

**Press Kit**  
**SNIP**

Directed by: Terril CALDER  
Written & Narrated by: Joseph BOYDEN  
Produced by: Jason RYLE

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Scriptwriter: Joseph BOYDEN  
Animation: Terril CALDER  
Sound: Michael DILAURO, Shawn DELNICK  
Actor: Joseph BOYDEN



**2016**

**Running Time:** 15:01 Minutes

**Country of Origin:** Canada

**Language:** English

**Audio:** 5.1



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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
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50 YEARS OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF THE ARTS  
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### SNIP: LOGLINE

The power of Indigenous storytelling in between the lines of colonial history.

### SNIP: Short Synopsis

SNIP cuts up colonial Canadian histories by telling a story of survival amidst the country's genocide of Indigenous children. Annie and Gordon travel back in time to save Charlie and Niska, trapped in a nightmare reality designed to eradicate their culture.



### SNIP: Long Synopsis

Annie is an urban party girl who has disturbing flashbacks of a past where two children are being tortured. When she meets Gordon, a homeless man, Annie's visions become reality as the two are transported back in time to the darkest period in Canada's history: the forced Christian indoctrination of First Nations children, a 150-year period recognised by the United Nations as a cultural genocide.

In the past, Annie and Gordon - themselves First Nations - meet Charlie and Niska, two Anishinabe children imprisoned by colonial doctrines and strict, frightening task masters. Annie and Gordon struggle to free the children but risk entrapment in the past.

Two of Canada's foremost Indigenous artists - acclaimed animator Terril Calder and literary star Joseph Boyden - collaborate to create an emotional and layered story dedicated to Indigenous Warriors. They make a striking statement about national colonial histories and the power of the written word. SNIP is a testament to the perseverance of Indigenous peoples and cultures in Canada.

### SNIP: Additional Information

SNIP explores the impact of Indian Residential Schools, a dark aspect of Canadian history that was not taught in the classroom. It is a story about the past, present and the future of Canadian Indigenous people and its content transcends its visual narrative. The tradition of Indigenous oral history and storytelling has been affected and interrupted by colonization, as the written word - particularly imposed written histories that enshrined colonial perspectives - took prominence. But Indigenous storytelling traditions endure, many in new and exciting ways. It is this idea of contemporary Indigenous storytelling - and the opportunity to examine it in a kind of revisionist way and through the context of mainstream oppression - that SNIP

contemplates. It is about reclaiming truths and resurrecting meanings that were often written in between the lines of books that were offered in the Canadian public school system.

SNIP was revised from a pre-existing performance work by Terril Calder and Joseph Boyden. Some of the original source material was a live performance commissioned by Jason Ryle for the 2014 imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival called the Storytellers Screening.

Joseph Boyden's story - inspired by his ballet - brings in two couples from different time periods (four characters that represent the Four Directions) that learn from each other's history. What is to come and what was. The animated characters interact within and between the physical pages of history books as the story unfolds. The two "modern" characters are created from a map and the two children in Residential School are sculpted from clay. Where the live performance of SNIP was based on creating a very real physical intimacy between the artists and the audience, the film SNIP centres on exploring and realising the initial vision of representing the power of the printed word.

### Director's Biography Terril Calder

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Terril Calder is a Métis artist, born in Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada currently residing in Toronto. She attended the University of Manitoba's Fine Art Program as a Drawing major with a focus on Performance Art (with Sharen Alward) & Film Studies (with George Toles). While in Winnipeg she was a member of Video Pool and it was there she was awarded training

in video production. Calder exhibited her sculpture and performance art work with the notorious Student Bolshevik group until leaving for Toronto in 1992. In Toronto, Calder joined the Shake Well Performance Art collective in various exhibitions that led her to a group that became the founding members of the 7a\*11d International Performance Art Festival in Toronto. There she curated visual and performance art exhibitions under their umbrella organization. In 2000, Calder received training in 3-D computer animation. She has lectured and taught art through the years with various organizations that include the National Ballet School of Canada, Art in the Park program, the University of Manitoba, Indigenous Roots, and in imagineNATIVE's

Cultural Exchange Program with South Africa. Her work has strongly influenced many Indigenous filmmakers and a new genre in film; Spotted Fawn aka Amanda Strong and Michelle Latimer were both mentored/assisted by Terril in their animated work. Compelled by the love of Hybrid Media and Fusion Art she currently experiments with the amalgamation in her stop frame animated films that she writes, directs, crafts and animates. The films screen nationally and internationally and have received awards attention, most notably an Honorable Mention at the Sundance Film Festival and a Canadian Genie Award nomination for *Choke*, a short she animated and co-created with Michelle Latimer. In 2016, she was awarded the Ontario Arts Council's K.M Hunter award for her work in media arts.

