

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Two Feature Films:
WINTER IN THE BLOOD and SURVIVAL PRAYER
Focus on Modern Native American Life**

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Portland, OR (November 11, 2103)

This week at the 40th Northwest Filmmakers' Festival, two feature films were selected that highlight modern-day issues and obstacles faced by Native Americans. The narrative feature film, *WINTER IN THE BLOOD*, stars Native American actors as it follows the story told by author James Welch and the documentary film, *SURVIVAL PRAYER*, covers ecological damage to the Pacific coastline while framing the effects of lost language and wisdom.

“True to the tough, lyrical, magical spirit of James Welch’s classic novel of Native American life, this hauntingly beautiful movie follows a young Blackfoot Indian’s alcohol-fueled search for his wife, his rifle, his identity—and salvation. *WINTER IN THE BLOOD* portrays a world that is too often overlooked, that of modern Native American life.

Using the prose of James Welch, the film takes an unflinching and realistic look at some of the troubles that this community faces through the lens of this individual. It’s also a treat to see Native American actors, too often relegated to nameless parts in period dramas, portray such nuanced and complicated characters. The Smith brothers have created a truly beautiful and unique film that deserves to be seen; a creative accomplishment not only of filmmaking but of capturing this world.” – Indiewire

The creative collaboration between Alex and Andrew Smith from Missoula, Montana will screen this Friday, November 15th at 7 pm in the Whitsell Auditorium with a Q&A session immediately following the film with director Andrew Smith.

At 9 pm, also being screened in the Whitsell Auditorium will be the documentary film *SURVIVAL PRAYER*. In the past century in Haida Gwaii (British Columbia’s Queen Charlotte Islands), commercial logging, over-fishing, and invasive species have compromised the availability of traditionally harvested foods and threatened the long-term viability of these practices. Compounding this ecological damage is the imminent extinction of the Haida language and loss of traditional knowledge. Naanii Mary Swanson, a last speaker, frames this portrait of age-old traditions at risk.

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Against the spectacular Pacific coastline, her ancient words set the tone for detailed views of modern life, in which the labor of survival—cutting seaweed fronds, pulling salmon from nets, plucking young spruce tips—speaks to timeless rhythms, sacred ritual, and the power of food and nature to sustain a culture. The 70-minute feature film is by a local director Benjamin Greené, from Bellingham, Washington.

Groups of 15 or more can receive the discounted admission price of \$6 for both programs (normally \$9 per movie). Before 3 pm Friday, please send your group's name and the individual that wish to attend one film or the entire program via **fax: 503-294-0874** or **info@nwfilm.org**.

Pre-paid tickets will be held at 'Will Call' or can be purchased at the door if the list is emailed prior to the event or presented in person. If the discounted ticket price is a barrier to admission, free tickets may be available. Please call the Northwest Film Center's for additional information: 503-221-1156.

Friday, November 15th

WINTER IN THE BLOOD 7 pm

Directors: Alex Smith, Andrew Smith
(NAR) 105 minutes

SURVIVAL PRAYER 9 pm

Director: Benjamin Greené
(DOC) 70 minutes

Venue:

Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium inside the Portland Art Museum at 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon

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