

T&T Film Festival to screen films in celebration of First Peoples Day

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In celebration of First People's Day on October 13, the T&T Film Festival will host Indigenous Voices—an afternoon of films that present a diverse spectrum of indigenous storytelling and powerful narratives on the disappearing indigenous cultures of T&T and the Americas.



A scene from Gone with the River.

A release said the event will be held on October 14 from noon to 5 pm, at the Arima Town Hall, in association with the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, and with sponsorship from the Ministry of Community Development Culture and the Arts. The screenings are free.

According to Melvina Hazard, director of Community Development at the T&T Film Festival, “We are thrilled to be participating in the national celebration of the First Peoples of T&T, with support from the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, and to be using the power of film to encourage national discourse on issues of national and regional importance. We hope that Indigenous Voices will continue over the years as we officially commemorate this long awaited celebration.”

The films to be screened are as follows:

- Gone With The River
 Director: Mario Crespo, Venezuela
 Genre: Narrative Feature
 Runtime: 104 mins
 Time: 12 pm

Dauna is a member of the Warao tribe of the Orinoco River delta. Her thirst for education is encouraged by her family and the local priest.

As Dauna grows, her desire to experience life beyond the river grows too, but Tarcisio, her childhood sweetheart, is tied to the traditional ways of the community and Dauna fears her ambitions and dreams maybe thwarted, as she struggles to carve out a modern identity as an inhabitant of two cultures—Warao and Catholic.

- The Amerindians

Director: Tracy Assing, T&T

Genre: Documentary

Runtime: 40 mins

Time: 2 pm

Until now, Amerindian descendants in T&T have depended on the stories of grandparents and great-grandparents for their history. With the indigenous story of dignity and survival written out of the history books, director Tracy Assing, who was raised as a member of the Santa Rosa Carib Community, explores her indigenous lineage, while pondering an uncertain future. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

- El Abrazo Del Serpiente (Embrace of the Serpent)

Director: Ciro Guerra, Colombia

Genre: Narrative Feature

Runtime: 125 mins

Time: 3 pm

Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and the last survivor of his people, searches for the rare and sacred psychedelic yakruna plant to save the life of a western explorer he reluctantly befriends. In the span of 40 years he takes two parallel odysseys through the Amazon, in this poetic epic that examines the ravages of colonialism in South America. Embrace of the Serpent won the Art Cinema Award at the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards, in 2015.

- For further information visit tffilmfestival.com
