

PRESS RELEASE

IN TOMORROW WE BELIEVE – INDIANER INUIT: THE NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL (6)

January 21-24, 2016

Young women, many young women, have simply vanished - some without a trace - some turn up again: beaten, strangled, abused. On Highway 16 - The Highway of Tears - which crosses more than 1,000 kilometres of the lonely western region of Canada.

Filmmaker Matthew Smiley has extensively researched the disappearances and what he reveals in his documentary film "Highway of Tears" is devastating. According to the police, eighteen girls have disappeared there; Amnesty International estimates a much higher number. Several boys that have gone missing are not included in the figure, and not even the Jack family of four that the Highway simply swallowed up in 1989. The oldest case in police statistics dates back to 1969, the latest one is from the year 2006. Thirteen victims were found dead and raped, without any trace of the perpetrator or perpetrators. With the exception of one girl, all the victims were of aboriginal origin. The First Nations, as indigenous peoples are called in Canada, eke out a dismal existence here on remote reservations. Few people in Canada have taken any interest in the Highway of Tears up to now, and apparently, that includes the police ...

Highway of Tears is one of around 50 films being shown at the **INDIANER INUIT: THE NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL (6)** event from **January 21-24, 2016**. The Festival, now taking place for the sixth time, highlights films by Inuit filmmakers from Alaska, Nunavut, Labrador and Greenland.

The Festival was founded by the artistic director, Gunter Lange, in 2004. The event is the only one of its kind in Europe and takes place every two years at the TREFFPUNKT Rotebuehlplatz in Stuttgart.

Festival awards

90% of the productions are being shown in their original English language version in Europe for the first time. The award winners in the following categories will each be presented with a handcrafted sculpture made by the artist Karin Ecker:

- Best feature film (long)
- Best documentary (long)
- Best children's film (UNICEF prize)
- Best music video (audience award)
- Best cartoon movie

Pupils and students will award the UNICEF children's film prize and translate subtitles for the films

Since the Festival attaches great importance to the participation of a young audience, the pupils of Grade 4 at the Reischschule in Stuttgart are taking on the role of the jury for the children's films as part of their curriculum. Together with their class teacher, they will draw up the criteria for judging the films and present the UNICEF children's film award to the director at the Festival.

Grade 11 at the two High Schools in Herford and the Friedrich-List-Gymnasium in Asperg will be translating subtitles for the films together with their teachers as part of their English lessons and during the schools' project days. Students at Bremen University will act as the jury for the documentary films under the direction of Prof. Dr. Kerstin Knopf. They will also be translating documentation as part of a project which will then be presented at the Festival.

Films suitable for children of refugees

On Friday, January 22 at 11 a.m., several short cartoon films will be shown as part of the school film screenings. They are particularly suitable for children of refugees being set to sounds and music rather than with dialogue. The UNICEF children's film award will be presented at around 12 p.m.

Festival of encounters – indigenous guests will accompany the Festival

INDIANER INUIT: THE NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL attaches great significance to personal encounters and discussions. That is why indigenous filmmakers will be accompanying the Festival as expert dialogue partners. Their involvement will make a significant contribution to the success of the event.

The UNICEF representative throughout the Festival will be the young Canadian **Roseanne Supernault** (Cree, Métis), who is currently one of most sought-after indigenous actresses in North America.

The rap and hip-hop star **Frank Waln** (Lakota) and the two dancers **Samsоче** and **Lumhe Sampson**, who are travelling over from the USA, will fire up the audience in Stuttgart at the Linden Museum and at the Club Zentral. **Marie H el ene Cousineau**, Director from Montreal and founder of the film production company ARNAIT, will be presenting three of her Inuit films at the Festival. She has belonged to the ranks of well-known female film directors for many years. She will be accompanied by the Inuit actress **Lucy Tulugarjuk**, who appeared in Zacharias Kunuk's Drama "Atanarjuat – The Fast Runner" and played a leading role in the film "MAINA". For the first time, two Inuit throat singers, **Jenna Joyce Broomfield** and **Malaya Bishop** from Nunatsiavut and Nunavut, have been invited to the Festival.

Supporting events

The supporting events will start on Tuesday, January 19 at the Deutsch Amerikanischen Zentrums (DAZ), where Samsоче and Lumhe Sampson will be talking about their deceased father, the actor Will Sampson, who starred alongside Jack Nicholson in Miloš Forman's multi-award winning drama "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". The two brothers will be dancing and rapping together with the hip-hop star Frank Waln and the Inuit throat singers Jenna Joyce Broomfield and Malaya Bishop on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wanner-Saal of the Linden Museum. Another concert with the musicians is planned for Friday, January 22 at Jugendhaus Mitte.

The Linden Museum is inviting teachers to attend a seminar on Monday, 25 January at 2:30 p.m. The indigenous film Festival guests will give their views on the political situation of indigenous peoples in North America and answer and questions. The Linden Museum is taking registrations for the event.

Well-known people from the world of film, media and academic research, such as actress Barbara Auer, OSCAR award winner Caroline Link, the German television and Grimme award winner Klaus Scherer, and Prof. Dr. Hartmut Lutz, are supporting the INDIANER INUIT: THE NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL with their statements:

<http://www.nordamerika-filmfestival.com/festival-board.html>

Partners of the Film Festival

Partners of the INDIANER INUIT: THE NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL are:

American Indian Film Festival and Institute San Francisco, Dreamspeakers International Aboriginal Film Festival Edmonton, UNICEF, TREFFPUNKT Roteb uhlplatz (vhs Stuttgart), Linden Museum, Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum (DAZ), UNICEF (all based in Stuttgart), the universities of Constance and Bremen, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, MFG Baden W urttemberg, City of Stuttgart, Incomindios, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), Aktionsgruppe Indianer und Menschenrechte e. V.

Further information:

Website: www.nordamerika-filmfestival.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/INDIANER-INUIT-DAS-NORDAMERIKA-FILMFESTIVAL/113127684301?fref=ts>

Youtube Festival channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/INDIANERFILMFESTIVAL>



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