

Smithsonian

**Second Annual Recovering Voices
MOTHER TONGUE FILM FESTIVAL**

February 21 to 25, 2017



33 Languages. 32 Films. 6 Continents. 5 Days.

About Us

Recovering Voices Mother Tongue Film Festival celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity. Opening on the United Nations International Mother Languages Day (February 21), this festival showcases recently produced feature and short-length films that explore global issues about endangered languages, cultural practices, and communities' work to sustain and revitalize their languages.

Recovering Voices is a collaborative Smithsonian initiative that is a partnership between the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. The Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the Smithsonian Latino Center are partners in the Mother Tongue Film Festival. This program received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

Founded in 2009, Recovering Voices recognizes that language communities and scholars have a mutual interest in documenting, revitalizing, and sustaining languages and the knowledge embedded in them. Through Recovering Voices, the Smithsonian strives to collaborate with communities and other institutions to address issues of indigenous language, knowledge diversity and sustainability at the national and global levels. In collaboration with communities and partner organizations, Recovering Voices seeks to improve access to the Smithsonian's diverse collections—archival, biological and cultural—and to support interdisciplinary research, documentation, and revitalization. In doing so we seek to understand the dynamics of intergenerational knowledge transfer and to support existing community initiatives focusing on language and knowledge sustainability.

For more information, please visit recoveringvoices.si.edu.

Mother Tongue Film Festival Committee

Joshua A. Bell, Curator of Globalization, Department of Anthropology, NMNH

Melissa Bisagni, Program Manager, Media Initiatives, NMAI

Amalia Cordova, Latino Curator for Digital and Emerging Media, CFCH

Mary S. Linn, Curator of Cultural and Linguistic Revitalization, CFCH

Torell Taylor, Program Assistant, Mother Tongue Film Festival, Recovering Voices, NMNH

Judith Andrews, Program Assistant, Recovering Voices, Department of Anthropology, NMNH

Laura Sharp, Program Assistant, Recovering Voices, Department of Anthropology, NMNH

Timothy Thurston, Postdoctoral Fellow, CFCH

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

TUESDAY February 21	WEDNESDAY February 22	THURSDAY February 23	FRIDAY February 24	SATURDAY February 25
		11:00 a.m. NEXT GEN Shorts Program @ NMAI Rasmuson Theater		
				Noon NEXT GEN Shorts Program @ NMNH Q?rius Theater
	2:30 p.m. <i>To Live With Herds</i> @ NMNH Q?rius Theater		2:00 p.m. Shorts Program + Panel @ NMAI Rasmuson Theater	2:00 p.m. <i>Dauna</i> @ NMAI Rasmuson Theater
4:00 p.m. ArtLAB @ Hirshhorn Lerner Room				
7:00 p.m. <i>Mele Murals</i> @ Hirshhorn Museum Ring Auditorium	7:00 p.m. <i>Avant les rues/ Before The Streets</i> @ Atlantic	7:00 p.m. <i>Sonita</i> @ NYU DC @ The Abramson Family Auditorium	8:45 p.m. <i>El sueño del Mara'skame</i> @ MCI	7:00 p.m. <i>Poi E</i> @ NMAI Rasmuson Theater

VENUES

Hirshhorn Museum Ring Auditorium

Seventh Street and Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) Q?rius Theater

Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20560

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema

807 V St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Rasmuson Theater

Fourth Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20560

New York University DC (NYU DC) Abramson Family Auditorium

1307 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005

Mexican Cultural Institute of DC (MCI)

2829 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday February 21

Hirshhorn Museum, Ring Auditorium

7:00 p.m. Four Faces of the Moon
Wiñoy Tañi Kewvn (Volvió Mi Lengua)
Mele Murals

Wednesday February 22

Q?rius, NMNH/Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema

2:30 p.m. To Live with Herds
7:00 p.m. Grandfather Drum
Avant les rues/Before the Streets

Thursday February 23

Rasmuson, NMAI/Abramson Family Auditorium, NYU DC

11:00am Next Gen Shorts Program: Kid Under A Tree, Vowels and Consonants, Miwok Pride Chubby Bunny , Respondan esta videocarta Chicahuaxtla, Hawai'i Aloha, Story At Priest Point, Soeur Oyo
7:00 p.m. Wall Building Song
Hablando
Sonita

