



## REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL'S "HOME MADE VISIBLE" WORLD PREMIERE OF MEDIA ARTIST COMMISSION

### EIGHT IBPOC ARTISTS PERSONALIZE CANADA'S ARCHIVES

**TORONTO, ON October 18th, 2018** - For our nationwide archival project, **Home Made Visible**, the Regent Park Film Festival partners with **Charles Street Video** to commission six short films and a specially curated mixed media installation from eight IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and/or people of colour) artists.

Home Made Visible is an unprecedented initiative that aims to address the gap in Canada's media archives of IBPOC representation. The Project not only digitizes and archives old home movies for free, but asks commissioned artists to respond to the colonial practice of archiving through the creation of new works. These works explore the presence and absence of the artists' communities through personal narratives. Highlights of the collection are featured below.

Jennifer Dysart holds a relative's home video for safekeeping. What happens to be her personal found footage is a rare historical depiction of a Northern Indigenous female caribou hunter. The juxtaposition of her material with NFB archival material in **CARIBOU IN THE ARCHIVE** speaks to the literal hardships of keeping memories alive for culture and community.

Recognizing that 22% of Canada's population is immigrants, Maya Bastian's **ARRIVAL ARCHIVES** follows two families, including her own Sri Lankan Tamil family, as they share what it takes to leave and make home. Here, children, parents and grandparents are all welcomed to a seat at the table.

Melisse Watson, a multidisciplinary artist with Black and Cree heritage, was adopted into a White family. In **REUNION; SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE BLACK AMERICAN SOUTH**, Watson invites viewers through an intergenerational tapestry to experience the vulnerabilities and joys of meeting one's family for the first time.

The collection premieres at the Festival **Saturday, November 17th at 2:30pm**. All artists will be present for a talkback with the Project's Artistic Director and available for interview.

In 2019, from January to June, the collection tours to 14 libraries across Canada, from Vancouver to the Yukon to Fredericton, accompanied by workshops to invite the public to engage in their own present day archiving.

## **ARTIST WORKS**

### **Anishkutapeu** (dir. Lisa Jodoin, Canada)

*Anishkutapeu* is a short documentary that explores the connection between land and archives in the Innu community of Uashat in Sept-Îles, Quebec. A source of well-being, traditional knowledge, and identity, land and familial territories are an essential part of what it means to be Innu.

### **Arrival Archives** (dir. Maya Bastian, Canada)

Two families, similar identities. Fleeing violence, they sought refuge in Canada and began a new life. This is the experience of thousands of people in our great country and yet these stories go mostly untold. *Arrival Archives* is an artful exploration of newcomer arrival stories, told through a multi-generational viewpoint. The stories intertwine as one, illustrating that Canada's cultural landscape is a communal experience shared by many different faces.

### **Caribou in the Archive** (dir. Jennifer Dysart, Canada)

In *Caribou in the Archive*, rustic VHS home video of a woman hunting caribou in the 1990s is combined with NFB archival film footage of northern Manitoba from the 1940s. In this experimental film, the difference between homemade video and official historical record is made obvious, and yet at the same time, their boundaries are reduced. Northern Indigenous women hunting is at the heart of this personal found footage in which the filmmaker describes the enigmatic events that led to saving an important piece of family history from being lost forever.

### **Landscape of Desire** (dir. Aeyliya Husain, Canada)

*Landscape of Desire* is a short experimental documentary film that combines locational filming, archival footage and photographs with narration, to tell the story of what home means and how the land defines the person. As the land changes around him, the one thing that remains constant for Mahfuzur is his home.

### **Pictures of Departure** (dir. Parastoo and Faraz Anoushahpour, Canada)

In winter of 1986 our mother writes in her diary: "To scratch the surface of a subject does not penetrate deep into the subject". Almost three decades later, *Pictures of Departure* takes this entry and sets off to explore the surfaces and the scratches that linger across generations.

### **Portrait of a Zamboni Driver** (dir. Nadine Arpin, Canada)

Growing up in Colombia, Luis España dreamed of a different life. When he married a Cree woman from Canada and returned to her small town, Luis found a sense of place driving the Zamboni at the local ice-rink where hockey is King.

### **Reunion; self-determination of the Black American South** (Melisse Watson, Canada)

A painting and multi-media installation that creates a personal, emotional space for the viewer to step into - a *Reunion* - meeting family, and home(land), for the first time.

## **ARTIST BIOS**

**Nadine Arpin** is a Two-Spirited Métis filmmaker based in Sioux Lookout, Ontario where her film production company Cedar Water Films is located. Since 2014 she has been producing and directing independent short films which have screened both nationally and internationally.

**Jennifer Dysart** is a director of short films and works as a set dresser/decorator in projects of all scales. She is a Board Member at the Factory Media Center in Hamilton, Ontario. Jennifer was born in Alberta, raised in BC and has Cree roots from South Indian Lake, Manitoba. She is an archives enthusiast with a deep love of found footage and experimental films.

**Aeyliya Husain** is a documentary filmmaker whose work focuses on issues of representation, war, women and photography. She has exhibited at festivals both nationally and internationally. She started her career with the National Film Board of Canada.

**Lisa Jodoin** is a writer/filmmaker working out of Fredericton, New Brunswick. Her short films include *Tracing Blood*, a video poem about Indigenous identity, and *In Search of Laura Fearn*. She recently completed a feature-length documentary for the New Brunswick Aboriginal People's Council and the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network Atlantic.

**Parastoo Anoushahpour** and **Faraz Anoushahpour** have worked in collaboration since 2013. Using various performative structures, their projects explore collaboration as a way to upset the authority of a singular narrator or position. Recent work has been shown at New York Film Festival, TIFF, Gallery 44 and Trinity Square Video in Toronto.

**Maya Bastian** is a writer, a filmmaker and an artist most interested in exploring themes of community and culture. Her recent film *Air Show* received press and widespread attention for its look at refugee reactions to the National Air Show. She is a 2017 recipient of the Al Magee Screenwriter Mentorship and participated in Reelworld Film Festival's Emerging 20 for 2017.

**Melisse Watson** is a disruptionist, earthworker and multidisciplinary artist, utilizing direct action, performance, visual, aural and installation art to provoke experiences that shift a viewers' course. Through archiving of activism by Black and Indigenous peoples in Tkaronto, and exploring access, gender, conflict, Melisse explores speculative futures and their preparations.

**Home Made Visible** The Canadian archives are lacking in home movie footage from families of colour. Home Made Visible works to preserve the personal history of Indigenous and Visible Minority communities and to explore how archives have the power to shape who we become and how we relate to one another.

*Home Made Visible is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter program. With this \$35M investment, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada.*

**[www.HomeMadeVisible.ca](http://www.HomeMadeVisible.ca)**

**Regent Park Film Festival** Toronto's only free community film festival. In addition to the annual film festival and Under the Stars: Movies in the park we host year-round film screenings, school programs and workshops, all at no cost.

**Charles Street Video** (CSV) is a non-profit production organization established in 1981 to help support media artists. They provide affordable access to equipment and post-production editing facilities for creating videos, films, installations and other media art forms. They regularly offer workshops, training sessions and residencies. Their ethos is largely focused on encouraging an artisanal, 'do-it-yourself' professionalism.

**Media Contact**

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