

2020 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL: Hosts The World Premiere Of Native Narrative Short Little Chief

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

(Park City, UT) â?? December 10, 2019. ***Little Chief***, a narrative short film directed by Indigenous filmmaker **Erica Tremblay** (Seneca-Cayuga), will hold its world premiere as part of the Shorts Selection at the **2020 Sundance Film Festival**. The story stars an Indigenous cast, including **Lily Gladstone** (*Certain Women*, *Billions*), and was produced through the **Sundance Institute Native Filmmakers Lab** last year.

SNEAK PREVIEW

Filmed with quiet resilience and against the bleak landscape of a rural reservation in Oklahoma, *Little Chief* tells the story of Sharon, an exhausted school teacher struggling to keep her head and her school above water. Her student, Bear, is having a particularly hard time enduring challenges both at home and in the classroom. As she watches Bear unravel, Sharon is ultimately forced to accept her role as an imperfect role model, the unlikely matriarch her community needs. Bear becomes desperate to escape it all, and Sharon is left chasing a little boy who is running to nowhere.


Erica Tremblay

â??Building off of my experience growing up in Oklahoma and drawing from the true stories of my mother who is a Native school teacher, Little Chief tells a story of contemporary Native America,â?• says writer-director Erica Tremblay. *â??Within the context of national conversations about race, poverty, and education, Little Chief offers a unique perspective. How do colonized cultures grapple with educating their youth in culturally-aware ways? What are the burdens on the next generation, and how are these children emotionally coping with a grim reality that they neither chose nor control? I hope to provide insight into these questions through this work.â?•*

Erica Tremblay (Seneca-Cayuga) is a filmmaker and activist currently studying her Indigenous language on the Six Nations reservation in Ontario, Canada. Her work has been featured on PBS, CNN, and IFC. Ericaâ??s films explore topics including restorative justice and issues impacting the two-spirit community. She has worked with many grassroots organizations, including the National Indigenous Womenâ??s Resource Center and the Healing Native Hearts Coalition. Erica was recently honored as a **40 Under 40 Native American** by the **National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED)** and was a 2018 **Sundance Native Filmmakers Lab** **Fellow**.

Little Chief is screening several times during the festival before Patricia Vidal Delgadoâ??s feature film *La Leyenda Negra*. Director Erica Tremblay, producer **Kasia Chmielinski**, picture editor **Robert Grigsby Wilson** and production manager **Dylan Brodie** will be attending each presentation.

5 SCREENINGS:

Monday, January 27, 5:30 p.m.

Egyptian Theatre, Park City, UT

Wednesday, January 29, 8:30 a.m.

The MARC Theatre, Park City, UT

Thursday, January 30, 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Village Cinema 4, Park City, UT

Friday, January 31, 9:00 p.m.

Temple Theatre, Park City, UT

Saturday, February 1, 3:00 p.m.

Broadway Centre Cinema 6, Salt Lake City, UT

Starring **Lily Gladstone** as Sharon, **Julian Ballentyne** as Bear; Writer, Director, Producer **Erica Tremblay**; Supervising Producer **Sterlin Harjo**; Producers **Deidre Backs**, **Kasia Chmielinski**; Cinematographer **Marshall Stief**; Editor **Robert Grigsby Wilson**.



(Source: Sundance press release)

Category

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