



Dibaajimo/ Tells a Story Film Series Coming to The Film House

MEDIA RELEASE

Mon 13 January 2025 — *St. Catharines, Ontario.*
Please post/circulate to your lists and networks.

13 JANUARY 2025 — The Film House and Brock University’s Centre for Women’s and Gender Studies / Department of Sociology are proud to announce **Dibaajimo/ Tells a Story**, a new curated film series set to kick off this January to coincide with a new Indigenous Film Course taught by Assistant Professor Lyn Trudeau.

During the Winter 2025 term, Assistant Professor Lyn Trudeau (Sagamok Anishinawbek First Nation, Eagle Clan) will deliver a new course at Brock University - Indigenous Film. To expand the potential reach and impact of her course, Dr. Trudeau has teamed up with the PAC’s programming team to curate a selection of titles covered in the course into a screening series for our community at The Film House.

“Film is impactful and possesses the power to influence society,” shares **Dr. Trudeau**. “The course and series have been designed to examine the effects of visual media, aesthetics, narrative structure, and the role film has had in shaping perspectives on the Indigenous populace within greater society as well as exemplifying the response by Indigenous filmmakers.”

The series kicks-off with ***Reel Injun (Canada, 2009)*** on Sun 19 Jan at 3pm. Dr. Trudeau will offer context and insights into each of her film choices, and we invite the community to watch and learn more about Indigenous identity as told through the powerful medium of film.

Reel Injun is a feature-length documentary by Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond that takes an entertaining and insightful look at the portrayal of North American Indigenous people throughout a century of cinema. Featuring hundreds of clips

from old classics as well as recent releases, the film traces the evolution of the “Hollywood Indian.”

"I feel this is a valuable resource and launching point given that the film demonstrates broadly what the populace consumed over decades through film," shares **Assistant Professor Trudeau**.

Assistant Professor Lyn Trudeau is from Sagamok Anishinawbek First Nation, Eagle Clan. She is cross-appointed with Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology and affiliated with the Social Justice and Equity Program in which her work embodies a decolonial lens. This includes previous work/research with Elders, Indigenous youth, Indigenous teacher candidates, and residential schools. She feels it is important to honour her cultural background; therefore, embeds Indigenous knowledge and ways of being in her classrooms and research endeavours.

“We’re so pleased to bring this important new collaboration to The Film House that illuminates Indigenous voices and stories,” shares **Annie Wilson, Programming Manager**. “In the PAC’s ongoing walk of Truth and Reconciliation, we appreciate Dr. Trudeau’s spirit of collaboration to gather our broader community together to learn about Indigenous cinema and its role in Indigenous activism and self-determination.”

The *Dibaajimo/ Tells a Story* Film Series will run from 19 January - 5 April and will also include the titles ***Abducted*** (Canada, 2021) on Sat 15 Feb, ***SGaawaay K'uuna/ Edge of the Knife*** (Canada, 2018) on Sat 15 March and will conclude with a screening of ***Boy*** (New Zealand, 2010) on Sat 5 April.

The Film House at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre hosts 8 screenings per week that include first run features, documentaries and special events and is home to Brock University Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts students during the academic year.

Visit [FirstOntarioPAC.ca](https://www.firstontariopac.ca) to buy tickets, for more information, and to download the January Film House calendar.

19 January

Abducted

15 February

SGaawaay K'uuna/ Edge of the Knife

15 March

Boy

5 April

All screenings at The Film House at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.
250 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines, ON.

-30-

To arrange media interviews, please contact Sara Palmieri, Director of Programming & Marketing, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, spalmieri@firstontariopac.ca or 905-322-9835

The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (PAC) is located downtown St. Catharines, Ontario on the shared traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Neutral Peoples and many other Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We offer our sincere gratitude and respect to the original and continued stewards of this land. We also acknowledge Indigenous, Black, Racialized People and 2SLGBTQQAI+ that have been marginalized for centuries and more - and our collective responsibility to take action for a better world free from oppression, discrimination and racism. The PAC aims to provide meaningful opportunities to bring our community together in a place of mutual understanding, empathy, and respect through the arts.