Friday February 24

Rasmuson, NMAI/Mexican Cultural Institute of DC

2:00 p.m. Adult Shorts Program: 68 Voces/68 Voices: Hant quij iti cōtpacta ipatjc hac/About the origin of the Earth, First Contact, Cree Code Talkers, Smoke That Travels, 68 Voces/68 Voices: Cuando, Muere una Lengua/When a language dies, Bihttoš, Jáaji Approx., Osage Speaker , Herman Mongrain Lookout, Kwaku Ananse, 68 Voces/68 Voices: Juka Tájjita Ániat Yew Maachiako/About the origin of fire, Nulla Nulla, 68 Voces/68 Voices: Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise
7:00pm 68 Voces/68 Voices Shorts
El sueño del Mara'akame/ Mara'akame's Dream

Saturday February 25

Q?rius, NMNH/Rasmuson, NMAI

12:00 p.m. Next Gen Shorts Program: Miwok Pride, Vowels and Consonants, A Kid Under The Tree, Respondan a esta videocarta de Chicahuaxtla, Soeur Oyo/Sister Oyo, Story of Priest Point, Hawai'i Aloha, Chubby Bunny
2:00 p.m. Dauna: Gone with the River
7:00pm Poi E: The Story of Our Song

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

ARTLAB+, Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden

ARTLAB+ teens will meet with Director Tadashi Nakamura and featured artist John “Prime” Hina for an informal Q&A about “Mele Murals,” collaborative artistic practice, and community art.

7:00 p.m.

Hirshhorn Museum, Ring Auditorium



Mele Murals

Mele Murals

USA, 2016, 66 min.

Documentary

Director: Tadashi Nakamura

English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian)

with English subtitles

Two world-famous graffiti artists, Estria Miyashiro (Kanaka Maoli), aka Estria, and John Hina (Kanaka Maoli), aka Prime, are tasked with teaching the art of “writing” to a group of students at Kanu o ka ‘Āina New Century Public Charter School in Waimea on the Big Island of Hawai‘i. Together the sharing of traditional and contemporary cultures, *mo‘olelo* ‘*aina* (stories of a place), and *mele* (song), create a new form of expressive art that is purely Hawaiian.

WEBSITE: melemurals.com

TRAILER: melemurals.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 (continued)

7:00 p.m.

Hirshhorn Museum, Ring Auditorium

***Mele Murals* preceded by:**

Four Faces of the Moon

Canada, 2016, 13 min.

Animation/narrative

Director: Amanda Strong

Ojibwe, Cree, Michif, Nakota, and French with English subtitles

This animated short is told in four chapters, exploring the reclamation of language and Nationhood and peeling back the layers of Canada's colonial history. This is a personal story told through the eyes of director and writer Amanda Strong, as she connects the oral and written history of her family as well as the histories of the Metis, Cree, and Anishnaabe people and their cultural links to the buffalo.

WEBSITE: spottedfawnproductions.com

TRAILER: <http://spottedfawnproductions.com/four-faces.html>

Wiñoy Tañi Kewvn (Volvió Mi Lengua)

Chile, 2014, 4 min.

Music video

Directors: Gonzalo Luanko, Leonardo Ramirez, Anthony Rauld

Mapudungun and Spanish with English subtitles

Hip-hop artist Luanko raps about the history of his community in his native language, Mapudungun, spoken in Chile and Argentina.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

2:30 p.m.

National Museum of Natural History, Q?rius Theater

To Live with Herds

Uganda, 1972, 70 min.

Documentary

Director: David MacDougall

Jie-Karamojong with English subtitles

The Jie are a semi-nomadic pastoral people in northeastern Uganda striving to maintain their way of life in the face of unsympathetic government policy and, at the time of filming, a dry-season famine. This film is a classic archival film and winner of the Grand Prize, "Venezia Genti," at the Venice Film Festival in 1972.

WEBSITE: berkeleymedia.com

7:00 p.m.

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema



Avant les rues

Avant les rues/Before the Streets

Canada, 2015, 97 min.

Narrative

Director: Chloé Leriche

Atikamekw and French with English subtitles

Shawnouk, an Atikamekw teenager, kills a man during a robbery and flees into the forest. Deciding to return to his village in Québec, Canada, he tries to redeem himself using traditional cleansing rituals.

