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OCT. 29, 2012 | 149-12

CBC pop culture critic Jesse Wenté on Indigenous cinema and *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*

WATERLOO – Jesse Wenté, CBC pop culture critic and head of film programmes for the Toronto International Film Festival, will visit Laurier Nov. 16 to deliver a presentation on Indigenous cinema and the landmark Canadian film *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*. The lecture begins at 6 p.m. in room 201 of the Bricker Academic Building, and will be followed by a screening of the film at 7 p.m.

Winner of 20 awards, including the prestigious Camera d'or at Cannes for Best First Feature Film, *The Fast Runner* is a film adaptation of an oral legend passed down through generations of the inhabitants of Igloolik, a community of 1,200 people located on a small island in the north Baffin region of the Canadian Arctic. Wenté's talk will provide an historical context for *The Fast Runner* by accounting for the film's place in cinematic history, detailing the rise of an Indigenous cinema movement and the instrumental role the film played in the movement's evolution.

Wenté joined the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2006 as one of the Canadian features programmers. The landmark film programme "First Peoples Cinema: 1500 Nations, One Tradition" and its accompanying gallery exhibition "Home on Native Land" marked Wenté's first major curatorial project at TIFF Bell Lightbox. He is well known as a film critic and broadcaster in Toronto and across Canada.

Wenté's presentation is part of the Fall 2012 installment of the annual Laurier Free Film Series, titled "From the Source: 25 Years of Film Adaptations." The Friday-evening screenings showcase notable adaptations of the past quarter-century and are introduced by speakers who provide insight into each film and the process of its adaptation.

For more information, contact Associate Professor Katherine Spring at kspring@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 4149, or visit the "Laurier Film Series" page on Facebook.

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