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HOMEGROWN INDIGENOUS 150+ INITIATIVE IS BACK, IT'S GROWING, AND HAS SOME VERY SPECIAL GUESTS



Angel (Shannon Kook-Chun) and Peekka (Shay Eyre) in *Empire of Dirt*. Photo by Jason Jenkins. Courtesy of Mongrel Media.

Building on the success of its inaugural year in 2017, **Indigenous 150+** returns to Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory for a second season launching in advance of National Indigenous Peoples Day with an event at **Heartwood Hall in Owen Sound** on **Sunday June 10, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** with special guest **Saugeenaung Elder Manido Binashikwe** (Audrey Kewaquom – Caskanette) following with an event featuring, CTV's *The Launch* winner, Logan Staats, on **July 14th** as part of **Harbourfest**. Due to the success of this initiative this locally grown initiative has been invited to present events in Blue Mountain Village, St. Catharines, Ottawa and Canmore Alberta.

Indigenous 150+ is a film and conversation series launched in partnership with **M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre, City of Owen Sound** and **Good Influence Films**, to provide a platform for Indigenous voices and stories. It is a response to the **Truth and Reconciliation Calls To Action** to educate Canadians about First Nations, Métis and Inuit history, culture and teachings, to build

relationships and opportunities for shared experiences. Supporting this year's launch and reconciliation efforts for the series are a number of United Churches, including First United Church, Owen Sound, Trinity United Church, Collingwood, St. John's-Stevensville United Church, Niagara Falls and First Grantham United, St. Catharines.

LAUNCH - JUNE 10, 1:00 - 4:00 PM - HEARTWOOD HALL - OWEN SOUND

Opening the season on June 10th will be the award-winning film *Empire of Dirt* which tells the story of three generations of Mahikan women who discover that facing the past is sometimes the best way forward. A post-screening conversation will be led by **Saugeenaung Elder Manido Binashikwe** (Audrey Kewaquom – Caskanette) who has dedicated her last 30 years to the preservation, protection and resurgence of 'Indigenous Ways of Being'.

The Indigenous 150 + initiative helps create a safe place to engage in dialogue that increases understanding of our shared history between Indigenous and non Indigenous groups while building mutually beneficial relationships and cultural understanding. I am really happy to be involved.

Susan Staves, Member of Chippewas of Neyaashiinigmiing and
Indigenous 150+ Steering Committee

EMPIRE OF DIRT written by **Shannon Masters**, a screenwriter of Cree descent won the **Best Original Screenplay Award** at the **Canadian Screen Awards** in 2014. **Empire of Dirt** was her first feature script. Shannon is known for using comedy to tackle tough issues and her talents shine in this award-winning film.

The film stars **Cara Gee**, **Shay Eyre** and **Jennifer Podemski**, who is also the producer. To address the lack of Indigenous stories on Canadian screens, Podemski founded the first Indigenous owned and operated film production company in Canada, **Redcloud Studios**. This award-winning actress who took her passion for storytelling behind the camera, is responsible for the first all Indigenous dramatic television series, **Moccasin Flats** (Showcase, APTN), **The Other Side** (APTN) and the soon to be released documentary series **Future- History** which will air on APTN this fall. It's a leading edge television series about shifting the colonial narrative and celebrating the reclamation of Indigenous knowledge and identity.

Following the screening on June 10th, there will be a community potluck dinner and sharing circle for attendees. Details to follow.

JULY 14TH, 2018 - 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. - HEARTWOOD HALL - OWEN SOUND

Following its world festival tour, music lovers are in for a treat with a screening of the brand new documentary, ***When They Awake***, which will screen as part of **Harbourfest** on **July 14th**. Joining the conversation after the film will be rising star, and singer/songwriter **Logan Staats**, from Six Nations Grand River who was the recent winner of CTV's first episode of **The Launch**, and whose single "**The Lucky Ones**" hit number one on the iTunes chart and has had almost 1 million streams on Spotify. Staats who is one of the musicians highlighted in the film will take the **Harborfest stage at 7:00 p.m.**



Logan Staats in documentary film, **WHEN THEY AWAKE** (photo credit: Longyearbyen Media)

WHEN THEY AWAKE documents a remarkable generation of established and emerging Indigenous musicians in this moment of cultural and political resurgence. From ***Idle No More*** to ***Standing Rock***, Indigenous musicians across North America are making their voices heard. Working in every genre from Hip Hop to Rock to EDM and beyond, a generation of native musicians are channeling the pain of the past into a stirring, hopeful vision of the future. It is this generation and their astonishing music that **WHEN THEY AWAKE** bears witness. Featuring 20+ artists, including modern trailblazers - **A TRIBE CALLED RED, TANYA TAGAQ, LEELA GILDAY, ISKWÉ,** and **THE JERRY CANS,** **WHEN THEY AWAKE** is a magnum opus documenting contemporary indigenous musicians as they transform historical trauma into compelling art.