WEBSITE: beforethestreets.com

TRAILER: youtube.com

Preceded by

Grandfather Drum

Canada, 2015, 12 min.

Animation/narrative

Director: Michelle Derosier

English and Anishinaabe with English subtitles

A grandfather creates a healing drum that he has seen in a vision—a drum that brings his grandson back from the brink and provides healing to the community years later. Intrusion has caused the drum to be forgotten, but it waits to be useful again.

WEBSITE: grandfatherdrum.com

TRAILER: vimeo.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

11:00 a.m.

National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater



Miwok Pride

NEXT GEN Shorts Program

Miwok Pride

USA, 2015, 3 min.

Music video

Director: Melissa Leal

English and Miwok

Miwok youth come together to learn and utilize the Miwok language as a community. Using words that were introduced to them in a language program, the youth wrote a song that expresses what it means to be Miwok and to be proud of themselves and their ancestors.

Vowels and Consonants

China/Tibet, 2015, 5 min.

Music video

Director: Tsering

Tibetan with English subtitles

A substitute teacher, hip-hop artist Dekyi Tsering, raps with a young student about the value of the Tibetan language.

A Kid Under The Tree

China/Tibet, 2014, 25 min.

Narrative

Director: Detsaje

Tibetan with English subtitles

A boy has discontinued his studies to become a herder. During his free time in the shade of an ancient tree, he imagines a school and teaches the rocks as his imagined students.

Respondan a esta videocarta de Chicahuaxtla

Mexico, 2012, 20 min.

Documentary

Director: Guillermo Monteforte

Triqui and Spanish with English subtitles

In the Triqui territory of San Andrés Chicahuaxtla, Mexico, children introduce their community, sharing their traditions and inviting other children to respond to their video.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 (continued)



Soeur Oyo/Sister Oyo

Congo/Belgium, 2014, 25 min.

Narrative

Director: Monique Mbeka Phoba

Kikongo, Lingala, and French with English subtitles

In the colonial Congo of the 1950s, a Congolese schoolgirl, Godelive, lives in the Catholic boarding school in Mbanza-Mboma, the first school conducted in French for Congolese women. She is to be westernized, following the will of her parents, but the memory of her grandmother intervenes.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/soeur.oyo

Story of Priest Point

USA, 2010, 2 min

Animation

Longhouse Media

Lushootseed with English subtitles

Killer whales rescue their human relatives from starvation in this animated version of a traditional Tulalip story, narrated in Lushootseed, the Pacific Northwest coastal region's indigenous language.

WEBSITE: longhousemedia.org

Hawai'i Aloha

USA, 2016, 7 min.

Music video

Director: Ruben Carillo

'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian) with English subtitles

Hawaiian artists and *keiki* (children) share the love of their one *hānau* in this beautiful rendition of the beloved song "Hawai'i Aloha."

WEBSITE: playingforchange.com

Chubby Bunny

New Zealand, 2016, 3 min.

Documentary

Director: Te Ao Kawharu

Te reo Māori (Māori) and English

Children from New Zealand attempt the Chubby Bunny challenge.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/teaokawharu

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 (continued)

7:00 p.m.

New York University DC, Abramson Family Auditorium



Sonita

Sonita

Iran/Germany/Switzerland, 2015, 90 min.

Documentary

Director: Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami

Persian with English subtitles

Sonita is an 18-year-old female, an undocumented Afghan illegal immigrant living in the poor suburbs of Tehran. She is a feisty, spirited young woman who fights to live the way she wants, as an artist, singer, and musician in spite of all the obstacles she confronts in Iran and her conservative patriarchal family. In harsh contrast to her own goals, her family's plan for her—strongly advanced by her mother—is to make her a bride and sell her to a new family. The price right now is about \$9,000.

WEBSITE: wmm.com/sonita

Preceded by

Wall Building Song

China/Tibet, 2016, 3 min.

Music video

Director: Delek Norbu

Tibetan

Rapper Delek Norbu raps the verses to a traditional Tibetan wall-building song—sung when communities gather to tamp the earth when constructing new walls.

Hablando

Colombia, 2016, 3 min.

