



Haida Gwaii Film Festival

March 6th to 8th, 2009

Festival Contact: Box 545, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0 T: 250-559-4105
haidagwaiifilmfestival@gmail.com
www.haidagwaiifilmfestival.org

From March 6th to 8th, 2009, the Haida Gwaii Film Festival will project local, regional and international films in Skidegate and Queen Charlotte in order to bring a wider vision of humanity to our island communities. During the 3 day Festival, we will have approximately 20 screenings of feature length, short, animation, and documentary formats that will highlight the talent and skills of local and regional filmmakers, particularly Haida productions such as Haidawood's *Yaanii K'uuka*, the Golden Spruce story, as well as national and international productions including *Pink Cloud* from Iranian director Masoud Ghodsieh and *A Simple Curve* by Canadian director Aubrey Nealon. In addition, through a relationship with *Filmoteca Vasca* in Spain, we are bringing a number of cutting edge works from Spain and Europe. The Festival also encourages on-island expertise by bringing recognized directors, producers, and filmmakers from Cuba and France to present their work as well as conduct a workshop aimed at youth and adults. Led by Cuban Director Arnaldo Jimenez and French Producer/Director Aida Maigre-Touchet, the workshop will explore issues relevant to islanders through the eye of the camera such as the process of directing a film on coastal ecosystem management in Cuba. With a broad selection of genres, from health

and environment to comedy and animation, the festival's film curation provides island residents from all backgrounds with a diverse vision of life, experiences that they will share together as an audience.

The festival casts the spotlight on aboriginal film, and particularly, Haida productions. Since film and video are such compelling mediums for storytelling and dissemination of culture, the Haida Gwaii Film Festival believes that encouraging young Haida filmmakers is the key to a healthy future for the islands.

We are very proud to present as part of our film curation for the festival two programs highlighting Haida filmmakers. The programs include films such as *Grounded in Tradition* by Gwaliga Hart and *The Lost Raven Finding His Way*, from the NFB's youth program *Our World*. In addition, we will have thirteen of the *Yayem Digital Storytelling* series including *Islands of The People* by Amber Good, Justin Klevgaard, Jesse Williams and Raven Hausmann-hayward with the participation of Na'anaa Mary Swanson, and *Revival & Survival* by Konrad, Tow, Jenna & Leona.

Haida and Aboriginal Youth Program

Yayem Digital Storytelling Compilation 1

Running Time: 15 min

The importance of Shoes

By Dorian Freign 14 years old

Islands of the People

By Amber good, Justin Klevgaard, Jesse Williams and Raven Hausman-Hayward

The Qay Center-QAY'LLNAGAAY

By Tyson Young, Cassandra Cross,Stephanie and Brant 14 years old

Revival & Survival

By Konrad, Tow, Jenna & Leona 14 years old

Yayem Digital Storytelling Compilation 2

Running Time: 10 min

Persevere

By Jonna,Tyra, Courtney, Allannah

Thunderstruck

By Victoria, Jamie, Allannah, Caitlin & Vanessa 13-16 years old

Warriors

By Nico, Taylor & Skyler 13-16 years old

Yayem Digital Storytelling Compilation 3

Running Time 10 min

The Teen Center

By Brandy, Keisha and Brentt 15 years old

Teens in the Halls

By Shawn, Sarah and Alissa 13-17 years old

The Dance

By Raven, Justin & Amber 14-16 years old

The Teen Centre

By Nathaniel, Ryan and Jammie 15 years old

Yayem Digital Storytelling Compilation 4

Running Time: 10 min

Out Of The Garbage Bin

By Kris, Gabriel, Kyle, Brett, Kristen & Lisa

Sushi Night

By Cycle, Jesse & Kyle 14-16 years old

Unseen Teens

By Eric, Josh, Sam & Justin

NFB OUR WORLD SERIES

Running Time: 20 min

Grounded in Tradition

Gwaliga Hart

untitled

Tow Stocker

OUR WORLD

Kiefer Collison

The Lost Raven Finding His Way

Curtis Ambrose Brown

The Power of the Haida People

Brandon Brown

We Are Not Alone

Kristy Bell

Swinomish

March Point

Running Time: 53 min

Director: Tracy Rector

Website: www.marchpointmovie.com

Synopsis:

Cody Nick and Travis, three teens from the Swinomish Indian Tribe, wanted to make a gangster movie or rap video. But instead they were asked to investigate the impact of two oil refineries on their tribal community. March Point follows their journey as they come to understand themselves, the environment and the threat their people face.

For centuries the Swinomish Indian Tribe has relied on the natural resources of the Skagit Valley, through clamming, crabbing, and fishing. Before white settlement tribal people inhabited the valleys, rivers, and shorelines, living off the rich land. But in 1855 most of this land was taken away by the Federal government in the Treaty of Point Elliott. The Swinomish people were left with basic health care, some fishing rights and a small reservation. In the late 1950s, two oil refineries were built on March Point, an area that was once part of the Swinomish reservation by treaty. Over time, the presence of the refineries has negatively affected the health of the water and land and the very fabric of cultural tradition itself. March Point is the story of three boys awakening to the destruction these refineries have wrought in their communities. Ambivalent environmental ambassadors at the onset, the boys grapple with their assignment through humor, sarcasm and a candid self-knowledge.