



Focus on ten films

Midnight at the Lonely River

Abraham Cote, Canada 17 min

When the lights go out at a seedy little motel bar, at the crossroads of a seedy little town, nefarious happenings are taking place and three predators are enacting their evil deeds. Enter Vicky, a drifter who quickly realizes what's happening right under everyone's nose. After midnight, in the shadows of this dim establishment, evil begets evil, and the predator becomes the prey.

Florent Vollant : Innu

Isabelle Longnus, Canada, 1 h 36

Florent Vollant, iconic musician of the Innu nation, feels the urgent need to tell his story in a way he's never done before. Co-founder of the celebrated duo Kashtin, and equally renowned for his acclaimed solo albums and as a political activist in defense of his culture, Florent now has limited mobility due to a stroke. Beginning a new chapter in his life surrounded by his family and community, he remains committed to creating, transmitting and dreaming up new projects.

Free Leonard Pelletier

Jesse Short Bull, David France, U.S.A. 1 h 43

Leonard Peltier, one of the living leaders of the American Indian Movement, has been in prison for 50 years following a contentious conviction. A new generation of Native activists is committed to winning his freedom before he dies.

Cosmographies

Juan Francisco Salazar, Australia 1 h 34

In presence of Victoria Hunt, who plays the role of Xuê Noon.

According to Wikipedia, Atacama is an arid desert zone of active volcanoes approaching 6,000 meters, surrounded by turquoise lagoons, geysers and deep valleys. This South American desert is famous for its starry nights, thanks to its location in the intertropical zone, combining extreme dryness, altitude and very low light pollution. Several international astronomical observatories have set up in this "extraterrestrial" desert, where NASA has tested small vehicles before they set off to explore Mars. A robot named Zoë found colonies of bacteria and lichen at two separate sites in this desert, which has the lowest density of organic activity on Earth. In Cosmographies, this singular ecosystem is seen through the eyes of Xuê Noon a Maori astrophysicist from the future. A composite film that is at once poetic, ethnological, militant and prophetic.

Bad Press

Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler, USA 1 h 38

Winner of the Sundance U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award, the film follows the struggle of Angel Ellis, who resolutely opposes a corrupt tribal government while defending freedom of the press. Bad Press is an energizing watch — full of humor, humanity, and numerous twists and turns.

Moon Belly

Liliana K'an, Mexico 29 min

In the highlands of Chiapas, a young Tsotsil woman who is about to give birth for the first time, remembers the women who came before her. Despite the fears and uncertainties of childbirth, an ancestral worldview becomes a gateway to serene motherhood.

Muru

Tearepa Kahi, New Zealand 1 h 42

Inspired by real events in New Zealand in 2007: a Māori police officer is torn between his obligations to his community and his duty to his badge, as forces raid an isolated indigenous community accused of harboring a domestic terrorist cell. A gripping thriller, an anti-colonial scorcher, a relentless statement of fact.

Ka Whawhai Tonu - (In the Fire of War),

Mike Jonathan, New Zealand 1 h 55

Historical drama, Ka Whawhai Tonu, set against the backdrop of the last battle of New Zealand's colonial wars, the Battle of Ōrākau in 1864, tells the story of two teenagers who must take their destiny into their own hands amid massacres and desolation.

Walls- akinni inuk,

Nina Paninnguaq Skydsbjerg, Sofie Rørdam, Greenland 1 h 13

Ruth has spent almost half her life in prison – the last 12 years in indefinite detention, trapped in a legal limbo between Greenland and Denmark. But one day she meets Nina who is visiting the prison as part of a film project. The meeting is the start of a deep friendship between the two women across the walls. Despite their vastly different life situations, they discover that they share more than they first thought. Slowly, they realize that they can help each other break free from the trauma of the past and the shackles of prison. 'Walls' is a moving and important story about love, human empathy, hope and the struggle for a second chance. Told from a Greenland where the US and Danish politicians don't steal the spotlight and where words like independence and freedom have a completely different ring to them.

Inkwo (animation)

Amanda Strong, Canada 18 min

Dove, a gender-shifting warrior, uses their Indigenous medicine (Inkwo) to protect their community from an unburied swarm of terrifying creatures. *Inkwo for When the Starving Return* is a call to action to fight and protect against the forces of greed around us.