Music video

Director: Viajeros del Tiempo

Embera with English subtitles

Linaje Originarios is an emerging Embera hip-hop duo from near Medellin, Colombia.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

2:00 p.m.

National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater

Shorts Program followed by Panel Discussion

The panel will feature indigenous language activists, bilingual language education specialists, film makers, and Smithsonian curators who will discuss “Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education” and the role of small languages and language diversity in global societies, and the role that new media can take in promoting sustainable futures.

Shorts Program:

68 Voces/68 Voices: Hant quij iti cötpacta ipatjc hac/About the origin of the Earth

Mexico, 2016, 1 min.

Animation/Narrative

Director: Gabriela Badillo

Seri with English subtitles

Based on a traditional story.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx



First Contact

First Contact

USA, 2015, 2 min.

Animation/Narrative

Directors: Steven Paul Judd and Ryan RedCorn

Môhiks (Mohgehan) with English subtitles

Two indigenous men debate whether they should allow unknown boats to come ashore.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)



Cree Code Talkers

Cree Code Talkers

Canada, 2016, 13 min.

Documentary

Director: Alexandra Lazarowich

English and Cree with English subtitles

Charles “Checker” Tomkins played a crucial role during the Second World War. Digging deep into the U.S. archives, this short depicts the true story of Tomkins’ involvement with the U.S. Air Force and the development of the code talkers communication system, which was used to transmit crucial military communications, using the Cree language as a vital secret weapon.

WEBSITE: creecodetalker.com

Smoke That Travels

USA, 2016, 13 min.

Documentary

Director: Kayla Briët

Bodewadmimwen (Potawatomi) and English with English subtitles

A personal documentary by Kayla Briët that explores preservation and loss of culture and her own identity as Prairie Band Potawatomi.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/smokethatravels

68 Voces/68 Voices: Cuando Muere una Lengua/When a language dies

Mexico, 2016, 2 min.

Animation/Narrative

Director: Gabriela Badillo

Náhuatl with English subtitles

Based on the poem “Cuando Muere una Lengua” by Miguel León Portilla.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx



Bihttoš

Bihttoš

Canada, 2014, 12 min.

Documentary

Director: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers

English and Sami

This unconventional documentary explores the complex relationship between a father and daughter. Through animation, reenactments, and archival photos, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers delves into the dissolution of her parents’ somewhat mythic love story and how it relates to the dissolution of her relationship with her father.

WEBSITE: elle-maija-tailfeathers.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)

Jáaji Approx.

USA, 2015, 7 min.

Experimental

Director: Sky Hopinka

English and Hočak (Ho-chunk) with English subtitles

A son examines his relationship with his father through audio and video recordings.

WEBSITE: skyhopinka.com

Osage Speaker Herman Mongrain Lookout

USA, 2016, 8 min.

Documentary

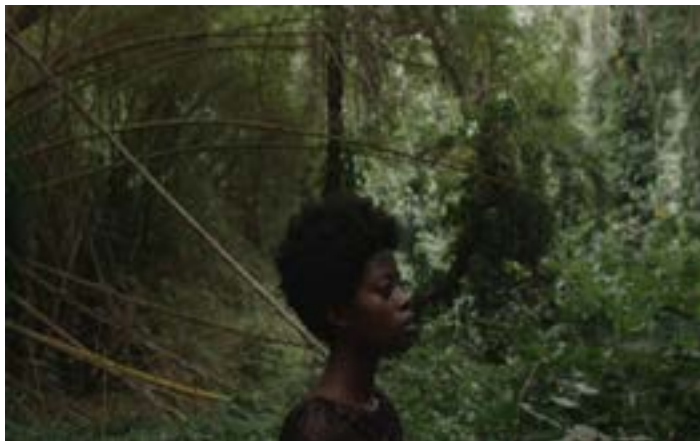
Director: Ryan Redcorn

Produced by Allison Herrera in conjunction with KOSU's Invisible Nations and AIR (Associations of Independents in Radio)

Wazhazhe (Osage) and English

Herman "Mogri" Lookout is the master language teacher for the Osage Nation in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. He has studied the language for forty years and helped revitalize it by creating an orthography. From there, he worked with developers to create Osage for Unicode. He says that it all started with a desire for people to be able to pray in their own language.

