

Friday, February 23rd

National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater

4:00 pm

Language Breathes Life: Women Directors Roundtable



Women directors have historically fought an up-hill battle to have their work funded and produced. Little has changed over the past century. At the same time, more and more films of critical cultural importance are being made by women: this year's Mother Tongue Film Festival reports an astonishing 87% of films in the festival directed by women! Join us for a discussion of the work, motivations and future plans of five of these remarkable women:



**Chaska Rojas-Bottger, *Tarinakusun: Quechua in Seattle***

Chaska is a freelance web/UI designer and digital media specialist serving small businesses and non-profits in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, Cusco, Lima, and more. She also offers digital media support for language and culture revitalization.

**Karen Lynn Weinberg, Director/Producer**

***Niuuga Yuuga***

After a career as a film editor and producer, *Keep Talking* is Karen's directorial debut. Editing credits include *Spilled Water* (PBS/WTTW 2014), *One Night Stand* (nationwide theatrical release, 2013; also Associate Produced). *Certainty* (Boston Film Festival 'Best Editing' award, theatrical release 2012), episodes of *MysteryQuest* and *Clash of the Gods* (the History Channel), and the documentary short, *C-Rock*. Other credits include work on *Frozen River* (Sundance Winner, Oscar Nominee) and *Racing Dreams* (Tribeca Winner, PBS POV 2012). Karen co-wrote the popular published play *44 Plays for 44 Presidents* (now updated to include #45) and her writing has been featured on National Public Radio's "848".



**Karonhiarokwas Roxann Whitebean, *Karihwanoron: Precious Things***

Roxann is from the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawa'ke and a member of the Wolf Clan. She began her career on APTN's television series, *Mohawk Girls*, as an assistant director. She made her directorial debut in 2014 with financial assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts to produce *Legend of the Storm*. In 2016 she opened a production company called Whitebean Media Arts, which has been producing work for CBC's digital platform





### Natalie Grube

#### *Gwen 'bii Yern: It Will Be Yours*

Nat uses the medium of film to explore her Norfolk heritage and contribute to language and culture revitalization efforts. She is working on longer documentary material which highlights five Norfolk Islanders sharing their connection to Norfolk's land and culture in the wake of the recent undemocratic takeover by the Australian government. And is also in the process of recording and producing an album of children's songs in the native Norfolk language.

### Olivia Wyatt, Director

#### *Sailing a Sinking Sea*

Olivia Wyatt is an award-winning filmmaker and photographer based in Los Angeles. She is a member of the Sublime Frequencies collective and has directed, produced, shot and edited three feature-length documentaries, *Staring into the Sun* (2011), *The Pierced Heart & The Machete* (2013), and *Sailing A Sinking Sea* (2015). Her work has premiered at SXSW, Hot Docs, Maysles Cinema, Flaherty NYC at Tribeca 92Y, Anthology Film Archives, BAM, Third Man Records, All Tomorrow's Parties, The Milano Film Festival, The Barbican Museum, The American Museum of Natural History, and The Museum of Jurassic Technology. Her work has been highlighted by the Wall Street Journal, NY Times, BBC, Indie Wire, and VICE..



### MODERATING:

Dr. Wortham is a cultural anthropologist and videographer with special interests in indigenous media. Her research interests include media and culture, indigenous media, visual heritage, archiving, nationalism and ethnicity, all specifically within Mexico. Currently her research focuses on the formation of ILADMA, the Indigenous Latin American Digital Media Archive, to preserve, archive, and access visual media created by indigenous peoples of the Americas.