

## IN AN ERA WHEN NATIVE LANGUAGES AND CULTURES ARE SHIFTING, DECLINING, MORPHING AND REVITALIZING THERE IS HOPE ON THE HORIZON THAT LIES IN THE HANDS AND CAMERAS OF NATIVE FILMMAKERS.....

Hosted by N. Bird Runningwater (Sundance Institute) and Annie Calkins

**Bird Runningwater** is the Associate Director of Native American and Indigenous Programs for the Sundance Institute. In this capacity he scouts worldwide and across the United States for Indigenous artists with projects that can be supported through the Institute's Feature Film Program, Documentary Program, Theatre Program, the Independent Producers Conference, and Sundance Film Festival. He has identified for support numerous award-winning film projects. He also oversees the Sundance Institute-Ford Foundation Film Fellowship established for emerging Native American filmmakers.

Before joining the Sundance Institute, Runningwater was based in New York City and served as executive director of the Fund of the Four Directions, the private philanthropy of a Rockefeller family member. The Fund focused on supporting the revitalization of the languages and lifeways of North America's indigenous peoples. Prior to joining the Fund, Runningwater served as program associate in the Ford Foundation's Media, Arts and Culture Program, where he built and managed domestic and global funding initiatives focusing on specific issues within the media, arts and culture fields.

A recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation's National Fellowship in Public Policy and International Affairs, Runningwater is also an alumnus of Americans for Indian Opportunity's Ambassadors Program and the Kellogg Fellows Program.

**Duane Gastant' Aucoin** is a Wolf/Yanyedi member of the Teslin Tlingit Council and recently returned home from Vancouver, BC. He received training from his elders as the lead singer/drummer/dancer for the Deslin Khwan Dancers in the Yukon and has performed with them throughout Canada and the US since 1996. Aucoin received formal schooling in the First Nation Theatre Training taught by nationally acclaimed director Carol Grey-Eyes. He is currently performing "Cash Creek Charlie" along with Sharon Gramma Susie" Shorty in the stand-up comedy routine "Susie & Charlie". He has also starred in the First Nation's Theatre Production "Raven's Tale" in Whitehorse, Yukon, which he also co-wrote and directed.

**Morgan Howard** is a filmmaker and founder of Morgan Howard Productions (MHP). His name is Xagatkeen, Brown Bear House, Teikweidí clan, of the Tlingit. He has Bachelor of Arts Degree in Broadcast Production from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Film Production from Columbia College-Hollywood in Los Angeles, California. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Yak-tat Kwaan, Inc. as the Chairman.

MHP is a communications company providing video production, web, and multimedia and consulting services since 1996. Mr. Howard specializes in communicating for and about Alaska Natives and American Indians. Morgan Howard has been shooting professional video for more than 18 years. This includes more than a thousand news stories, several documentaries, and dozens of specialty videos.

# SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE 2009 FILM FESTIVAL

**Carol Geddes (Inland Tlingit)** was born in Teslin, Yukon, has directed many documentaries about Aboriginal Canadians, including *Picturing a People*, which had its US premiere in the 1997 Native American Film and Video Festival and won the Best Story Award at the 1997 American Indian Film Festival. She was a producer at Studio One, the Aboriginal production unit of the National Film Board of Canada, when her first major film *Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief* (1988) won a silver award for Educational Documentary at the San Francisco Film Festival. She continued working with NFB to head Studio One until it was closed in 1995. Geddes sits on the board of the Canadian Conference of the Arts and the Women in Media Foundation. She has participated in working groups of the Cultural Human Resources Council, which builds capacity for arts employment in Canada, and has served on the Yukon Heritage Resources Board. She was educated at Concordia University and Carleton University. In recent years she written, directed, and produced *Anash* and the *Legacy of the Sun-Rock*, a digitally-animated adventure series for youth based on the Tlingit culture.

## **Native American Short Films (courtesy of Sundance Institute)**

NIKAMOWIN	Kevin Lee Burton (God's Lake Narrows Cree)
GOODNIGHT IRENE	Sterlin Harjo (Creek & Seminole Nations)
GESTURE DOWN (I DON'T SING)	Cedar Sherbert (Santa Ysabel Kumeyaay)
SIKUMI	Andrew Okpeaha MacLean (Inupiaq)
TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT	Taika Waititi (Te Whanau Apanui)

## **Feature Documentary Films (courtesy of Sundance Institute)**

MISS NAVAJO	Billy Jo Luther (Navajo/Laguna Pueblo/Hopi)
FOUR SHEETS TO THE WIND (adult themes and language)	Sterlin Harjo (Creek & Seminole Nations)

## **Films by Tlingit Filmmakers (courtesy Duane Gastant' Aucoin and Morgan Howard)**

HAA SHUKA: FOR OUR CHILDREN	
KASAAN TOTEM POLE RAISING	
TLINGIT MACBETH	Morgan Howard (Teikweidi)
MY OWN PRIVATE LOWER POST	Duane Gastant' Aucoin (Yanyeidi)
ANASH	Carol Geddes (Dałl'aweidi)
THE END	Duane Gastant' Aucoin (Yanyeidi) and Doug Smarch Jr. (Kookhitaan)