Due to the success of their first season, Indigenous 150+ will be expanding to five cities this year including a special event screening at **Ottawa Art Gallery**, and

monthly events at **FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre** beginning this fall with events at the **Celebration of Nations Festival Sept 7- 9th, 2018**. **artsPlace Canmore** has signed up for quarterly events starting on **July 24th** with a screening of the award-winning film **Colonization Road** by filmmaker **Michelle St. Jean**, which will be the first Indigenous 150+ event outside Ontario.

“We are very excited to be taking Indigenous 150+ on the road and are developing a model to make it easy for art centres and galleries to host Indigenous 150+ events in their communities. We want to help Indigenous voices be celebrated and harness the power of storytelling to bring people together.

-JoAnne Fishburn, Founder / Good Influence Films

“It’s time that the rest of Canada gets to know the first peoples. We are here all together and it’s time to share and identify what we have in common”

-Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle

Métis Nation of Ontario / Indigenous 150+ Steering Committee

Also in SON (Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory) this summer, Indigenous 150+ will be presenting events at **Miino Bmaadzwin Indigenous Life Festival (August 24th - August 26th)** presented in partnership with **M’Wikwedong Native Cultural Centre, Blue Mountain Village, Elephant Thoughts, and the Town of Collingwood**. This free all-ages festival launches with an event at 6:30pm on August 24th at the **Collingwood Amphitheatre**, with the rest of the weekend events at Blue Mountain Village. Festival highlights include Northern Ontario band, **Midnight Shine**. On August 25th, Indigenous 150+ will be presenting a sneak preview of **Redcloud Studios** television series ***Future History: Reclaiming our History, Harnessing our Future*** with special guest speakers from the television series soon to be announced.

PROGRAM INFO:

INDIGENOUS 150+ / TOUR 2018

OWEN SOUND

Dates: June 10 & July 14

Venue: Heartwood Concert Hall, 939 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound

Doors Open: 12:30 p.m.

Screening Event: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Ticket Price: \$20 (+ Online Service Fee) / Door Price: \$25

Or in person at \$20 at Heartwood House (+ \$2 Service Fee)

Tickets: <https://www.ticketfly.com/event/1699517-empire-dirt-owen-sound/>

***Please check <http://www.indigenous150plus.com> for any updates.*

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:

- Logan Staats, Musician / Songwriter, Grand River First Nations
- Jennifer Podemski / Award-winning Actor / producer / Empire of Dirt
- Shannon Masters, Award-winning Screenwriter / Empire of Dirt
- Elder Manido Binashikwe (Audrey Kewaquom – Caskanette), Moderator
- Ralph Wolf Thistle, Métis Nation of Ontario
- JoAnne Fishburn, Founder Good Influence Films / Co-Founder INDIGENOUS 150+

FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS

JUNE 10 / Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1787251094695688/>

JULY 14 / Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1052541488233901/>

SOCIAL

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Indigenous150PLUS/>

Twitter: @Indigenous150Plus

Hashtags: #Next150 / #Indigenous150PLUS

PRESS KIT - POSTERS & PHOTOS

<http://goodinfluencefilms.com/indigenous-150-press-kit>

TRAILERS

Empire of Dirt <https://vimeo.com/221347006#at=1>

When They Awake <https://vimeo.com/221347006>

Colonization Road <https://vimeo.com/109934578>

PARTNER INFO

M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Centre

Good Influence Films

City of Owen Sound

Elephant Thoughts

Blue Mountain Village Association

First United Church, Owen Sound

Trinity United Church, Collingwood

Cape Crocker United, Neyaashiinigmiing

Georgian Shores United Church, Owen Sound

St. John's-Stevensville United Church, Niagara Falls

First Grantham United Church, St Catharines

Nation Talk

Heartwood Concert Hall

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR MEDIA REQUESTS:

JoAnne Fishburn, Good Influence Films

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CANMORE ALBERTA

July 24, 2018 - artsPlace Canmore - 7:00 p.m.

Colonization Road, directed by Michelle St. Jean

BLUE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, ONTARIO

August 25, 2018 - Part of the Blue Mountain [Indigenous Life Festival Miino Bmaadzwin](#), (in partnership with the M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Centre, Blue Mountain Village, Elephant Thoughts, and City of Collingwood), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m - Free Public Screenings.

ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

Launching Sept 7 - 9th, 2017, Celebration of Nations, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Details, TBA.

To stay up to date with details: <http://www.indigenous150plus.com>