"My inspiration has always come from my interest in understanding my place in the world and to translate my journey into artistic expression. Creativity and invention are my inspiration. My life's purpose is to inspire others to think creatively and not to just accept old conventions as norms but to challenge them if they no longer make sense."

Writer's Biography  
Joseph Boyden

Joseph Boyden is a Canadian novelist and short story writer. His first novel, *Three Day Road* won the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. His second novel, *Through Black Spruce*, won the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize, and his third book, *The Orenda* was named the winner of the 2014 edition of *Canada Reads*.



Filmography

- 2016 "The Charlie Project" In collaboration with Joseph Boyden. *Work in Progress*
- 2016 "SNIP" an animated short. 15:01 Mins Written by Joseph Boyden
- 2014 The Travelling Medicine Show animated sequence, (Directed by Amnon Buchbinder) Feature
- 2014 "The Lodge" an animated feature 73 Mins
- 2013 "Vessel" an animated short. 1 Min
- 2013 "Repercussions" an animated short. 3:35 Mins
- 2011 The "Gift" 2 Mins
- 2009 "Choke" Co-Creator, Key Animator, (Directed by Michelle Latimer ) 6 Mins
- 2009 "CANNED MEAT an animated short. 20 Min
- 2008 "Immobilized" an excerpt from CANNED MEAT an animated short 3 Mins

## 2014-The Lodge

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### **Press & Review & Interview:**

<http://www.ivillage.ca/entertainment/imagine-native-female-directors-aboriginal-movie>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/5-top-picks-for-the-imaginative-film-festival-1.2810381>

<http://www.nexopia.com/mag/student-life/catch-the-lodge-at-imaginative>

2014-Nexopia, News Article

“Post-colonial narratives are stories that re-contextualize classic Western tales into new frameworks. They flip power structures on their heads, writing marginalized histories back into empires and examining the actual criteria of Western heroism. They privilege tricksters, victims, and subjects that exist between worlds.”

## 2013-Vessel

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### **Selected Screenings:**

Commissioned One Minute Film for the One Minute film series, Cinema Zuid (Gallery Series) Netherlands, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, The Power within Program, Winnipeg, Manitoba, The One Minutes on Tour - Shanghai Power Station of Art.

**Press & Review:** 2014-Alison Gillmor, CBC Manitoba News Article

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/the-power-within-screens-short-works-by-indigenous-filmmakers-1.2620684>

“And Fort Frances, Ont.-born Métis artist Terril Calder muses on the value of humility in *Vessel*, an experimental animation involving a disquieting doll-like figure. This is a very concise, very brief work, but its eerie, unsettling atmosphere will stay with you for a long time.”

## 2013-Repercussions

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### **Selected Screenings:**

Selected as one of the five participants of the City of Toronto/iThentic “Toronto Revealed” short-film initiative project. Patricia Rozema was the mentor on this short film. Screenings: Oberhausen (Germany), Dreamspeakers Festival, imagineNATIVE, Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, Peterborough International Film Festival, 22<sup>e</sup> édition VFP (Vidéos de femmes dans le parc), Rotterdam International Film Festival, Memphis Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival

**Broadcasts and Awards:** Best Animation at the Dreamspeakers Festival

**Press & Review:** 2013- Jessica Jacobson-Konefall, Queens University, Canada. From the BRAZIL-CANADA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjUEy701zKY>

2013- 4 out of 5 stars/The Arts Guild Magazine Article

<http://www.theartsguild.com/imaginative-2013-red-justice-league-shorts-program/>

