



Katherine Spring, Associate Professor
Film Studies Program Coordinator
519-884-0710 ext. 4148 or kspring@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director
Communications & Public Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

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The Laurier Free Film Series presents "Tracking Shots #3"

WATERLOO – The Laurier Free Film Series presents, "Tracking Shots #3: Aboriginal Cinema." The six-part series features an eclectic mix of documentaries, short films, and feature-length films in addition to presentations by guest filmmakers and speakers. Screenings will be held in Room 102 of the Bricker Academic building on Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo campus on select Thursdays, beginning Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. The series is free and open to everyone in the community.

"Tracking Shots #3" is a follow-up to the very successful "Tracking Shots" series screened last winter. The series is presented by Laurier's Department of English and Film Studies, in partnership with the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives at Laurier.

"Laurier's Office of Aboriginal Initiatives seeks not only to create an inclusive, welcoming environment for Aboriginal students, but it also seeks to provide all Laurier students with opportunities to enhance their understanding of Canada by providing Aboriginal education," said Jean Becker, senior advisor: Office of Aboriginal Initiatives. "This film series furthers this education by reflecting the place of Indigenous peoples in the history and landscape of our country."

Elder in the Making (2015)

When: Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

Guest speaker: Jenny Kerber, assistant professor, Department of English and Film Studies

Indigenous literature scholar Jenny Kerber introduces this feature-length documentary about a Blackfoot Aboriginal and a Chinese-Canadian newcomer who discover their shared heritage as they embark on a spiritual journey across traditional Blackfoot territory. Through thousands of years of ancient history guided by the wisdom of modern-day elders, they find the beginnings of the long road to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Heater (1999)

When: Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

Guest speakers: Tanis MacDonald, associate professor, Department of English and Film Studies, and Q&A with director Terrance Odetto

A couple of quirky down-and-out men, played by two of Canada's best actors (Stephen Ouimette and Gary Farmer), wander the wintry streets of Winnipeg for a day and a night trying to sell a space heater and survive the cold. Ken Eisner's review in *Variety* notes that the film's "mordant humor brings a Beckett-like edge to the prairie neo-realism."

Fractured Land (2015)

When: Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

Guest speaker: Vanessa Gray, community activist

This powerful, award-winning documentary chronicles the struggles of Caleb Behn, a young Aboriginal leader and lawyer-in-making who fights to protect First Nations territory from some of the world's largest fracking operations. Confronting fractures within his community and himself, Behn struggles to reconcile traditional teachings with the law in order to protect the land.

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***Angry Inuk* (2016)**

When: March 2, 7 p.m.

Guest speaker: Jaydene Lavallie, Laurier graduate

Winner of both the Audience Award and Canadian Documentary Promotion Award at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, *Angry Inuk* challenges the southern world to reconsider its preconceived notions of the commercial seal hunt. Filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril (Inuk) focuses on the Inuit hunters and artisans whose lives are made exponentially harder by the uninformed legislation and dogma of governments and activists that many of them will never meet.

Short Films: *7 Minutes* (2014), *Sex Spirit Strength* (2015), *Hollow Water* (2000)

When: March 16, 7 p.m.

Guest speaker: Sarah Scanlon, Sexual Violence Support Advocate at Laurier

7 Minutes is a re-enactment of one woman's seven-minute walk home from her university library on a night when a man followed her and tried to get her into his van. *Sex Spirit Strength* follows Michael and Jack, two young Indigenous men, as they shed the stigma and shame associated with their sexual health and gender identity. *Hollow Water* profiles a tiny Ojibway community on the shores of Lake Winnipeg as they deal with an epidemic of sexual abuse in their midst.

***The Pass System* (2015)**

When: March 23, 7 p.m.

Guest speaker: Filmmaker Alex Williams

Introduced by the film's director, *The Pass System* illuminates Canada's hidden history of racial segregation. For over 60 years, the Canadian government often denied Indigenous peoples the basic freedom to leave their reserves without a pass. Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Ojibwe and Blackfoot elders of the prairie land where this took place tell their stories of living under and resisting the system, and link their experiences to today. Narrative by acclaimed Cree actor and activist Tantoo Cardinal (*Dances with Wolves*, *Legends of the Fall*). Wilfrid Laurier University acknowledges that it is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

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