
Subject: Museum Announces 2015 Native FilmFest



For Immediate Release

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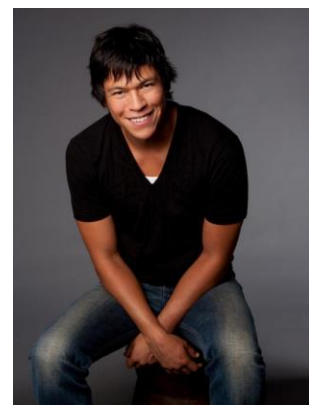
Museum Announces Native FilmFest Guest Celebrity Attendees

PALM SPRINGS, CA, February 27, 2015 - Celebrating its fourteenth season, **Native FilmFest** will be presented March 3-8, 2015 by Agua Caliente Cultural Museum at Camelot Theatres in Palm Springs. One of the most highly regarded events of its kind, the festival features the best in films by, about, and starring Native Americans and other Indigenous peoples from around the world.

Guest Programmer of Native FilmFest is **Elizabeth Weatherford**, Founder and Director of the Film and Video Center of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Celebrity guests who will be in attendance include: Director **Sydney Freeland** (Navajo) on Tuesday and Wednesday; Director **Shelley Niro** (Mohawk), Actor **Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie** (Navajo/Seminole/Muscogee Creek), and Artist **Rick Bartow** on Thursday; and Actor **Chaske Spencer** (Lakota) and Director **Alex Smith** on Saturday.

Opening the festival on Tuesday evening is Views on Native Film - a free panel discussion that will take a look at the impact of the Sundance Institute on the development of Native film.



Chaske Spencer
"Winter in the Blood"

Panelists include **N. Bird Runningwater** (Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache), Filmmaker, Director of the Sundance Native Film Lab Program, Programmer of Native Initiate of Sundance Institute; **Sydney Freeland**(Navajo), Writer, Director of the opening night film; and Elizabeth Weatherford who will serve as panel moderator.

Themes of the 2015 festival focus on art and the power of image in film, ambiguity about personal identity experienced by Indians today, and global challenges to Indigenous land rights.

The Opening Night film on Wednesday, March 3 presents *Drunktown's Finest* - an award-winning film written and directed by Native American Sydney Freeland. Robert Redford was Executive Producer. A compelling snapshot of contemporary Navajo life in Gallup, New Mexico, *Drunktown's Finest* premiered at the 2014 Sundance Institute Native American and Indigenous Program. This screening is presented in association with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

There will be tented public receptions daily between the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Filmgoers may purchase tasty meals and beverages at the Camelot Internationale Café and visit with other filmgoers, as well as filmmakers, directors, and actors in attendance.

Tickets to the festival are affordably priced at \$10 for Adults and \$7 for Senior Adults (60+), Youth (16 and under), Students, and Active Military Personnel. All Access Passes are \$50.

Event Details:

Views on Native Film Lecture

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Location: Camelot Theatres, 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Free Admission and Parking

Native FilmFest Screenings

Date: Wednesday, March 4 through Sunday, March 8, 2015

Visit <http://www.accmuseum.org> for Screening Schedule

Location: Camelot Theatres, 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Box Office: 760-325-6565

Free Parking

Tickets available for purchase at Camelot Theatres Box Office or online at www.camelottheatres.com.

For general questions regarding Native FilmFest, call 760.833.8169 or e-mail cvictor@accmuseum.org.

About Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

In 1991, a modest museum of less than 1,600 square feet was founded to collect and preserve stories and artifacts of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and share them with local residents and visitors alike. Today, Museum programming provides a thriving resource for Native and non-Native people and a dynamic forum for permanent residents and visitors of all ages.

Museum offerings that serve over 28,000 adults and children each year include quality exhibitions at the Museum, at off-site locations, and online; stimulating and enlightening lectures; classes and demonstrations that feature hands-on experiences with Native skills and crafts; a six-day Native film festival and other cultural special events; library and archives research opportunities; Museum tours; guided cultural hikes; and presentations for students in schools, and for civic and business organizations.

For teachers, students, artists, scholars, and collectors the Museum's holdings provide unique research and archival resources -- from recordings of a tribal *net* (ceremonial and political leader) to the documentation of ongoing challenges made to tribal land and water rights. Free online resources are available on the Museum Web site at www.accmuseum.org.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit institution. In keeping with its mission, the Museum inspires people to learn about the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and other Native cultures through exhibitions, collections, research, and educational programs.

In recognition of its role as a regional and national resource, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is the first Native American museum to be part of the prestigious Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program. The association with Smithsonian Institution provides opportunities for a mutual sharing of resources in collections, scholarship, programming, and technical expertise, and entitles the Museum to bring world-acclaimed Smithsonian exhibitions to the Coachella Valley.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is located at 219 South Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs. The Museum is open September through May -- Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 PM and June through August -- Friday through Sunday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission to the Museum is free.

Administration Offices of the Museum are located at 901 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite C-204, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Additional information is available at 760.778.1079 or visit www.accmuseum.org.

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