vegas. She is a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She currently resides in the Chicago area.

Don Nole**(Bad River Band of Chippewa - Northern Wisconsin)**

IT Project Management for over 20 years

Janie Pochel**(Saulteaux)**

Janie is the founder of the First Nations Garden and the Chi-Nations Youth Council. The First Nations Garden showcases the history and culture of Chicago's Native community, featuring plants traditionally used by Natives for medicinal and culinary purposes. It also serves as a gathering, ceremonial and healing place for the community. The Chi-Nations Youth Council, on the other hand, is a youth-led organization that empowers young Native Americans to become leaders in their communities. The council provides a safe and supportive space for young people to learn about their culture, develop leadership skills, and engage in social and environmental activism.

Cynthia Teschner**(Descendent of Turtle Mountain and Standing Rock)**

Christine Redcloud, Board Member Emeritus

THE BOARD

SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICAN FILM

FNFVF Inc is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our small, without-walls, all-volunteer organization puts on two 10-day festivals, an online roundtable discussion program, and hosts outdoor screening at the Chi-Nations Garden.

All FNFVF Inc programs are free and open to the public. We charge no fees for filmmakers or host organization, nor admissions for patrons.

FNFVF, Inc. is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization thanks to the Chicago Arts Assistance Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, which supported our 501c3 tax-exempt application.

Thanks also to the Crossroads Fund for their invaluable support:

You can support the First Nations Film and Video Festival and help us support Native American Filmmakers! To continue your support you can scan these QR codes for PayPal.

Thank you for your support of Native American filmmakers.



HOW TO SUPPORT FNFVF INC

NATIVE. AMERICAN. FILM.



<http://fnfvf.org>

FNFVF INC

May 1-10 & November 1-10 Annually

Insta:

FB: