



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SOCIAL DISTANCE FILM FEST

*Free films by and about Indigenous Peoples
across the Americas*

November 1-30, 2021

DVDs at the Library

Angry Inuk [2016; Not Rated; Documentary]

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 humor 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 Director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins her fellow Inuit activists as they challenge outdated perceptions of Inuit and present themselves to the world as a modern people in dire need of a sustainable economy. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner [2001; R; Feature Film]

The telling of an Inuit legend of an evil spirit causing strife in the community and one warrior's endurance and battle of its menace. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Big Eden [2000; PG-13; Feature Film] A romantic comedy about Henry's return to his hometown of Big Eden, Montana to care for his grandfather after a stroke. While there, Henry hopes to rekindle a romance with his high-school best friend, Dean. But he finds himself surprisingly drawn to Pike, a quiet Native American man who owns the local general store. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Blood Quantum [2019; Not Rated; Feature Film]

The dead are coming back to life outside the isolated Mi'kmaq reserve of Red Crow, but the Indigenous inhabitants seem strangely immune to the zombie plague. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee [2007; TV-14; Feature Film]

This historic chronicle based on the book by Dee Brown explains political interactions between Native Peoples and settlers as the United States expanded west. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Edge of America [2005; PG; Feature Film]

Based on a true story, a Black educator takes a job teaching high school English at the Three Nations Reservation, and is coaxed into coaching the girls' basketball team. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Embrace of the Serpent [2015; Not Rated; Feature Film]

The story of the relationship between Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and last survivor of his people, and two scientists who work together over the course of forty years to search the Amazon for a sacred healing plant. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Frozen River [2009; R; Feature Film]

Financial difficulties lead two women, one Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) and one White, into the world of smuggling illegal immigrants from Canada to the U.S across the St. Lawrence by means of a Native American reservation. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Incident at Oglala: The Leonard Peltier Story

[1992; PG; Documentary] Robert Redford narrates this documentary about an infamous shootout that took place on Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala Lakota tribal lands in South Dakota on June 26, 1975. [Watch the trailer.](#)

The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw

[2021; Not Rated; Feature Film] After 25-year-old Indigenous fashionista, Mitzi Bearclaw, receives news that her mother is ill, she moves back to her isolated reservation in south-western Canada to

help her father care for their family. Over the span of a year, she reconnects with her parents, reignites a relationship with an old flame, and faces enemies from her childhood. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Indian Horse [2017; Not Rated; Feature Film]

Based on the novel by Ojibwe author, Richard Wagamese, Indian Horse follows the life of Indigenous Canadian, Saul Indian Horse, as he survives residential school and the racism of the 1970s. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Ixcanul [2015; Not Rated; Feature Film]

On the slopes of an active volcano in Guatemala, a marriage is arranged for seventeen-year-old María by her Kaqchikel parents. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Older Than America [2008; Not Rated; Feature Film]

A woman's haunting visions reveal a priest's plot to silence her mother from speaking the truth about the atrocities that took place at her Native American boarding school. [Watch the trailer.](#)

PBS Mystery! Tony Hillerman Series [Not Rated; TV Mini Series]

- **Sk*nwalkers [2002]** Based on the crime novel by Tony Hillerman, Diné (Navajo) Tribal Police Officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee investigate a murder that appears to be the work of witchcraft.
- **Coyote Waits [2003]** Based on the crime novel by Tony Hillerman, Officers Leaphorn and Chee track the killer of a fellow officer.
- **Thief of Time [2003]** Based on the crime novel by Tony Hillerman, Officers Leaphorn and Chee search for a missing anthropologist suspected of stealing artifacts from a burial site.

The Rider [2017; R; Feature Film] After suffering a near fatal head injury, a young Lakota cowboy undertakes a search for a new identity and what it means to be a man in the heartland of America. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Roma [2018; R; Feature Film] Roma follows the life of a Mixtec maid in a middle-class household in the

Colonia Roma neighborhood of 1970's Mexico City. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World](#) [2017; Not Rated; Documentary] The electric story of how Native American influence shaped rock and roll, a missing chapter in music history. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[Smoke Signals](#) [1998, PG-13; Feature Film] Arnold rescued Thomas from a fire when he was a child. Thomas thinks of Arnold as a hero, while Arnold's son Victor resents his father's alcoholism, violence and abandonment of his family. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[Spirit Rider](#) [1993; Not Rated; Feature Film] A horse helps ease the growing pains for a frustrated Ojibwa boy when he returns to his reservation. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[Songs My Brothers Taught Me](#) [2015; Not Rated; Feature Film] Living with their single mother on Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala Lakota tribal lands in South Dakota, Johnny and his sister Jashuan's lives develop new challenges when their absentee cowboy father suddenly dies. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[We Shall Remain](#) [2009; TV-PG; Documentary Miniseries] We Shall Remain is a five-part television series produced by PBS American Experience which centers Indigenous American perspectives on history and culture from the Wampanoags' contact with Europeans in the 1600s to the leaders who harnessed the momentum of the Civil Rights Movement to forge a pan-Indigenous identity. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[Wind River](#) [2017; R; Feature Film] A tracker with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assists a rookie FBI agent who's investigating an Indigenous teen girl's murder on a remote Wyoming reservation. [Watch the trailer.](#)

[Winter in the Blood](#) [2013; Not Rated, Feature Film] Based on the 1974 novel by James Welch (Blackfeet, A'aninin), Winter in the Blood follows Virgil First Raise, who returns home after waking in a ditch to find that his wife, Agnes, has left him. He sets out on an odyssey to find her. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Films to Stream Online

Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF)

Each March, DCEFF presents 100+ films to audiences throughout Washington, DC, along with discussions and other events at museums, embassies, libraries, universities, and local theaters. Discover films from the 2020 and 2021 festivals listed below.

