



VERMONT  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2022 Global Roots Film Festival: Indigenous Cinema – March 3 - March 6

Burlington, VT: (Feb, 17): VTIFF is pleased to announce that the 2022 Global Roots Film Festival: Indigenous Cinema will take place March 3 – March 6.

Now in its 9th year, this 4-day highly-acclaimed deep focus film festival, with changing themes yearly, will take place at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center and a at ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Other satellite locations include The Savoy Theater in Montpelier. Most of the films will also be offered virtually on VTIFF's Virtual Cinema platform.

The 2022 Global Roots FF will include films of all genres and styles, made by Indigenous filmmakers, and featuring films from the USA, Canada, Central/South America, Australia, Inuit Territories, Sweden, New Zealand, The Pacific Islands.

The festival will also include 2 panel discussions with leaders of the Abenaki community in Vermont. In the festival lobbies, Abenaki artists will have displays of their work.

The festival is in partnership with the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association and co-curated by Orly Yadin, VTIFF's Executive Director and Vera Longtoe Sheehan, Director the VAAA.

The full schedule is now available online for viewing and ticket purchase. The printed festival program will be inserted in every issue of Seven Days on Wednesday, February 23rd.

<http://www.vtiff.org/> for more information.

### **Opening Night Film:**

SMOKE SIGNALS - This film marked a major milestone as the first film written, directed and acted by Native American. The film will be screened Thursday, March 3 at 7:15 pm at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center – Film House. For more information about the film visit <https://vtiff.org/events/smoke-signals/>

### **Of special interest is a new documentary:**

END OF THE LINE: THE WOMEN OF STANDING ROCK

A story of a small group of Indigenous women who risk their lives to stop the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline construction that desecrated their ancient burial and prayer sites and threatens their land, water, and very existence. For more information about the film visit <https://vtiff.org/events/end-of-the-line/>

### **From the Pacific Islands we bring VAI:**

A feature film that ranges across the Pacific — from an eight-year-old girl's drama-filled day in Fiji, to a sacred moment in an Aotearoa forest. Vai, meaning water, is a portmanteau feature film made by nine female Pacific filmmakers filmed in seven different Pacific countries. <https://vtiff.org/events/vai/>

### **Panel discussions:**

In addition to the films, 4 cultural leaders of Vermont's Abenaki tribes will attend two panel discussions. Both shorts programs will include short films made by, or about, Abenaki history and lives today.

### **Speakers**

Vera Longtoe Sheehan, Director of the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, and Abenaki Arts & Education Center

Melody Mackin, Historian and Coordinator at Atowi Project

Chief Don Stevens, Chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe and the Director of Abenakis Helping Abenakis

Frederick M. Wiseman, Coordinator for The Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center

The full program and line up can be viewed here: <https://vtiff.org/festivals/global-roots-film-festival/#program>

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**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community and bring the world to Vermont through film. VTIFF operates year-round with monthly screenings, the Global Roots Film Festival and the Made here Film Festival. VTIFF celebrates its 37th anniversary in 2022. The largest program of VTIFF is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. More information at **VTIFF.ORG**

High-res film stills at **VTIFF.ORG/PRESS**

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