



## TEN CANOES

It is the distant past, tribal times. Dayindi (played by Jamie Gulpilil, son of the great David Gulpilil) covets one of the wives of his older brother. To teach him the proper way, he is told a story from the mythical past, a story of wrong love, kidnapping, sorcery, bungling mayhem and revenge gone wrong. In English storytelling (by David Gulpilil) and subtitled Ganalbingu language, this is a film unlike any you have ever seen. Ten Canoes is a feature film Rolf de Heer that was shot on and around the Arafura Swamp in north-eastern Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory of Australia in May and June, 2005. The film was funded by a consortium consisting of the Australian Film Finance Corporation, the South Australian Film Corporation, SBS-Independent, Fandango Italy and the Adelaide Film Festival. Australian distribution is through Palace Films while international sales are being handled through the Wild Bunch in Paris. The film is unique in that it is the first feature film to be shot entirely in Aboriginal language (predominantly Ganalbingu), and it is set both in the past (centuries ago, before the coming of white people to Australia) and in the Ganalbingu mythical past. It is a tragi-comedy, a cautionary tale of love, lust and revenge gone wrong that, incidental to its central story line, also explores something of the "old ways". The film is directed by Rolf de Heer and features the son of David Gulpilil in one of the lead roles: twenty-two year-old Jamie Gulpilil, whose traditional lands fall within the Arafura Swamp area. The entire cast are people indigenous to the swamp region, mainly Ganalbingu and related clans, who are also responsible for the making of all the traditional artefacts needed for the film, such as the swamp-specific bark canoes, the spears and other weaponry and the dwellings. Indigenous people from the area are involved at most levels of the production, from input into and editorial control of the script to the casting and selection of locations.

## FOUR SHEETS TO THE WIND

Smallhill's father never has much to say, but one day, he is quieter than usual. When Cufe finds his father dead beside a bottle of pills, he does as he promised and drags the body out to the family pond, unceremoniously sinking it to the bottom. But everyone in the community is expecting a big funeral, so Cufe, his cousin, and his mom decide to fake one. In the midst of mourning, Cufe realizes he has to get off the reservation and find a more fulfilling life. His sister, Miri, comes from Tulsa for the funeral and invites him to visit her in the big city. She opens the door for Cufe into a new world.

Director Sterlin Harjo's wonderfully crafted first feature is a fresh and delightful film about healing and the ties that bind people together. Harjo creates a rich Oklahoma atmosphere with its rural landscapes and easy country rhythms, infusing the entire film with a warm sense of humor, while Cody Lightning and Tamara Podemski give charming performances as Cufe and Miri. Four Sheets to the Wind is a heartwarming valentine of humanity and hopeful sentiments. -- © Sundance Film Festival

## IMPRINT

Chris Eyre and Linn Productions present Imprint, a contemporary Native American dramatic supernatural thriller that tells the story of Shayla Stonefeather, a prominent Native American attorney who has turned away from her people and the dreams of her youth. When she returns to the Pine Ridge Indian reservation of South Dakota, her ancestral home, ghostly apparitions begin to haunt her with a frightening vision she does not want to believe.

## REAWAKENING

Diane Fraher (Osage) has written and directed a story of one man's, Robert Doctor's, struggle to acknowledge where he comes from before he can know where he truly belongs. In choosing to accept himself and his fate, his choice is one between opportunism, and loyalty and tradition. In these times of extreme politics this message transcends the limitations of culture, time and place and reaches out to resonate across generational and cultural lines.

The Reawakening is a contemporary story set in the corporate legal world. It is an action story depicting prison life in a very racially corrupt prison bureaucracy. It is also a story of personal redemption. How can an "urban" Indian, balance an affluent life style with the traditional ways of his Native background?

The Reawakening portrays the struggle for personal redemption through a return to traditional Native American spiritual values, the love of family, childhood friends and the elders of the Nation.

## EXPIRATION DATE

In this romantic fable, Charlie Silver Cloud III (Robert A. Guthrie) is about to turn 25, the same age his father and grandfather were when they were killed by milk trucks. Convinced his own tragic fate awaits him, Charlie prepares for his date with destiny. Then he meets a girl who won't let him die in peace. Directed by Rick Stevenson.

## THE JOURNALS OF KNUD RASMUSSEN

While dealing with his increasingly deranged daughter, an Inuit shaman must also confront a mounting series of communal dangers: food is growing more scarce as the climate changes, and local customs are under threat from encroaching Westerners. This stirring drama powerfully depicts the devastation that can follow when families—or cultures—collide.

DIRECTOR: Norman Cohn, Zacharias Kunuk