WEBSITE: <http://kosu.org/programs/invisible-nations>



Kwaku Ananse

Kwaku Ananse

Ghana, Mexico, 2013, 25 min.

Narrative

Director: Akosua Adoma Owusu

In Twi with English Subtitles

The fable of Kwaku Ananse is combined with the story of a young outsider named Nyan Koronhwea, who is attending her estranged father's funeral.

WEBSITE: akosuaadoma.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)

68 Voces/68 Voices: Juka Tájjita Ániat Yew Maachiako/About the origin of fire

Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Mayo with English subtitles

Based on a traditional Yoreme tale.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

Nulla Nulla

Australia, 2015, 6 min.
Narrative
Director: Dylan River
English and Warlpiri with English subtitles

A young white police officer makes his first contact with an Australian aboriginal community. With good intentions, his conventional approach exposes his naivety as he is confronted by two elderly *nanas*.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/NullaNullaFilm



Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise

68 Voces/68 Voices: Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise

Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Wixárika (Huichol) with English subtitles
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Based on a traditional story.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)

6:45 p.m.

Mexican Cultural Institute of DC



El sueño del Mara'akame

El sueño del Mara'akame/Mara'akame's Dream

Mexico, 2016, 87 min.

Narrative

Director: Federico Cecchetti

Wixárika (Huichol) and Spanish with English subtitles

Nieri is a young Wixáritari indian whose dream is traveling with his music band to play a concert in Mexico City. But his father is a Mara'akame (Wixáritari shaman) and has different plans for his son: Nieri must find the Blue Deer in his dreams in order to become a Mara'kame and follow his tradition.

WEBSITE: <https://www.festivalscope.com/all/film/mara-akame-s-dream>

Preceded by

68 Voces/68 Voices

These four animated indigenous stories are narrated in their native languages. They were created under the premise that “no one can love what he does not know” in order to help foster pride, respect, and use of the indigenous Mexican languages.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

Hant qij iti cötpacta ipatjc hac/About the origin of the Earth

Mexico, 2016, 1 min.

Animation/Narrative

Director: Gabriela Badillo

Seri with Spanish subtitles

Based on a traditional story

Juka Tájjita Ániat Yew Maachiako/About the origin of fire

Mexico, 2016, 1 min.

Animation/Narrative

Director: Gabriela Badillo

Mayo with English subtitles

Based on a traditional Yoreme tale

Cuando Muere una Lengua/When a language dies

Mexico, 2016, 2 min.

Animation/Narrative

Director: Gabriela Badillo

Náhuatl with English subtitles

Based on a traditional story

Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise

Mexico, 2016, 1 min.

Animation/Narrative

Director: Gabriela Badillo

Wixárika (Huichol) with Spanish subtitles

Based on a traditional story

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:00 p.m.

National Museum of Natural History, Q?rius Theater

NEXT GEN Shorts Program

(See description pages 11-14)

2:00 p.m.

National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater



Dauna: Gone with the River

Dauna: Gone with the River

Venezuela, 2014, 104 min.

Narrative

Director: Mario Crespo

Warao and Spanish with English subtitles

Dauna dared to be different. She faced the ancestral practices of her culture, and she paid the price. She made decisions which made herself and others suffer. Without giving up before defeats and losses to reconcile and become part of a legend herself.

WEBSITE: <https://www.facebook.com/DaunaLoquelle-vaelrio/>

7:00 p.m.

National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater



Poi E: The Story of Our Song

Poi E: The Story of Our Song

New Zealand, 2016, 93 min.

Documentary

Director: Tearepa Kahi

Te reo Māori (Māori) and English with English subtitles

This film is the true story of the visionary musician and leader Maui Dalvanus Prime, the entrepreneur responsible for the iconic New Zealand song “Poi E” that became a huge hit in the 1980s. Upbeat, catchy, and danceable, it remains a favorite more than thirty years later. It could be called the country’s unofficial national anthem—it’s the song Kiwis use to celebrate success at major events.

WEBSITE AND TRAILER: poiemovie.co.nz

Organizers



Smithsonian
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Partners



MEXICAN
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EMBASSY OF MEXICO
IN THE UNITED STATES



NYU | WASHINGTON DC



Smithsonian
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden



Smithsonian Latino Center