“*Repercussions* is a simple yet incredibly fascinating short that exposes the true magic of stop-motion animation. With no specific plot to follow, it allows for the formal elements to shine and collaborate in order to really bring the piece together in a noteworthy way. The lighting in the short is fantastic, and the urban lighting of the initial shot is incredibly realistic. The feel of animation remains, but the ambiance is wonderfully crafted. Along with this strength, the characters’ movements are beautiful; not perfectly fluid, but entrancing nonetheless. The sequences where the main character is free-falling are a delight to watch, and the great attention to detail the creation must

have entailed is clearly evident. The music perfectly complements the dynamic settings and movements, and the song “Electric Pow Wow” by *A Tribe Called Red* truly gives the piece a unique identity. Lasting a mere 3 minutes and 45 seconds, *Repercussions* accomplishes the difficult task of not only being visually and musically compelling, but being filled with interesting concepts about the city and its relation to history that, being largely open to interpretation, allow for the spectator’s enthrallment with the piece.”

## 2011-The “Gift”

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### **Selected Screenings:**

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, Urban Shaman: Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery, Cine Las Americas International Film Festival, Austin, Texas, Biindigaate Film Festival. Cinemateque, Winnipeg Film Group, Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 3, McMichael Art Gallery, Rochester Arts Center, Studio XX, Montreal, Boomerang Film Festival, Australia, GROUPE INTERVENTION VIDÉO (GIV), Montreal, Regent Park Film Festival, Toronto, Aarhus University, Denmark

### **Broadcasts and Awards for The “Gift”**

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival Award for Best Experimental Film, 2011.

-The Gift has been acquired for broadcast distribution by APTN

## 2010-Choke

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### **Selected Screenings:**

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival, Oberhausen Film Festival, CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Ann Arbor International, Sonoma International Film Festival, Houston Worldfest - Gold Remi Award - Best Experimental Short Film, Hollyshorts Film Festival, LA Indie Fest - Honourable Mention - Best Intl Short Film, Bay Street Film Festival, Bindigaate Film Festival, Dreamspeakers Film Festival, Provincetown Intl Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.

### **Broadcasts and Awards for CHOKE:**

Sundance Film Festival (Special Jury Honourable Mention - Best International Short Film), \* American Pixel Academy - Gold Pixie Award - Outstanding Achievement in Animation - Toronto International Film Festival, Canada's Top Ten Short for 2011 - Choke has been acquired for broadcast distribution by the following: CTV Bravo, CBC, APTN, PBS Texas

**Press & Review:** [http://www.metrocinema.org/film\\_view/3473/](http://www.metrocinema.org/film_view/3473/)

Source: Metro Cinema Society

**Film: Choke** (Co-created with Michelle Latimer)

2011 “Jimmy, a young man leaving his First Nations reserve to go into the city, embarks on an urban road filled with roaming lost and dark souls. Yet his break with the ties of the past, we learn, will never be complete. A gorgeously crafted poem, Michelle Latimer's film brings the audience on an intimate path of self-discovery.

Choke fearlessly expresses the psychological isolation of youth in search of assimilation and identity, and is a perfect illustration of the possibilities and versatility of the genre.” (Karina Rotenstein, TIFF)

## 2010-Canned Meat

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### **Selected Screenings:**

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Moving Image Film Festival, Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, Rotterdam International Film Festival, Dreamspeaker Festival , Marfa Film Festival, Regent Park Film Festival, Winnipeg Film Group, Ottawa Animation Festival, Icelandic Group Film, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.

**Press & Review:**

2009- Sept 4 out of 5 Stars/ Eye Magazine Article <http://www.eyeweekly.com/print/article/74006>

2009- Sept Winner of the Moving Images Showcase. <http://www.miffest.com/miffestwinners2009.html>

2009- Nov Winner of the Best Experimental Category at the Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival.

2010-Best Animation at the DreamSpeaker Festival

<http://tracingmemory.com/2011/06/01/traces-on-the-west-coast-st-marys-irs/#comments>

Source: Tracing Memory

**Film: Canned Meat**

2010 “Calder’s film, Canned Meat, was a jarring and beautiful film that spoke to themes of isolation, memory, and community.”