FILMS FROM DCEFF (2020)

[Gather](#) [2020; NR; Documentary] The stories of Natives on the frontlines of a growing movement to reconnect with spiritual and cultural identities through food.

[Indigenous Communities Under Siege in Rondon's Land](#) [2020; NR; Short, 13m] In Rondônia, Brazil, illegal logging and land grabbing in the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous territory is commonplace. In this short documentary, villagers from the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau villages show the most recent outbreaks of invasion that seems to be government sanctioned if not orchestrated.

[L'Eau Est La Vie: From Standing Rock to the Swamp](#) [2019; NR; Short, 24m] On the banks of Louisiana, fierce Indigenous women are ready to fight to stop the corporate blacksnake and preserve their way of life. They are risking everything to protect Mother Earth from the predatory fossil fuel companies that seek to poison it.

[One Word Sawallem](#) [2019; NR; Short, 19m] Co-director Michael "Pom" Preston of the Winnemem Wintu tribe of Mt. Shasta, California gives us a rare look into the life of local Native wisdom keepers. On Vimeo. **Streaming password: waterislife.**

[Pacha Kuti: The Golden Path](#) [2020; NR; Short, 7m] When Arnold returns to his Native community in the Peruvian Amazon after living in the urban world, he remembers his grandfather's stories and the importance of living in balance with the land.

[Tupí: A Story of Indigenous Courage and Resolve](#) [2020; NR; Short, 6m] Tupí is an Indigenous activist denouncing violence against women and fighting to protect human rights and the environment in her homeland at the Tapajós River in the Brazilian Amazon.

[Water Flows Together](#) [2020; NR; Short, 11m] For time immemorial, the Diné (Navajo) have considered the San Juan River sacred. Centuries-old stories and teachings connect the people with the river as it continues to serve as a physical and spiritual resource for the peoples who rely on it.

[Where Life Begins](#) [2020; NR; Short, 10m] Explore the inseparable bond between mother and child as well as the sacred and fragile moments after birth and the importance of protecting the Arctic Coast, at the northernmost point on American soil.

[Women on a Mission: Technology Meets Tradition](#) [2020; NR; Short, 5m] The Awajún women in the village of Shampuyacu in Peru are reviving their culture and restoring their forest after decades of destruction using cell phones to record the wisdom of their elders. This is Episode 1 of the Women on a Mission series of short films highlighting Indigenous women in communities across the globe making a difference in their communities. Visit Conservation International's web page about the series for more episodes and information.

FILMS FROM DCEFF (2021)

[Along the Winisk River](#) [2020; NR; Short, 10m]

In Canada, a remote Indigenous community is fighting for its survival in the age of climate change. This film explores the impact of this struggle and calls for the Canadian government to better protect Indigenous communities.

[Border Nation](#) [2020; NR; Short, 19m] Today, Tohono O'odham tribal members live on both sides of the US/Mexican border. But with an increasingly militarized border, can their traditional way of life survive?

[Current Revolution: Nation in Transition](#) [2021; NR; Short Series] Nation in Transition is a series of short documentaries by the American Resilience Project exploring the coal-to-renewables transition across Navajo Nation communities in northern Arizona through the stories of those involved. Episode 2 of the series is free to view when you digitally sign the guestbook.

[Koa Talking to Me](#) [2020; NR; Short, 5m] This National Park Service film follows a Hawaiian man's love for one of the rarest and most threatened trees in the world. Junior's connection with koa trees on his native island compels him to conserve and honor the spirit of fallen trees that would normally be wasted.

[The New West and the Politics of the Environment](#) [2019; NR; Documentary] Earth Focus tells the story of Harry Reid, a Nevada politician in an emerging New West who used his position to settle water wars with respect for Tribes protect wildlife, and focus on renewable energy.

Filmanthropic Productions

Filmanthropic is an organization dedicated to promoting diversity in the entertainment industry and provides training and opportunity to those underrepresented in the industry, including People of Color and women.

[Unbowed](#) [1999; Not Rated; Feature Film] An unlikely romance develops between a Lakota warrior and a young Black woman at a Historically Black College in the 1890's.

Indigenous Cinema: National Film Board of Canada

In 2018, the National Film Board of Canada launched Indigenous Cinema, an extensive online library of over 200 films by Indigenous directors — part of a three-year Indigenous Action Plan to "redefine" the NFB's relationship with Indigenous Peoples. [Preview the archive](#) or take a tour of the [full archive](#).

Vision Maker Media

Vision Maker Media is an organization that helps to develop, produce, and distribute Indigenous American programs for all public media. They partner with Tribes, Indian organizations, and Native communities to support training that increases the number of Indigenous Americans in media.

[Words from a Bear](#) [2019; NR; Documentary] Words from a Bear examines the enigmatic life and mind of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Navarro Scott Momaday (Kiowa), one of Native America's most celebrated authors of poetry and prose.

Library Catalog

The library has numerous books by and about Indigenous Peoples from across the Americas.

To find books for adults and teens, visit our catalog and search for `ocpl_IndigenousHeritage`

To find books for children, search the catalog using `ys_Native American Heritage`



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